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SUPERVISOR RIDLEY-THOMAS CALLS FOR REPORT ON POTENTIAL IMPACTS THAT PROPOSED BUDGET CUTS WILL HAVE ON THE COUNTY'S PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

LOS ANGELES – At the request of Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas, the Board today voted to carefully consider how budget cuts and curtailments to vital programs and services provided by the Department of Public Health will impact County residents, before approving the department's Health Regionalization Plan in the proposed 2010-11 budget.

The County's Chief Executive Officer's 2010-11 proposed budget addresses a \$21.2 million budget shortfall for DPH, primarily due to state budget cuts, the department's share of the County's overall structural deficit and its existing structural deficit.

The proposed solutions to DPH's budget gap include a combination of revenue maximization, consolidations, programmatic/service curtailments and a Health Center Regionalization Plan.

"The potential impact of these proposed changes in programming and service delivery of public health services should be carefully considered before the Board votes to approve them," Supervisor Ridley-Thomas said.

"While the revenue maximization and cost shifts are commendable, the impact of the programmatic and service curtailments and the Health Regionalization Plan within the budget remains unclear. The potential impact of these proposed changes in programming and service delivery on the public health of County residents should be considered before the Board approves them."

The Supervisor directed the CEO and DPH to report back to the Board during its final consideration of the budget in June, with a description of how programmatic and service curtailments would impact County residents.

The report should include the following:

- A map or other visual aids that describe the volume and accessibility of all currently available DPH services, such as immunizations, tuberculosis, sexually transmitted diseases, case management and home visitation programs for high-risk pregnant women, and compare these services to what would be available upon completion of the Regionalization Plan and service curtailments;
- A description of the potential impact that any DPH service reductions could have on other county-funded services and the private provider community;
- The extent to which the impact of curtailments and clinic consolidations could be mitigated by other funds, such as the new Home Visitation Grant Program and other opportunities within the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010, or new funds that will be available under the First 5 of Los Angeles Commission's new strategic plan;
- The rationale supporting the recommended changes and the specific outcome goals that guide the DPH's decision making.

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