

# MOTION

## HOMELESSNESS AND POVERTY

According to the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority's 2016 Point-In-Time Count of Homeless Individuals, there are approximately 28,000 homeless persons in the City of Los Angeles, of which approximately one third suffer from mental illness.

To address these mental health needs, outreach teams, such as the City-County-Community collaboration known as C3, have been deployed in the City, including in Skid Row. The C3 program is a multi-disciplinary team consisting of a variety of specialists including staff from the County Department of Mental Health (DMH).

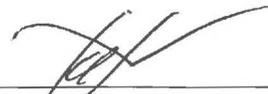
Additional City programs addressing the mental health needs of the homeless include the Police Department's Mental Evaluation Unit and the System-Wide Mental Assessment Response Team (SMART Teams) both of which collaborate with DMH to provide referrals, intervention and/or placement in mental facilities for individuals needing acute mental health intervention. Furthermore, the City's adopted 2016-17 Budget includes funding for the Downtown Women's Center to facilitate Trauma Informed Care training to City outreach staff. Trauma Informed Care is an outreach and engagement philosophy that asks homeless individuals "what happened to you" rather than "what is wrong with you" and targets all homeless individuals, including victims of domestic violence

In order to maximize all City efforts to address the mental health issues of the homeless, there is further need to work together with the County, which is the primary entity responsible for the delivery of health and mental health care in the region. Given that the County is currently considering the expansion of mental health services to the homeless using Measure H funding, it is timely for the City to inventory its current programs and consider what policy or procedural improvements should be made in order to strategically address the mental health needs of the City's homeless population, which includes the sub populations of transition aged youth and victims of domestic violence highlighted in the City's Comprehensive Homeless Strategy.

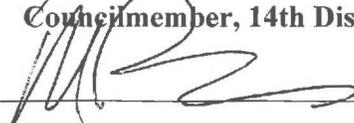
I THEREFORE MOVE that the City's Homelessness Coordinator be instructed with assistance from the Chief Legislative Analyst; Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority; County Departments of Mental Health and Children and Family Services; the Los Angeles Police Department; the City's Domestic Violence Task Force; and other City departments as necessary, to report to Council on the following topics:

- Current programs that integrate mental health services into the City's efforts to address homelessness, including emergency response interventions;
- Recommendations for policy or procedural improvements to better assist and house all homeless individuals with mental health needs;
- A status report on the current implementation of Laura's Law; and
- Recommendations for expanded collaborations with the County to address the mental health needs of all homeless individuals in the City.

PRESENTED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

  
JOSE HUIZAR  
Councilmember, 14th District

SECONDED BY: \_\_\_\_\_



April 7, 2017

jr  


ORIGINAL