

Date: January 20, 2022

To: Thomas B. Modica, City Manager



From: Kelly Colopy, Director of Health and Human Services



For: Mayor and Members of the City Council

Subject: **Feasibility of Establishing a More Robust Local Infrastructure for Mental Health Services**

On November 9, 2021, the City Council directed the City Manager to work with the Department of Health and Human Services and local mental health providers to explore the feasibility of establishing a more robust infrastructure for mental health services in collaboration and alignment with local mental health providers in Long Beach and the County of Los Angeles for the purpose of:

- Increasing access to mental health services across the City, including for schools
- Increasing direct funding into the City for mental health services, particularly for mental health crisis response, coordination across programs, and residential supports
- Localizing and improving crisis mental health response and connection to services
- Streamlining the City's processes for coordination and access to services
- Expanding the availability of residential care facilities and access in Long Beach, including hospital step-down beds
- Providing more opportunities for engagement with local institutions for higher education and expand opportunities for social work and nursing student field placement to expand workforce potential

The mental health system is comprised of a highly intertwined patchwork of entities that span the federal to the state, county, and local levels. The system touches health plans, hospitals, residential care facilities, local health, police and fire departments, large and small non-profits, philanthropic agencies, large county agencies, public and private employers, and individuals.

Given the complexity and scope of the mental health system and the multiple finance models involved in designing a system, the Health Department has determined that it will need outside support and technical expertise to conduct the feasibility study and move this effort forward. We estimate the cost to be approximately \$100,000 which includes:

1. A consultant with specific expertise in mental health funding mechanisms (including MediCal reporting and billing), data, service delivery, and referral pathways to help the Health Department understand the current landscape and opportunities available to create a more localized, coordinated, sustainable mental health system and to support the design for this system.

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2. Facilitation support to bring key stakeholders, including community members, to a shared vision of a coordinated mental health infrastructure in Long Beach, including streamlining of access points and service delivery, enhanced connectedness, and more user-friendly, trauma-informed practices.

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

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