Board of Supervisors

Health and Mental Health Cluster Agenda Review Meeting

DATE: November 4, 2026
TIME: 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
MEETING CHAIR: Jazmine Garcia-Delgadillo, 1ST Supervisorial District
CEO MEETING FACILITATOR: Kieu-Anh King/Gustavo Medrano

THIS MEETING IS HELD UNDER THE GUIDELINES OF BOARD POLICY 3.055

To participate in the meeting in-person, the meeting location is:
Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, California 90012
Room 140

To participate in the meeting virtually, please call teleconference number:
1 (323) 776-6996 and enter the following: 330 628 704# or click here on a smartphone:
Tel:+13237766996,,330628704#

Click here to join the meeting on Microsoft Teams

For Spanish Interpretation, the Public should send emails within 48 hours in advance of the meeting to ClusterAccommodationRequest@bos.lacounty.gov

Para solicitar interpretación al español, por favor envíen un correo electrónico con al menos 48 horas de anticipación a la reunión a ClusterAccommodationRequest@bos.lacounty.gov

Members of the Public may address the Health and Mental Health Services Meeting on any agenda item. One (1) minute is allowed for each item.

THIS TELECONFERENCE WILL BE MUTED FOR ALL CALLERS. PLEASE DIAL *6 TO UNMUTE YOUR PHONE WHEN IT IS YOUR TIME TO SPEAK.

I. Call to order

II. **Board Motions:**

   a. **SD3:** Protecting Residents and Communities from Unlawful Practices at Non-Clinical Recovery Residences

   b. **SD2:** Supporting Fresh Food Access at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Medical Campus

III. Items Continued from a Previous Meeting of the Board of Supervisors or from the Previous Agenda Review Meeting

IV. Items not on the posted agenda for matters requiring immediate action because of an emergency situation, or where the need to take immediate action came to the attention of the Department subsequent to the posting of the agenda.

V. Public Comment

VI. Adjournment

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO EMAIL A COMMENT ON AN ITEM ON THE HEALTH AND MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES CLUSTER AGENDA, PLEASE USE THE FOLLOWING EMAIL AND INCLUDE THE AGENDA NUMBER YOU ARE COMMENTING ON:

HEALTH_AND_MENTAL_HEALTH_SERVICES@CEO.LACOUNTY.GOV

AGN. NO. _____

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR LINDSEY P. HORVATH November 17, 2026

Protecting Residents and Communities from Unlawful Practices at Non-Clinical Recovery Residences

Recovery residences, commonly known as sober-living homes, are non-clinical housing sites that provide alcohol- and drug-free housing and peer support. They are an important bridge between treatment and independent living, providing stable recovery housing, especially for people leaving residential treatment, incarceration, hospitals, or homelessness. The National Study of Treatment and Addiction Recovery Residences (NSTARR)'s 2022 longitudinal study estimated that Los Angeles had 1.02 recovery residences per 100,000 population, ranking at 24th in per capita availability out of the 58 counties of California, suggesting concerningly low accessibility given the County population and projected housing needs. When operating solely as housing, without treatment, detoxification, counseling, recovery planning, or other clinical services, these residences are not licensed, certified, or routinely investigated by the California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS).

DHCS has sole authority to license adult residential substance use disorder recovery or treatment facilities that provide treatment services, and may investigate a

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recovery residence suspected of providing said services without a required state license. Other state agencies retain authority within their respective jurisdictions, (including the Attorney General), regarding unlawful or fraudulent business practices and employ state health care and insurance regulators overseeing the proper execution of health plan, insurance, and billing matters. However, California does not currently have a comprehensive statewide regulatory framework for recovery residences, creating an oversight gap that may be exploited by operators engaging in unsafe, fraudulent, or abusive practices. These practices have historically included malfeasant providers billing insurance or Medi-Cal for services that were not provided; or intentionally providing substances to keep residents addicted in order to continue billing, and upon discovery of misconduct, operators have used multiple "shell" corporations to conceal ownership or avoid enforcement. These are but a few examples of the bad acts perpetrated without oversight, many of which are capable of repetition, yet evading review.

At the local level, there are several entities with various responsibilities connected to the regulation and oversight of recovery residences. Within incorporated cities, each city is responsible, (either directly or through a contracted agency), for administering and enforcing applicable zoning, land-use, building, fire, business-licensing, property-maintenance, labor, and nuisance laws. Los Angeles County generally exercises comparable local authority in unincorporated areas, only.

