

**MOTION BY SUPERVISORS MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS
AND SHEILA KUEHL**

NOVEMBER 14, 2017

Implementation of the Performance Partnership Pilot for Opportunity Youth and Support for the L.A. Compact

Today, the Department of Workforce Development, Aging and Community Services (WDACS), along with the Department of Mental Health, Probation Department (Probation), Department of Public Social Services (DPSS), Department of Children and Family Services and the Office of Child Protection, submits the Los Angeles Performance Partnership Pilot 2017-2020 Strategic Plan Serving Disconnected Youth (LAP3 Plan) for endorsement and approval by the Board of Supervisors (Board). The LAP3 Plan is a landmark effort to unite major regional systems, including the County of Los Angeles (County), City of Los Angeles (City), the Los Angeles Unified School District, the Los Angeles Community College District and other partners, to reduce the number of youth ages 16-24 who are neither working nor in school (referred to alternatively as “disconnected youth” or “opportunity youth”). In the County, nearly one in six youth is an opportunity youth, and in some regions, this percentage is more pronounced, such as in South Los Angeles, where it is as high as 23 percent.

The LAP3 Plan advances the goals and vision of the L.A. Compact, a collective impact strategy to improve educational and employment outcomes from cradle to career. The L.A. Compact, which partners with many of the same regional systems,

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broadens the target population, but pursues the same results. In 2013, the Board signed on to the L.A. Compact, which consists of cross-sector leaders from the education, business, government, labor and nonprofit arenas committed to collaborate across institutions to advance systemic goals around three areas: high school graduation, college access and preparation, and pathways to sustainable jobs and careers. Signatories to the L.A. Compact have committed to working together to leverage resources, coordinate services, improve public policies, and make system improvements.

While there is an array of employment, educational, and social services available for opportunity youth, too often programs are administered by agencies in isolation. The L.A. Compact and LAP3 Plan seek to change that. The LAP3 Plan outlines visionary, aspirational goals and strategies to align and expand regional efforts to serve opportunity youth ages 16-24, through simplifying program enrollment processes, encouraging joint agency collaboration, expanding youth outreach and empowerment efforts, and seeking policy and systems change to streamline program requirements.

The LAP3 Plan builds on the existing regional effort to connect youth to paid work experience, an effort the Board has led since 2006, through a partnership that now includes more than 10 County departments, the City, the Workforce Development Boards, and private sector and community-based organizations. In July 2017, WDACS launched the Youth@Work Program, which systematically provides approximately 15,000 youth with paid work experience, while connecting youth who need additional assistance to a comprehensive and strategic set of employment, career pathway, and supportive services, available through the County's America's Job Centers of California. With the launch of Youth@Work, there is an increasing focus on providing work experience in high-growth employment sectors, such as Construction, Entertainment and InfoTech, Health Services, Leisure and Hospitality, Manufacturing and Trade and Logistics.

The LAP3 Plan includes specific strategies that will positively impact youth populations facing significant barriers to employment. One such strategy calls for all

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youth in diversionary programs, youth who have recently experienced homelessness and all foster youth aged 18-21 who are not currently working or in school, to be enrolled into Youth@Work services. Probation is working closely with WDACS to provide work experience and personal enrichment training to more than 1,000 justice-involved youth. DPSS provides dedicated funding that enables WDACS to provide CalWORKS youth with work experience through Youth@Work. Another strategy asks for the County and City to collaborate with DPSS to enroll expectant and parenting youth into Youth@Work services. This aligns with State requirements that expectant and parenting CalWORKs youth enroll in Cal-Learn to obtain their High School or General Equivalency Diplomas.

The County is preparing to launch the Countywide Youth Bridges Program to establish concrete pathways for at-risk youth to obtain careers in County government, utilizing Youth@Work as the primary mechanism for outreach and sourcing of qualified at-risk youth candidates. The Countywide Workforce Development Alignment Plan WDACS submitted to the Board on July 14, 2017, highlighted the LAP3 Plan and Youth@Work as the primary mechanisms to ensure comprehensive employment and training services to youth.

The Board commends the County Departments and the LAP3 Plan and L.A. Compact partners for their commitment to regional systems change that will benefit opportunity youth. Achieving the ambitious goals set forth by the LAP3 Plan and the L.A. Compact and the necessary alignment of major systems will require an unprecedented level of coordination and alignment of goals, people, processes and resources. Regional efforts such as the LAP3 Plan and the L.A. Compact help to reduce siloed approaches and increase opportunities to leverage resources for shared desired outcomes. Furthermore, the submission of the LAP3 Plan provides the Board with an opportunity to renew its commitment to the L.A. Compact, given the significant changes to the Board's composition since 2013.

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WE THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

1. Instruct the Directors of the departments of Workforce Development, Aging, and Community Services (WDACS), Mental Health, Probation, Public Social Services, Children and Family Services (collectively, affected departments), in conjunction with the Office of Child Protection, to align and integrate youth employment programs with the County's Youth@Work Program to ensure that systematic and consistent services are provided throughout Los Angeles County (County), and as part of these integration efforts:
 - a. Mandate affected departments to develop Memorandums of Understanding, approved as to form by County Counsel, for sharing of youth client data with WDACS, to the extent permissible under federal, State and local laws; and
 - b. Direct affected departments to utilize Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act youth performance measures and adopt additional common performance standards for youth workforce development programs, which should include targets for placement in high-growth industries, as well as the metrics identified on page 12 of the Los Angeles Performance Partnership Pilot 2017-2020 Strategic Plan Serving Disconnected Youth (LAP3 Plan).
2. Instruct affected departments to add the integration of youth-serving employment programs with Youth@Work, as well as the LAP3 Plan's strategic goals, as Department Head MAPP Priorities beginning in FY 18-19.
3. Instruct the Director of WDACS, in coordination with the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and other affected departments, to report back to the Board of Supervisors (Board) in writing in 180 days on the status of the above items and overall implementation of the LAP3 Plan, including the addition of the Department of Human Resources, the Internal Services Department and any other County Departments needed to successfully implement the LAP3 Plan by January 1, 2019.

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4. Authorize the Chairman of the Board to reinstate the County's commitment by joining the Mayor of the City of Los Angeles, the Superintendent of the Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE), and other L.A. Compact signatories in signing the L.A. Compact; and
5. Direct the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to transmit a five-signature letter to UNITE-LA, convener of the L.A. Compact, stating the Board's support for the L.A. Compact and conduct an evaluation of the County's involvement with the L.A. Compact since 2013 and report back in writing in 180 days on the strengths, areas for improvement and overall effectiveness of County involvement, and recommendations for future involvement in collaboration with affected departments, LACOE, and other departments currently engaged or suggested for future participation.

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