

October 18, 2022

**MOTION BY SUPERVISORS JANICE HAHN
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Student Mental Health Trainees

Over the last few years, the mental health crisis in Los Angeles County has worsened as multiple factors like a global pandemic, rising costs of living, and state-perpetuated racial violence have exacerbated an already existing crisis. To meet the mental health needs of our communities, Los Angeles County (County) has committed to expanding the services available for all of our residences. These services include innovative field-based programs through the Department of Mental Health (DMH), like Psychiatric Mobile Response Teams (PMRT), Homeless Outreach and Mobile Engagement (HOME) teams, and Therapeutic Transport vans. Additionally, the County is working on expanding the number of mental health beds available across the continuum of care to ensure that everyone who needs a space to stabilize, and recover is able to find one.

At the same time that the County is seeking to expand its mental health services and programs, it is facing challenges for recruitment and retention, at least in part due to the increase in demand for mental health professionals across the nation, state, and here in Los Angeles County. The shortage of mental health staff available threatens the success of these programs, as many of them are unable to begin and/or expand because of lack of staff.

One of the ways to enhance recruitment in any field, is to establish pipelines to employment

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through student trainee programs. Through student trainee programs, individuals who are interested in pursuing a career in mental health would be able to gain experience in DMH's various programs, which would increase both the likelihood of them choosing to pursue employment with DMH and experiencing success once employed. DMH currently has a few student trainee positions for students pursuing a degree in mental health. Expanding the program could help increase recruitment and retention of qualified mental health clinicians, thus helping to ensure the long-term success of the Board's priorities to provide quality mental health care and services to all of our residents.

WE, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct the Interim Director, Department of Mental Health, in collaboration with the Department of Human Resources, to report back in 90 days with a plan to expand and enhance the number of directly operated programs that serve as training sites for students in key mental health-related fields to promote expansion of the mental health workforce in alignment with the Board's efforts to enhance recruitment and retention of mental health clinicians.

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