

MOTION

PUBLIC SAFETY

Mental illness and drug addiction represent grave and growing issues in California and throughout the United States. The California Health Care Foundation reports that 1 in 20 Californians suffer from a serious mental illness. The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health reports that drug overdose is the third leading cause of injury death or premature death in Los Angeles County.

Too many individuals who experience severe mental illness or drug abuse issues fall through gaps in the system as the result of limited access to treatment. However, in limited circumstances, some individuals are able to obtain help under various mandatory treatment programs. The California Welfare and Institutions Code 5150 authorizes a qualified officer or clinician to involuntarily confine a person suspected to have a mental health disorder that makes him or her gravely disabled or a danger to themselves or others.

California also has civil commitment laws that dictate when involuntary treatment (also known as court-ordered treatment) is appropriate for individuals with severe mental illness who are too ill to seek care voluntarily. To qualify for mandated treatment in a hospital or other inpatient facility, the person must be dangerous to themselves and/or others or be unable to provide for basic personal needs, such as food, clothing, or shelter. To qualify for mandated treatment as an outpatient, an individual must meet specified criteria and live in a California county where Laura's Law has been authorized by county supervisors.

Given the scope of the mental health and drug addiction crisis nationwide and in California, it is essential that the Council be advised as to the implementation of the various mandatory treatment laws within the City of Los Angeles. These issues are especially critical to youth who are suffering from mental illness while in transition from the foster care system, and into young adulthood.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Police Department, with the assistance of the Fire Department and City Attorney, to report on the current status and recommendations to improve the implementation of the following: California Welfare and Institutions Code 5150, Laura's Law, mandatory treatment for chronic drug users, transitional age youth conservancy, other mandatory treatment laws, and other issues as appropriate.

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ORIGINAL

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