The Department of Public Health's Substance Abuse Prevention and Control division (DPH-SAPC) leads the County’s publicly funded system of substance-use prevention, treatment and recovery services, and administers the County’s Drug Medi-Cal Organized Delivery System. DPH-SAPC administers County contracts with both

substance use disorder services providers, as well as with a small number of recovery residence providers; the latter also known as Recovery Bridge Housing (RBH) providers. DPH-SAPC monitors contractual agreements closely, with established standards, incident reports and can impose contractual remedies, if necessary. However, DPH-SAPC does not regulate privately operated recovery residences and can only monitor the subset of RBH providers who are directly contracted with DPH-SAPC.

Although DPH-SAPC is the primary County contracting agency for RBH, other County departments, (e.g., the Department of Mental Health (DMH) or the Department of Homeless Services and Housing (HSH)), may refer individuals to recovery residences and are responsible for coordinating and overseeing their own referral process and addressing concerns related to those referrals. Nonetheless, DPH-SAPC as well as DMH and HSH are under County jurisdiction collectively, and a ubiquitous approach to addressing this issue is obviously mutually beneficial for all parties.

A coordinated, risk-based approach can improve accountability by using existing complaints, permitting, code-enforcement, contracting, consumer-protection, litigation, and law-enforcement authority; prioritizing serious and repeat offenders; and referring matters outside County jurisdiction to the appropriate state or municipal agency.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct County Counsel, in consultation with the Department of Public Health Substance Abuse Prevention and Control (DPH-SAPC), the District Attorney (DA), the Department of Consumer and Business Affairs (DCBA), Regional Planning (RP), Public Works (DPW), the Fire Department, the Sheriff's Department, other relevant County departments, and engagement with community stakeholders, including substance use providers and

individuals with lived experience, report back in writing to the Board in 120 days with a coordinated, risk-based protocol for addressing alleged unlawful conduct by non-clinical recovery residences, within their respective jurisdictional authorities, including procedures for coordinating with and referring matters to the appropriate local, state, or federal enforcement authority. The protocol and any recommended options shall be consistent with the federal Fair Housing Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act, and the California Fair Employment and Housing Act, and shall target unlawful conduct rather than the disability status of residents. The protocol should include, but not limited to the following:

1. Complaint System: Provide details and recommendations to improve existing complaint systems that receive, document, and route allegations to the appropriate local, state, or federal enforcement authority.
2. Safeguards for Referrals: Within existing resources, develop uniform safeguards for privately operated, recovery residences that County-operated and County-contracted providers make referrals to.
3. Enforcement: Analyze enforcement criteria and make recommendations to improve existing business, building, fire, zoning, property-maintenance, consumer-protection, contracting, labor, and public-nuisance laws, as well as coordination with applicable state and federal enforcement authorities. This analysis should identify the jurisdiction and responsibilities of relevant agencies and recommend procedures for interagency coordination, information sharing, and referrals, including referral of suspected unlicensed recovery or treatment services to the California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) and referral of appropriate

consumer-fraud, insurance-fraud, or criminal matters to the responsible enforcement authority. The analysis should include, but not limited to the following:

   a. Escalating enforcement options, as legally appropriate; and
   b. Procedures to protect residents affected by an emergency closure or other enforcement action, including coordination of safe relocation, transportation, medication continuity, naloxone access, and connection to appropriate housing or treatment when necessary.

4. Identify any additional options the County has at its disposal to regulate non-clinical recovery residences, including the pros and cons of those options.
5. Outline actions that can be implemented within existing resources, any legal or operational gaps, and any staffing or funding needs requiring separate Board consideration.

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MOTION BY SUPERVISOR HOLLY J. MITCHELL November 17, 2026

Supporting Fresh Food Access at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Medical Campus

Access to fresh, affordable food is essential to health, yet many communities continue to face significant barriers to obtaining nutritious produce. Residents of Service Planning Area (SPA) 6 experience the greatest barriers in Los Angeles County (County). According to the Department of Public Health's Community Health Profiles, 40.7 percent of SPA 6 residents live in food-insecure households, and 43.4 percent of adults live in nutrition-insecure households, the highest rates of any SPA.[1] Only 56.6 percent of children in SPA 6 have good or excellent access to fresh fruits and vegetables, also the lowest rate in the County, and nearly one in three residents does not live near a supermarket or grocery store.[2]

These inequities have direct health consequences. SPA 6 has the highest rate of diagnosed diabetes in the County, with 16.7 percent of adults affected.[3] Diet-related illnesses such as diabetes and hypertension drive preventable hospitalizations, amputations, and early deaths, disproportionately affecting communities in South Los Angeles.

