



Honorable Mayor and Members of the Hermosa Beach City Council

**RATIFY LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR REFORMING MENTAL HEALTHCARE WITHIN
THE COUNTY'S HOMELESSNESS SERVICES SYSTEM MOTION**

(Senior Management Analyst Sara Russo)

Recommended Action:

Staff recommends City Council ratify a letter of support (**Attachment**) sent on March 16, 2026 supporting Los Angeles County Supervisors Lindsey P. Horvath and Kathryn Barger's motion, Reforming Mental Healthcare Within the County's Homelessness Services System, at the March 17, 2026 Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors Meeting.

Executive Summary:

The City of Hermosa Beach regularly expresses its support or opposition regarding matters that would have an impact on the City. The proposal represents a step toward strengthening coordination between behavioral health services and homelessness response efforts throughout Los Angeles County.

Background:

On March 17, 2026, Supervisor Lindsey Horvath called for stronger coordination between the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health (DMH) and the Los Angeles County Department of Homeless Services and Housing (HSH) to improve mental health services for people experiencing homelessness.

Los Angeles County has a significant number of unhoused individuals living with serious mental illness. According to the 2025 Point-in-Time Homeless Count, approximately 15,930 people experiencing homelessness have serious mental illness, with over 10,800 living unsheltered. The current behavioral health system is not fully integrated with the homelessness response system, creating barriers to care.

The motion aims to better align mental health services with the County's homelessness response system, ensuring that individuals experiencing homelessness and severe mental illness receive timely and appropriate care.

Analysis:

The motion, Reforming Mental Healthcare Within the County's Homelessness Services System, aims to better align mental health services with the County's homelessness response system, ensuring that individuals experiencing homelessness and severe mental illness receive timely and appropriate care.

The major actions proposed in the motion include the following:

1. Strengthen coordination between departments

- Establish a dedicated DMH team to work directly with HSH on cases involving people experiencing homelessness with serious mental illness.
- Conduct regular case review meetings to resolve barriers to care.

2. Improve service access

- Create clearer referral pathways from HSH to DMH services and housing programs.
- Explore presumptive eligibility for individuals suspected of having serious mental illness.
- Expand field-based care, ensuring services reach individuals on the streets, in shelters, and in interim housing.

3. Enhance collaboration and planning

- Increase data sharing between County departments and service providers.
- Align planning for funding programs such as Prop 1, Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA), and other behavioral health initiatives.
- Work with managed care plans to clarify responsibilities for behavioral health services for people experiencing homelessness.

4. Improve program effectiveness

- Strengthen oversight and performance monitoring of Full Service Partnership (FSP) providers to ensure services are delivered in the field.
- Expand programs like the Interim Housing Outreach Program (IHOP).
- Provide additional training for staff working with unhoused individuals.

5. Increase accountability and reporting

- Require DMH and HSH to report back to the Board within 90 days and biannually thereafter on implementation progress.

The motion seeks to create a more coordinated, field-based, and accountable system of care that better serves individuals experiencing homelessness and serious mental illness by integrating mental health services with the County's homelessness response efforts.

Fiscal Impact:

There is no fiscal impact associated with this action.

Attachment:

Letter of Support for the motion Reforming Mental Healthcare Within the County's Homelessness Services System.

Respectfully Submitted by: Sara Russo, Senior Management Analyst

Approved: Steve Napolitano, City Manager