

**Improving Outcomes for African American Babies in LA County**

The Black Infant Health (BIH) Program aims to improve health among African American mothers and babies by empowering mothers to increase life skills, reduce stress and social isolation, increase access to resources, and make healthy behavior choices for themselves and their families. Data suggests the program has had a positive influence on women and infants served by the program but more work needs to be done to address health disparities and adverse birth outcomes.

In 2010, California Department of Public Health implemented a new BIH service model throughout the State, with the exception of Los Angeles County. Los Angeles County is now being asked to implement the new model that decreases the number of clients receiving case management/care coordination services and focuses primarily on prenatal and postpartum group sessions for women who are pregnant or parenting a child up to three months old. The new model drastically reduces the number of clients that will be served through the BIH Program by approximately 75%.

In an effort to bridge the service gap, First 5 LA approved an allocation in November 2013 of \$7.26 million to support BIH Program services in the cities of Long Beach, Pasadena and Los Angeles. The funding was increased from previous years to address the issue of fewer clients being served via case management services. However, these funds will only maintain case coordination services for the fewer number of women who will be served in group settings by the new model.

- MORE -

MOTION

MOLINA \_\_\_\_\_

RIDLEY-THOMAS \_\_\_\_\_

YAROSLAVSKY \_\_\_\_\_

ANTONOVICH \_\_\_\_\_

KNABE \_\_\_\_\_

**MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS**  
**JUNE 4, 2014**  
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Further analysis is needed to determine the remaining service gaps to restore the BIH Program to previous caseload levels for women and infants.

**THEREFORE, I MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:**

Direct the Director of the Department of Public Health to report back in writing by September 1, 2014 on the change in programming resulting from the implementation of the new State Black Infant Health Program model to begin July 1, 2015.

Y\KS

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