

HOMELESSNESS AND POVERTY

MOTION

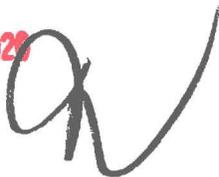
Los Angeles City and County is home to almost half of all people experiencing homelessness in the State of California. In 2016 and 2017 the people of Los Angeles passed measures HHH and H, the largest local funding streams to assist unhoused and unsheltered Angelenos. However, from 2016 to 2020, over 1000 “board and care” high acuity need beds throughout the County have been taken offline, and further pressures may lead to even more closures of these important facilities.

In the State of California, people experiencing Serious Mental Illness (SMI) are often looked after in “board and care” facilities, known as Residential Care Facilities for the Elderly (RCFEs, 60+) and Adult Residential Facilities (ARFs, 18-59). These locations provide 24/7, constant care to people that may otherwise be homeless if not for the attention and focus at these sites. These facilities are largely funded by the Social Security Income (SSI) from each individual client (capped at \$35 / day), and then augmented by State Supplementary Payment (SSP) for each person. These funding levels have not been updated for decades, forcing cities and counties to spend local dollars on state licensed facilities in an effort to keep them operating.

A large funding gap exists nationwide, but it is glaring in California. In 2018, the County Departments of Mental Health (DMH) and Health Services (DHS) began collaborating to further serve and assist active DMH clients living in board and care facilities, with the goal of stabilizing the locations most at risk of closing due to financial pressures. These efforts are important, but not enough to fully ensure that a system meant to take care of the most vulnerable is adequately maintained.

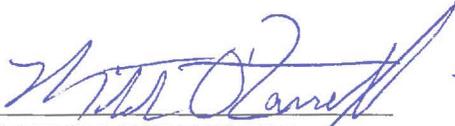
The COVID-19 Pandemic sharply heightened the need for the City to play a more prominent role in this underfunded, largely State regulated, County services focused component of the effort to end homelessness. Recently, Governor Newsom signed AB 1766 (Bloom) mandating that California Department of Social Services (CDSS) collect and send a report listing the closure of ARFs to county governments, and also signed AB 79 (Ting) compelling RCFEs to share similar closure data with local governments. The City should work with the County to understand the exact financial challenges, and impact of these closures, with a focus on services to individuals and the local community. Further, the Los Angeles Homelessness Service Authority (LAHSA) should work with the City’s Housing and Community Investment Department (HCID) to report to Council

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on how the closure or expansion of these facilities could or does impact the larger efforts aimed at housing unsheltered Angelenos.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Council DIRECT HCID with the assistance of LAHSA to report to Council on the state of Adult Residential Facilities and Residential Care Facilities for the Elderly citywide, and to provide context and recommendations on how to further integrate Board and Care facility programs into the City's Homelessness Strategic Plan.

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