

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS

MAY 20, 2014

Preventing a Mental Health Service Reduction for Downtown Residents

National studies have shown that one in five persons will experience symptoms of a mental illness in any given year. The Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health (DMH) provides a path to hope, wellness and recovery for over 250,000 people across Los Angeles County each year and works to ensure that children, adults and families are able to obtain needed care. These services help fragile families stay together, prepare individuals to enter the workforce, help reduce crime and recidivism, prevent at-risk individuals from spiraling and restore community wellness. It is imperative that DMH also promote the safety and security of local communities when providing these services by working with communities to ameliorate concerns to the extent it is reasonable.

For the past three years, the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and DMH have provided a series of Board Letters related to their efforts to renovate the Downtown Mental Health Center Maple Street location and find alternative lease space for

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MOTION

MOLINA \_\_\_\_\_

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

YAROSLAVSKY \_\_\_\_\_

ANTONOVICH \_\_\_\_\_

KNABE \_\_\_\_\_

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services. It is important to clarify that DMH is not expanding services in the downtown Los Angeles area. Rather DMH is attempting to acquire sufficient space to deliver the programs already operating in the downtown Los Angeles area.

With the approval of Supervisor Molina's motion during the Board meeting on May 13, 2014, it is critically important that the CEO and DMH proactively search for an alternate space that will preserve service levels for the originally targeted at-risk residents. A reduction of service levels for the high-need Skid Row population should not be, nor was it intended to be, the result of the adoption of last week's motion.

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

Direct the Chief Executive Officer, in coordination with the Director of the Department of Mental Health, to:

- 1) Identify an appropriate alternative site for the provision of CalWORKs services, Wellness Clinical Team services and Prevention and Early Intervention programs services that were relocated from the Little Tokyo Loft site, so that no service delivery delays or reductions will occur for the County residents originally targeted for services; and
- 2) Report back in writing every two weeks until an alternative site is identified and opened for service.

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(YV/KA)