

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, any official position of the City of Los Angeles with respect to legislation, rules, regulations or policies proposed to or pending before a local, state or federal governmental body or agency must have first been adopted in the form of a Resolution by the City Council with the concurrence of the Mayor; and

WHEREAS, the recent bi-annual Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count, conducted by the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA), revealed that there are 41,174 homeless men, women and children without a place to call home in Los Angeles County, and on any given night 29,000 of them are unsheltered, and are left to sleep on our sidewalks, our beaches, and under our bridges; and

WHEREAS, even though incredible public-private partnerships have housed more people in Los Angeles than ever before, homelessness in our city and our region is growing. New, aggressive, comprehensive strategies are necessary at all levels of government – city, county, state and federal. One state and county effort, which requires federal approval, is worthwhile and deserves the full-throated support and encouragement of the City of Los Angeles; and

WHEREAS, since January 1, 2014, California has expanded eligibility for Medi-Cal and streamlined the enrollment process. This means that nearly all of the people who are experiencing homelessness are now eligible to enroll in Medi-Cal. Until recently, most of these individuals were uninsured. In order to reduce costs to the medical system and simultaneously house more members of the growing homeless population, the County of Los Angeles created a Flexible Housing Subsidy Program, using general fund dollars to rapidly house homeless patients who use the county medical system frequently and at great cost; and

WHEREAS, the State of California is seeking federal permission to do the same thing – on an even bigger scale. California's Department of Health Care Services is asking the federal government for permission to use Medicaid money to help put the most medically fragile homeless people in housing. As part of its recently submitted 1115 waiver application, California's Department of Health Care Services outlined ways to reduce health costs and improve outcomes by better coordinating the care and helping find and maintain stable housing for them; and

WHEREAS, other states have sought similar permission, only to be denied by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS.) California's proposal could be the most comprehensive of its kind, allowing Medicaid to cover a broader population on a consistent basis. The federal money would pay for case managers to help people get whatever they need to

stay in housing except for rent – including transportation, job assistance and substance abuse treatment. Any savings could be used by managed care companies to invest directly in providing housing, in partnership with local governments and others;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, with the concurrence of the Mayor, that by the adoption of this Resolution, the City of Los Angeles hereby includes in its 2015-2016 Federal Legislative Program, support for any administrative action which would approve the State of California, Department of Health Care Services, 1115 waiver petition, allowing Medicaid funds to be used to provide housing for homeless patients.

PRESENTED BY:



MIKE BONIN

*Councilmember, 11th District*

SECONDED BY:



ORIGINAL