

Communication from Public

Name: Robert Contreras

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Council File No: 21-1415

Comments for Public Posting: I am writing today to support Councilmember Cedillo's proposed legislation for Overdose Prevention for People Experiencing Homelessness (PEH) (Council File 21-1415).



BIENESTAR HUMAN SERVICES, INC.

December 15, 2021

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130 W Manchester Ave.
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Councilmember Kevin De Leon, Chair
City of Los Angeles
Homelessness and Poverty Committee
200 N. Spring St
Los Angeles, CA. 90012

RE: Support for Council File# 21-1415 Cedillo Overdose Prevention Legislation

Dear Chair De Leon:

I am writing today to support Councilmember Cedillo's proposed legislation for Overdose Prevention for People Experiencing Homelessness (PEH) (Council File 21-1415).

This important legislation would require and expand Nalaxone training and resources for service providers and City staff who work with people experiencing homeless. It also helps identify Federal and State legislation for the City to consider that intends to increase access and reduce barriers to care and coordination.

According to The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, Center for Health Impact Evaluation released a report on Recent Trends In Mortality Rates and Causes of Death Among People Experiencing Homelessness (PEH) in Los Angeles County, January 2021. Drug overdose has been the leading cause of death among people experiencing homelessness (PEH) since 2017. For the combined years of 2017-2019, PEH were 36 times more likely to die of a drug overdose than people in the general LA County population. The first seven months of 2020 saw an alarming increase in overdose deaths in this population. 273 PEH died of overdoses from January through July of 2020, compared to 205 during those same months in 2019-a 33% increase. This increase was driven largely by the more frequent involvement of fentanyl in overdose deaths among PEH in 2020 compared to the prior year.

Provisional data from CDC's National Center for Health Statistics indicate that there were an estimated 100,306 drug overdose deaths in the United States during 12-month period ending in April 2021, an increase of 28.5% from the 78,056 deaths during the same period the year before.

We must work together and act now to address this nation's overdose crisis since we see that fentanyl and other synthetic opioid-related deaths are surging.

Please schedule this legislation to be heard in January 2022 in the Homelessness and Poverty Committee and add this letter to the council file. Your support is needed to ensure we end homelessness with housing not overdoses.

Sincerely,

Robert Contreras, MBA
Chief Executive Officer
Bienestar Human Services Inc.

ACCESS, EDUCATION, MOBILIZATION: OUR COMMUNITY'S SOLUTION!