

Communication from Public

Name: Tom Booth

Date Submitted: 12/29/2021 02:23 PM

Council File No: 21-1415

Comments for Public Posting: I fully SUPPORT this council file. As a recovery person from substance use disorder, I want to attest to the importance of the availability and access to the life saving potential of Naloxone/Narcan for someone in an overdose, life threatening crisis. I also fully SUPPORT the many other thoughtful objectives of this motion, i.e. training and distribution of Narcan, decreasing wait times for SUD treatment, improving and enhancing screening with timely updates to SBAT, etc.

Communication from Public

Name: Melisa Chavez

Date Submitted: 12/29/2021 03:06 PM

Council File No: 21-1415

Comments for Public Posting: Please find our Letter of Support for Councilmember Cedillo's proposed legislation on Overdose Prevention for PEH. We hope that you will consider this legislation to be heard during the Homelessness and Poverty Committee schedule in January 2022.



December 27, 2021

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:

As one of the leading Syringe Exchanges in Los Angeles, we are writing today in support of Councilmember Cedillo's proposed legislation for Overdose Prevention for People Experiencing Homelessness (PEH) (Council File 21-1415). Community Health Project LA (CHPLA) has been providing services to People Experiencing Homelessness for over 25 years and serves over 10,086 participants, each year. Despite our efforts, we continue to see a rise in death rates related to overdose, calling for an expansion in harm reduction focused services and trainings. Our current data shows an alarming rate in reported overdose reversals, which evidences the need for access to Naloxone amongst PEH. Based on the communities we serve, we show overdose reversals have increased from 3,329 in 2020, to 5,182 reversals in 2021. In council district 1 alone, we had 793 reported overdose reversals, just within this year.

This important legislation would require and expand Naloxone training and resources for service providers and City staff who work with people experiencing homeless. This year, CHPLA has distributed 34,864 doses of Naloxone into the community and have trained 2,362 individuals who work with PEH. Despite these number, we are still unable to meet the demands of the fast-growing overdose crisis alone. This legislation will also help 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. Additionally, the increase overdose death rate, also comes after the COVID-19 Pandemic closures, subsequently limiting access to services and proper support systems. It is imperative that all service providers who service PEH are trained in overdose prevention and harm reduction interventions.

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,



Melisa Chavez, LCSW
Director of Client Services
LA Community Health Project

Communication from Public

Name: Albert M Senella
Date Submitted: 12/29/2021 07:08 AM
Council File No: 21-1415
Comments for Public Posting: Support for Councilmember Cedillo's proposed legislation for Overdose Prevention for People Experiencing Homelessness (Council File 21-1415).

CORPORATE OFFICERS

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www.TarzanaTC.org

December 28, 2021

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.

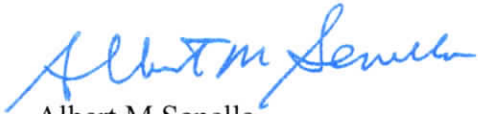
SINCE 1972

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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.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Albert M. Senella". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Albert M Senella
President & CEO

Communication from Public

Name: Zeke Sandoval

Date Submitted: 12/29/2021 12:32 PM

Council File No: 21-1415

Comments for Public Posting: As one of LA's largest homeless service providers, our staff see firsthand the disturbing trend of overdoses increasing among our unhoused neighbors. To be clear, people of every housing status wrestle with addiction. For our neighbors living on sidewalks or streets, however, the traumatic circumstances that lead to self-medication overlap with severe lack of access to regular healthcare or other resources to combat addiction. As fentanyl and other synthetic opioids grow more common, those combined risk factors are more likely to prove fatal. While all PATH services staff are trained in administering Naloxone, Councilmember Cedillo's important legislation would initiate a systemic approach, requiring and expanding training and resources for service providers and City staff who work with people experiencing homelessness. The Council motion 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 a recent report from the Center for Health Impact Evaluation within the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, our unhoused neighbors are already 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 33% increase in overdose deaths in this population, from 205 deaths in 2019 to 273 in 2020. This increase was driven largely by the more frequent involvement of fentanyl in overdose deaths among PEH in 2020 compared to the prior year. We must work together and act now to address this increasingly lethal overdose crisis. 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.

December 29, 2021



Councilmember Kevin De León, Chair
City of Los Angeles
Homelessness and Poverty Committee
200 N. Spring St
Los Angeles, CA. 90012

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

Dear Chair De León:

I am writing today on behalf of PATH (People Assisting The Homeless) to support Councilmember Cedillo's proposed legislation for Overdose Prevention for People Experiencing Homelessness (PEH) (Council File 21-1415).

As one of LA's largest homeless service providers, our staff see firsthand the disturbing trend of overdoses increasing among our unhoused neighbors. To be clear, people of every housing status wrestle with addiction. For our neighbors living on sidewalks or streets, however, the traumatic circumstances that lead to self-medication overlap with severe lack of access to regular healthcare or other resources to combat addiction. As fentanyl and other synthetic opioids grow more common, those combined risk factors are more likely to prove fatal.

While all PATH services staff are trained in administering Nalaxone, Councilmember Cedillo's important legislation would initiate a systemic approach, requiring and expanding training and resources for service providers and City staff who work with people experiencing homelessness. The Council motion 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 a [recent report](#) from the Center for Health Impact Evaluation within the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, our unhoused neighbors are already 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 33% increase in overdose deaths in this population, from 205 deaths in 2019 to 273 in 2020. This increase was driven largely by the more frequent involvement of fentanyl in overdose deaths among PEH in 2020 compared to the prior year. We must work together and act now to address this increasingly lethal overdose crisis.

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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "JHarkDietz".

Jennifer Hark Dietz
Executive Director
PATH (People Assisting The Homeless)