

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, any official position of the City of Los Angeles with respect to legislation, rules, regulations or policies proposed or pending before a local, state or federal governmental body or agency must first have been adopted in the form of a Resolution by the City Council with the concurrence of the Mayor; and

WHEREAS, a 2018 California statewide poll conducted by the California Health Care Foundation and the Kaiser Family Foundation found that mental health care access is one of the top issue priorities in the minds of Californians; and

WHEREAS, the proliferation of mental health issues among the state's burgeoning homeless population has contributed to the public's understanding that mental health care has been underfunded and inadequately attended over the more than half-century since the state began restructuring how it addressed the needs of people with mental illness and/or mental health disorders; and

WHEREAS, a series of legislative initiatives – the Short-Doyle Act (1957), the Lanterman-Petris-Short Act (1968), the establishment of Medi-Cal (1965), the Bronzan-McCorquodale California Realignment Act (1990), and the Mental Health Services Act (Proposition 63 - 2004) – reconceptualized how and to what extent funding was redistributed to counties to provide mental health care, subject to Proposition 13 (1978) limits and the impacts of recessions over the years; and

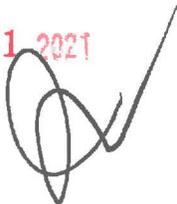
WHEREAS, in addition to these laws creating unfunded or insufficiently funded local mental health care mandates, the Lanterman-Petris-Short Act has made it more difficult to provide involuntary treatment to our most vulnerable Californians, and Medi-Cal red tape has discouraged counties from applying for full funding reimbursements for which they would otherwise qualify to the tune of leaving up to \$100 million in federal pass-through funds unspent per year; and

WHEREAS, counties are overly dependent on five remaining state hospitals and a disconnected network of private clinics to provide housing and services for persons experiencing mental health issues, which clearly is not meeting the need; and

WHEREAS, on March 20, 2020, the City Council approved CF 19-0002-S187 (Koretz-Ryu), including in the City's 2019-20 State Legislative Program, support for legislation that would simplify Medi-Cal reimbursement procedures for counties, simplify institutionalization procedures, stabilize state mental health funding at levels sufficient to meet the needs of counties, and re-involve the state in the provision of community-based facilities to house and treat persons experiencing mental health issues; and

WHEREAS, the City should continue this effort in the new legislative session and support bills in harmony with its intent, including AB 822 (Rodriguez) which aims to improve Medi-Cal-related mental health services and reimbursements; SB 293 (Limon) which would simplify Medi-Cal specialty mental health application procedures; SB 106 (Umberg) which would simplify access to state mental health "innovation funds" for cities and counties; AB 1340 (Santiago) which would among other provisions, expand the definition of "gravely disabled," require the State Department of State Hospitals to create a model discharge plan for Counties, and clarify the use of Proposition 63 funds for these purposes; and AB 988 (Bauer-Kahan) which streamlines the procedures for obtaining help for those in crisis;

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NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, with the concurrence of the Mayor, that by the adoption of this Resolution, the City of Los Angeles hereby includes in its 2021-2022 State Legislative Program support for AB 822, SB 293, SB 106, AB 1340 and AB 988 to improve the provision of services and funding for mental health care and support, for stabilizing state mental health funding at levels sufficient to meet the needs of counties, and re-introducing and clarifying the State's role in the provision of community-based facilities to house and treat persons experiencing mental illness and/or mental health disorders.

PRESENTED BY: Paul Koretz
PAUL KORETZ
Councilmember, Fifth District

SECONDED BY: Mark Ridley-Thomas
MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS
Councilmember, Tenth District