

MOTION

The Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity (MHPAEA) was signed into law on October 3, 2008 and took effect in 2010. MHPAEA requires that health plans provide mental health and substance abuse services in equal fashion to medical health services.

For far too long, mental health and substance abuse coverage has been largely treated as an afterthought. Young people, the homeless, veterans and mentally ill people, many of whom are abusing alcohol and drugs, still struggle for access to treatment. Many outreach workers throughout the city of Los Angeles claim that when a person is ready for treatment a closed door is the difference between life and death for that person.

Even with health insurance, treatment requires money, and rehab is costly and basically unavailable to the financially insecure. Without the ability to pay for treatment many people simply can't get the help they need.

Existing services are provided by the Los Angeles County Departments of Public Health and Mental Health. Yet multiple departments and funding sources create confusion, duplicative work and gaps in service. LA County is moving forward on a consolidation of these departments to improve services. This is a move in the right direction.

We need accurate information on gaps in services and the needs of LA City residents to effectively advocate for care for the people of Los Angeles.

I THEREFORE MOVE that Chief Legislative Analyst (CLA) assist to coordinate testimony and research from Los Angeles City nonprofit providers, advocates, and consumers to identify the gaps and problems regarding access to and availability of mental health and substance abuse services vital to serving all neighborhoods and residents of the City of LA.

PRESENTED BY:



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ORIGINAL

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