[1] Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, Community Health Profiles, Service Planning Area 6 (data from the 2023 Los Angeles County Health Survey), https://ph-lacounty.hub.arcgis.com/pages/chp
[2] Ibid. 1
[3] Ibid. 1

- MORE -

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Farmers' markets play a critical role in expanding access to healthy, affordable food. Since 2017, with a brief interruption during the COVID-19 pandemic, Sustainable Economic Enterprises of Los Angeles (SEE-LA), doing business as Food Access LA, has operated the Watts Willowbrook Farmers' Market at the Martin Luther King, Jr. (MLK) Medical Campus. The market brings fresh produce directly to patients, staff, and surrounding Willowbrook residents and accepts CalFresh and WIC, helping reduce cost barriers for low-income households.

The passage of H.R. 1 in July 2025 heightened the urgency of this work. The law enacted the largest reduction in Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program funding in history, cutting an estimated $187 billion over ten years.[4] As families lose food benefits, farmers' markets that accept CalFresh experience reduced customer participation, and the small farmers who supply them face income losses. At the same time, Market Match, California's program that doubles CalFresh dollars spent on fresh produce at farmers' markets, received only one-time funding for Fiscal Year 2026-27, below sustainable levels, and federal matching funds have been withheld.[5]

Despite these challenges, the Watts Willowbrook Farmers' Market's role in the community has only grown. Beyond offering fresh, seasonal produce, the market serves as a hub where community-based organizations share resources and hosts free nutrition classes and special programming in partnership with the MLK Outpatient Center. It also serves as a trusted community third space where neighbors gather, connect, and access resources such as health screenings, tree giveaways, and other services that meet residents where they are. The Department of Health Services has affirmed the market's value as a direct link between medical care and healthy eating, and as a tool to help reduce diet-related disease.

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[4] Congressional Research Service, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and Related Nutrition Programs in P.L. 119-21: An Overview, R48552 (citing Congressional Budget Office estimates), July 23, 2025, https://www.congress.gov/crs_external_products/R/PDF/R48552/R48552.7.pdf

[5] "Market Match program secures $15 million in funding," *Gazetteer SF*, July 2, 2026, https://sf.gazetteer.co/market-match-program-secures-15-million-in-funding; Ecology Center, "Farmers' Markets Remain a Lifeline During the Federal Shutdown,"

In March 2026, the Board of Supervisors approved the motion, “Fiscal Stewardship and Equitable Access in County Fee Waivers,” [6] directing the Chief Executive Officer to develop a Countywide Fee Waiver Policy that prioritizes events with the greatest equity impact, with final recommendations expected by the end of 2026. The Watts Willowbrook Farmers’ Market reflects these priorities: it is free and open to the public, accepts CalFresh and WIC, and serves a community with the County’s highest rates of food insecurity and diabetes. However, the market cannot wait for the policy to be finalized. Without a renewed license agreement, the community risks losing a vital source of fresh, affordable produce at a time when families are already facing reductions in food assistance.

I THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

1. Find that the proposed granting of a non-exclusive, gratis license agreement to Sustainable Economic Enterprises of Los Angeles (SEE-LA) for the operation of a farmers market on Los Angeles County (County)-owned property is categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act pursuant to Section 15304(e) – Minor Alterations to Land and Class Four (4) of the County's Environmental Document Reporting Procedures and Guidelines.
2. Find, pursuant to Government Code section 26227, that the portion of the County’s Martin Luther King Jr. Medical Campus proposed for the farmers market is not currently needed for exclusive County purposes during the specified Wednesdays and hours of market operation, which will be defined in the market license agreement.
3. Find that the services to be provided by SEE-LA are necessary to meet the social needs of County residents and serve a public purpose by increasing access to fresh, affordable food in a community with the County’s highest rates of food insecurity and diabetes.
4. Direct the Chief Executive Officer (CEO), or his designee, in consultation with the Director of the Department of Health Services (DHS), to waive the day-use permit

[6] https://file.lacounty.gov/SDSInter/bos/supdocs/214035.pdf

fee of $200 per market day for the duration of the market's license term, not to exceed 55 market days per year.

5. Delegate authority to the CEO, or his designee, in coordination with the Director of DHS, to negotiate, execute, and issue a gratis license agreement to SEE-LA within 60 days, for a two-year term, for the operation of a farmers' market at the County-owned Martin Luther King Jr. Medical Campus.
6. Authorize the CEO, or his designee, to execute ancillary documentation approved as to form by County Counsel, and to take any other actions necessary and appropriate to implement and effectuate the market license.

