

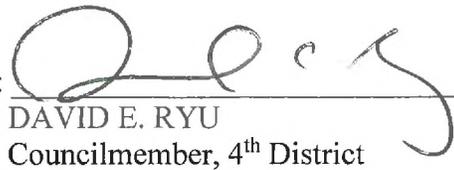
MOTION HEALTH, MENTAL HEALTH AND EDUCATION

In 2002, AB 1421, the Assisted Outpatient Treatment Demonstration Project Act, also known as Laura's Law, was signed into law. The law allows counties to pursue court-ordered outpatient treatment for individuals with serious mental illness. Counties who choose to implement Laura's Law must ensure that voluntary mental health programs serving adults and mental health programs serving children are not reduced as a result of implementing the law.

On January 16, 2003, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors (Board of Supervisors) partially implemented Laura's Law by establishing a pilot program until funding for full implementation could be identified. On July 14, 2014, the Board of Supervisors voted to fully implement Laura's Law, expand the existing outpatient treatment program from 20 to 300 slots, and create a working group responsible for reaching out to potential patients and manage the court filing process. On November 24, 2014, the Board of Supervisors voted to create 300 new treatment slots for people with serious mental health issues and allow family members, treatment providers, or law enforcement officers to ask a court to order someone to undergo treatment. Voluntary treatment options are emphasized under the program, and obtaining court orders for treatment is a last resort. The annual program is funded by State Mental Health Services Act funds and Medi-Cal funds.

The City of Los Angeles is greatly affected by the issue of mental illness in our communities. Councilmember Bonin introduced a motion requesting a report on the work that LAPD is doing to implement Laura's Law in the city of Los Angeles: 15-0277. However, funding constraints and lack of access to mental health care continue to prevent individuals from obtaining treatment. The Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health has the latest information on this serious public health issue and on the implementation of Laura's Law as well as other alternatives such as Ulysses contracts for mental care.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health be requested to report on the implementation of the Assisted Outpatient Treatment Demonstration Project Act, also known as Laura's Law, within the City of Los Angeles, and other pertinent issues of access to mental health care for acute need including the number of residents reached, challenges, funding levels, and any issues as appropriate.

PRESENTED BY: 
DAVID E. RYU
Councilmember, 4th District

SECONDED BY: 




AUG 21 2015

ORIGINAL