NAMI | Los Angeles County Council
National Alliance on Mental Illness

July 17, 2014

Via E-Mail
The Honorable Members of the Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Honorable Members of the Board:

The National Alliance on Mental Illness Los Angeles County Council (NAMI LACC) is an association of the twelve Los Angeles County affiliates of NAMI, the National Alliance on Mental Illness. NAMI LACC represents over 3,300 members that include persons living with serious mental illness, their family and friends. We advocate for lives of dignity and respect without stigma and discrimination for all people affected by serious mental illness.

NAMI LACC deeply appreciates and fully supports the forward thinking motion made by Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas at the meeting of the Board of Supervisors on Tuesday, July 15, 2014 to set aside $20 million to fund the diversion of people with mental illness away from jail and into community-based treatment. Approval of the motion to set aside these funds would represent a significant down payment on expanding diversion programs as recommended by District Attorney Jackie Lacey's Criminal Justice Mental Health Task Force. This important work deserves the full commitment and support of our county. We ask that you vote a resounding "Yes" for the motion submitted by Supervisor Ridley-Thomas.

We commend the County's interest in and commitment to the efforts of the District Attorney's Criminal Justice Mental Health Task Force, and look forward to participating in the drafting of diversion recommendations for the county's consideration.

Respectfully,

Brittney Weissman, Executive Director

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