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(EA/YV/JY)

SUPPORTING FRESH FOOD ACCESS AT THE MLK MEDICAL CAMPUS

Motion by Supervisor Holly J. Mitchell

SOUTH LA FACES THE COUNTY'S GREATEST BARRIERS TO HEALTHY FOOD

40.7%
of residents live in food-insecure households, highest of any SPA

16.7%
of adults have diagnosed diabetes, highest in the County

56.6%
of children have good or excellent access to fresh produce, lowest in the County

1 in 3
residents do not live near a supermarket or grocery store



WATTS WILLOWBROOK FARMERS' MARKET LINKS MEDICAL CARE TO HEALTHY EATING

Operated by SEE-LA (Food Access LA) at the MLK Medical Campus since 2017, with a brief pause during COVID-19.

Affordable Produce

Fresh, seasonal produce for patients, staff, and Willowbrook residents. Accepts CalFresh and WIC.

Health Partner

Free nutrition classes with the MLK Outpatient Center. DHS affirms its role in reducing diet-related disease.

Community Hub

A trusted third space with CBO resources, health screenings, and tree giveaways.



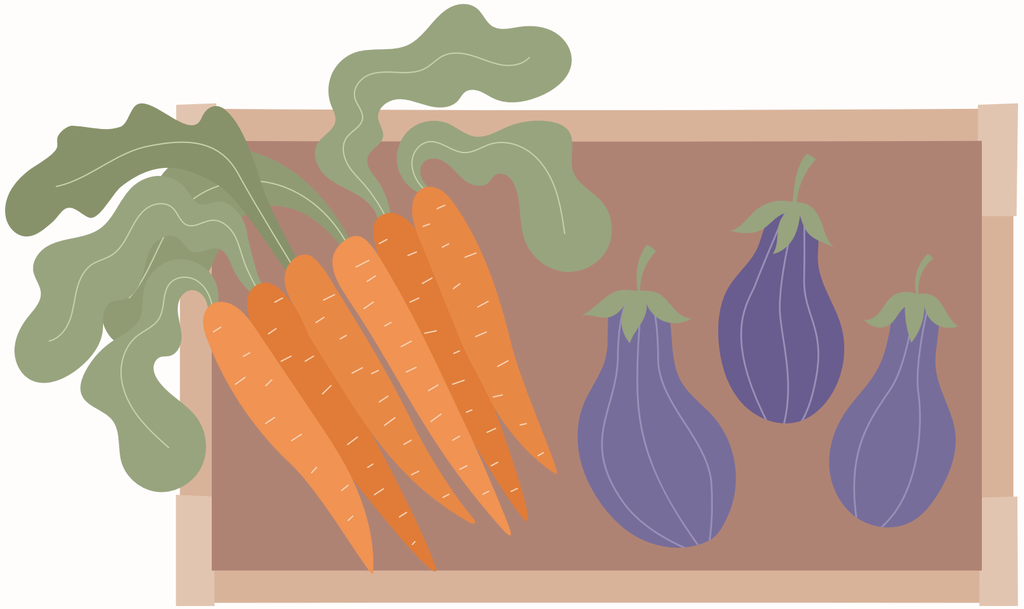
DIRECTIVES





"The Farmer's Market on the MLK Medical Campus has become an integral part of weekly life. Access to fresh produce that accepts EBT allows a common space for workforce members and the community to come together for healthy prepared foods and fresh seasonal produce. Fresh fruit shows up at meetings in place of ultra processed snacks. Additionally, the Farmer's Market is a space that is rich for collaboration. During COVID times, the MLK OPC staff hosted a weekly table offering information about COVID, masks, and test kits. Our diabetes team has provided education on low-glycemic diet with food models. Our students have provided education on medication adherence with free pill boxes, and we are currently working on a sustainability opportunity for community members to donate unneeded medical equipment for refurbishment to provide to others in need."

Dr. Ellen Rothman, MD
Medical Director, MLK Jr Outpatient Center



1. CEQA Exempt
The license is categorically exempt as a minor alteration to land

2. Site Available
Market area not needed for County use on market Wednesdays (Gov. Code 26227)

3. Public Purpose
SEE-LA's services meet residents' social needs by expanding fresh food access

4. Waive the Fee
$200 day-use permit fee waived, up to 55 market days a year, for the license term

5. Issue the License
Negotiate and execute a two-year gratis license with SEE-LA within 60 days

6. Implement
Execute ancillary documents approved by County Counsel and other needed actions