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March 14, 2023

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: Barbara Ferrer, Ph.D., M.P.H., M.Ed.
Director

**SUBJECT: DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PROGRAMMING
(SET ITEM 1, BOARD AGENDA OF NOVEMBER 15, 2022)**

This report is in response to the November 15, 2022, directive by the Board of Supervisors during the Set Matter on the American Rescue Plan Funding Report, to the Director of Public Health (Public Health) to work with the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to report back to the Board with a projection on domestic violence programs for next year, including any funding needs.

Background

Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) and Domestic Violence (DV) programming have long suffered from a lack of and unpredictability of funding. During the COVID-19 pandemic which exacerbated IPV and DV rates, the gap between service need and available resources has widened. Responding to this gap and pursuant to a May 17, 2022, Board motion by former Supervisor Kuehl and Supervisor Hahn, CEO recommended for Board approval in the Fiscal Year (FY) 22-23 Supplemental Budget an additional \$3.1 million in ongoing Net County Cost (NCC) County funding to support DV shelter-based services, which was approved by the Board on October 4, 2022. However, the Board has recognized there remains an urgent need for DV prevention as well as additional, sustained DV funding to effectively address the increasing needs of survivors and their families as well as the increased workload facing providers.

Markers of increasing unmet DV service need include:

- The increase in homelessness facing the County. Homelessness and DV are frequently linked, with 33% of the homeless population in 2022 indicating they experienced DV at some point in their lives.¹

¹ <https://www.laalmanac.com/social/so14.php>.

- Bearing out the point above, a 2019 needs assessment of women in the City of Los Angeles found that 53% of homeless women had experienced IPV/DV during their lifetime and 27% had been sexually assaulted within the past 12 months.²
- The DVC Website, which has remained a valuable resource for the community providing hotline and resource information, experienced a steady increase in visits over the past four years to over 25,000 in 2022.

Domestic Violence Efforts within Public Health

Three units within Public Health's Health Promotion Bureau operate programs to prevent and mitigate the impact of DV on survivors. Below a summary of these units and their programs.

The Office of Women's Health (OWH) administers County contracts with community-based providers that operate shelters and provide other support services for DV survivors.

Domestic Violence Shelter-Based Program (DVSBP)

- DVSBP services include 24-hours a day shelter, a telephone hotline for crisis calls, food, psychological support and peer counseling, drop-in center services, referrals to community services (such as medical and legal services), arrangements for school age children, transportation, and other supports.
 - 18 DVSBP Contracts at 29 sites; funded at \$2 million in FY 22-23
 - DVSBP is funded through marriage license fees and fees collected from persons convicted of DV related offenses pursuant to Penal Code Section 1203.097 and NCC. Funding is distributed in equal amounts per site.
 - As noted above, the Board approved additional County NCC funding for future fiscal years to support DVSBP services which will increase available funding to approximately \$4 million annually in future fiscal years.

Domestic Violence Support Services (DVSS)

- DVSS contracts support agencies that provide DV services, ranging from case management and counseling, life skills, parenting classes, financial management, providing resources/referrals and linkages, arranging shelter, as well as providing legal services to DV survivors who are CalWORKs eligible.
 - 42 DVSS Contracts at 59 sites; including 5 legal services providers, 32 case management (CM) providers, and 8 contractors who provide both CM and legal services.
 - \$18 million annual budget in FY22-23. DVSS is funded through CalWORKs through Department of Public Social Services.

American Rescue Plan (ARP) Funding

² <https://downtownwomenscenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/DWC-2019-Los-Angeles-Womens-Needs-Assessment.pdf>

- The ARP program provides funding for a compendium of DV services including shelter, support services, necessities of life assistance (gift cards for food, personal care items, transportation), and PPE for DV survivors negatively impacted by COVID, and includes an initial and periodic assessments, data collection and evaluation measuring increased levels of safety, empowerment, and income.
 - 29 ARP Contracts at 38 sites; funded at \$8 million in Tranche 1 and an additional \$3.1 million for Tranche 2.
- **The Domestic Violence Council (DVC)** engages DV survivors, providers, and advocates in Los Angeles County, to build public awareness around DV and promote effective policy related to DV prevention and services. The Council, housed within DPH, advances the prevention, intervention, and healing of DV through providing a public health perspective, breaking down silos through multi-sector collaboration, technical expertise and assistance through education and training. The Council maintains a general body along with six committees that examine the intersections of DV and issues of Health, Systems Improvement, Religion, Legislation and Policy, DV Shelter operations, and LGBTQ communities.
 - The Office of the Domestic Violence Council is funded through NCC divided equally among eight County Departments, per the directive of the Board's November 7th, 2017, motion.
- **The Office of Violence Prevention (OVP)**, established by the Board in 2019, works to strengthen coordination, capacity, and partnerships to address the root causes of violence, and to advance policies and practices that are grounded in race equity, to prevent all forms of violence and to promote healing across communities in Los Angeles County. OVP brings together County and community partners to implement six key strategies aimed at reducing the prevalence and impact of violence at county and community levels. To date, OVP has not had funding specifically secured for DV prevention programs.

