

Date: September 14, 2020
To: Thomas B. Modica, City Manager *T.M.*
From: Kelly Colopy, Director of Health and Human Services *KC*
For: Mayor and Members of the City Council
Subject: **Update on Suicide Prevention Efforts**

At its June 19, 2018 meeting, the City Council requested the City Manager to work with the Department of Health and Human Services (Health Department) and Long Beach Police Department (LBPD) to report back on current suicide prevention efforts in Long Beach, including the establishment of a suicide prevention plan, the creation of a suicide prevention community task force, and training for community members on intervention, procedures, and knowledge of existing resources. It was also requested that staff identify implementation options and associated costs.

In a [memorandum dated October 16, 2018](#), staff provided implementation options as well as their associated costs. With limited resources and no funding identified for the implementation options, staff recommended a close partnership with the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health (LACDMH) to ensure suicide prevention planning and mental health services are adequately available in Long Beach. LACDMH is the agency responsible for providing mental health services in Long Beach and administers state and federal funds for mental health services. These funds do not come to the City of Long Beach (City). LACDMH offers a rich array of suicide prevention and mental health services.

The Health Department understands the importance of engaging in suicide prevention activities. This includes a strong partnership with LACDMH; continued LBPD collaboration with the Mental Evaluation Team (MET) units and the Psychiatric Mobile Response Team; identifying LACDMH training, educational opportunities and services, and ensuring these are shared more broadly in the Long Beach community; and, participating more fully in the LACDMH Suicide Prevention Network and its response to existing suicide prevention plans.

The Health Department, within its budget, increased suicide prevention efforts to respond to the City Council's request. Since October 16, 2018, the Health Department has:

- Participated more fully in the LACDMH Suicide Prevention Network by attending their monthly meetings, until the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Hosted trainings and shared training opportunities to learn more about suicide prevention.
- Created social media postings to bring awareness to suicide prevention.
- Updated the www.longbeach.gov/mentalhealth page to list crisis numbers and assistance.

- Created and hosted an ad hoc COVID-19 Mental Health Resiliency Task Force comprised of City staff and community mental health providers, including LACDMH to produce a campaign encouraging those struggling to reach out for services.

In addition, the LBPd has continued to collaborate with the MET units and the Psychiatric Mobile Response Team to address mental health crises.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (562) 570-4016, or by email at Kelly.Colopy@longbeach.gov.

CC: CHARLES PARKIN, CITY ATTORNEY
DOUGLAS P. HAUBERT, CITY PROSECUTOR
LAURA L. DOUD, CITY AUDITOR
LINDA F. TATUM, ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER
KEVIN JACKSON, DEPUTY CITY MANAGER
TERESA CHANDLER, DEPUTY CITY MANAGER
REBECCA G. GARNER, ADMINISTRATIVE DEPUTY CITY MANAGER
MONIQUE DE LA GARZA, CITY CLERK (REF. FILE #18-1094)
DEPARTMENT HEADS