Outstanding DV Service Funding Needs

The following funding needs, totaling \$7,731,565, in ongoing annual support are designed to establish an adequate funding base for each of the three Public Health units mentioned above to carry out mandates related to DV and to meet the needs of DV survivors and the agencies that serve them. This list identifies critical gaps both in funding for services and in Public Health staffing to ensure there is capacity to administer services.

Office of Women's Health: DV Services for Non-CalWORKs Eligible DV Survivors and Efficient Contract Management - \$5,714,000

1. With additional ongoing resources identified, Public Health would expand services to DV survivors who are not eligible for coverage via DPSS CalWORKs funding and to broaden the range of services offered to survivors beyond those covered by DPSS.

There remains a large funding gap for life-saving services in Los Angeles County for all those DV survivors who are not eligible for CalWORKs reimbursement, which includes older survivors, those without children or whose children do not live with them, or those with older children. Especially needed, this funding would address the DV needs of immigrant clients who are generally not eligible for CalWORKs. This represents significant gaps of coverage for DV services for a large portion of the population. We estimate that with an ongoing investment of \$4.2M and infrastructure described below an additional 30 contracts would be supported.

\$4.2 Million of requested funds will go to community contractors; \$800,000 will fund four new OWH staff (two CPAs, one Senior CPA, and one Financial Specialist III) to provide oversight and support for this expansion.

2. \$714,000 is requested for four new positions (Staff Analyst, Assistant Staff Analyst, Administrative Assistant II, and an Accountant III), enabling OWH to meet current contracting needs. Existing staff manage more than typical contract caseloads and lack capacity to meet basic oversight tasks as well as having little bandwidth left for technical assistance and support for contractors.

DVC: Managing Community Needs Assessment, Data Dissemination, and Community Engagement - \$405,000

As recently described in the DVC's annual report to the Board, the DVC has made significant strides forward in its new home within Public Health. The DVC has promoted a new vision of the Council as a three-way partnership among providers, survivors, and the County, seeking critical linkages between DV and child abuse prevention efforts, elevating a focus on DV and homelessness, and pursuing equity as a key aspect of Council work. At present, all DVC functions are carried out by only three staff and consists primarily of keeping the Council and its six committees running, DVC representation on various workgroups, task forces and advisory groups along with limited community engagement. With an additional ongoing investment of \$405,000, the DVC would hire a Health Program Analyst II (HPAII) to manage community needs assessment and data dissemination for the Council and a Health Program Analyst I (HPAI) to serve as liaison to the survivor community and as the Council's lead on equity. Increased investment in the Council would provide opportunities for alignment and streamlining of County DV services. Training, subject matter expertise and technical assistance, community engagement, policy work and data collection are all sorely needed to advance prevention efforts, adapt contracting processes and protocols to address existing gaps, and measure the prevalence of DV in Los Angeles County, to meet the on-the-ground needs of DV victims, survivors and service providers.

Office of Violence Prevention: Prevention Activities, Staff Support and Contract Monitoring- \$1,612,565

With an additional ongoing investment of \$1,612,565 in funding, OVP proposes to fund prevention activities, hire an HPA II to serve as the OVP point person on DV prevention efforts and a Health Educator to identify evidence-based training curricula, provide technical assistance

to stakeholders on prevention efforts, and serve as trainer for County staff and partners on DV prevention.

Prevention activities funding would support contracted program work in three areas:

1. Implement a Teen Healthy Relationships curriculum to one high school in each Supervisorial District - \$750,000
2. Fund contracts with Public Health Healing Centers to implement evidence-based prevention programming for people responsible for perpetuating DV- \$400,000
3. Support for mini-grants to community based DV prevention efforts- \$100,000

Potential Funding Streams

As mentioned, Public Health's DV programming historically has had inadequate funding and funding that excludes services to large segments of the at-risk population. Addressing homelessness among DV survivors is critical, as is ensuring that shelters are safe and inclusive of LGBTQ+, older adults, single individuals, and survivors with disabilities. To meet the needs of safe shelter more effectively, the DV system continues to require additional emergency shelter capacity for those actively fleeing DV as well as the needs for a broader spectrum of housing from the emergency/crisis, transitional, and permanent supportive housing systems. CEO indicates that they need to further vet the information that has been provided, including the need for additional detail, to validate the cost estimates prepared by Public Health. This will allow the CEO to better understand the full scope of proposed programming, refine the funding needs and then identify possible funding sources, including County Departmental funding streams. Public Health will also continue to discuss these funding needs with the CEO-Homeless Initiative and Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority, given the intersection of IPV/DV and homelessness.

The recent investment of additional ongoing support for DVSBP shelter services demonstrates the Board's commitment to meeting the needs of DV survivors while recognizing that these resources remain insufficient. The \$7.7 million in new investments for DV funding proposed in this report represents a critically important response to the needs of DV survivors and preventing violence before it begins. With additional direction from your Board and identified resources, we look forward to implementing the recommendations in this report.

If you have any questions or would like additional information, please let me know.

BF:da

c: Chief Executive Office
County Counsel
Executive Office, Board of Supervisors