



# County of Los Angeles CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

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FESIA A. DAVENPORT  
Chief Executive Officer

October 5, 2021

To: Supervisor Hilda L. Solis, Chair  
Supervisor Holly J. Mitchell  
Supervisor Sheila Kuehl  
Supervisor Janice Hahn  
Supervisor Kathryn Barger

From: Fesia A. Davenport  
Chief Executive Officer

Board of Supervisors  
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First District

HOLLY J. MITCHELL  
Second District

SHEILA KUEHL  
Third District

JANICE HAHN  
Fourth District

KATHRYN BARGER  
Fifth District

## **TAKING ACTION – FURTHER PROTECTIONS FOR SURVIVING FAMILIES FROM LAW ENFORCEMENT HARASSMENT AND RETALIATION (ITEM NO. 14, AGENDA OF JULY 27, 2021)**

On July 27, 2021, the Board of Supervisors (Board) directed the Chief Executive Office (CEO), in collaboration with the Sheriff Civilian Oversight Commission, Office of Inspector General (OIG), Department of Mental Health (DMH), Department of Public Health's Office of Violence Prevention, Department of Medical Examiner-Coroner, and other relevant County and community stakeholders, to identify ongoing funding necessary to continue the Board's established Family Assistance Program (FAP) to support families following an in-custody death or fatal use of force by law enforcement, by Supplemental Budget.

### **BACKGROUND**

The FAP was implemented in Fiscal Year (FY) 2019-20 as a one-year pilot program funded with Assembly Bill (AB) 109 revenue. One-time AB 109 funding was used to support DMH staff as they provided on-site mental health support, burial assistance, and other ancillary services. Because funding remained available at the end of FY 2019-20, DMH requested the carryover of unspent burial assistance funding to continue serving families in need. Many families received funding in FY 2020-21, but additional time is again needed conclude the pilot. The FY 2021-22 Supplemental Changes Budget includes a recommendation to carry over the remaining \$20,000 in burial assistance funding to close out support for families already in the queue for assistance.

Although funding for FAP ended in FY 2019-20 (with the exception of the burial assistance previously noted), DMH currently supports families experiencing trauma due to use of force incidents through their Psychiatric Mobile Response Teams (PMRT). DMH's PMRTs respond to incidents involving trauma and harm in the community, such as those involving use of force by law enforcement, through the presence of on-site mental health staff and this will continue as an ongoing service. DMH has funding for PMRTs in their operating budget and advises that no additional funding is needed for them to continue to provide this service, as it is captured as part of their PMRT programming.

### **FUNDING AND PROGRAM RECOMMENDATIONS**

Aside from the carryover of \$20,000 in one-time AB 109 funding to close out the burial assistance portion of the program, the CEO is unable to make any funding recommendations with the FY 2021-22 Supplemental Changes Budget due to the lack of available resources. Further, the CEO will continue to work with the various FAP stakeholders to explore service delivery options that may include a Community-Based Organization (CBO), partnered with a lead agency, to support families in a more holistic manner that will be better received by the community.

Previous reports from the OIG have included their recommendations for a FAP model that outlined suggested involved departments and lead departments. According to DMH, the feedback that they have received as a result of their on-site involvement providing direct support and services to impacted families, indicates that families have expressed skepticism and concern around a FAP model in which one arm of government is charged with providing support for tragic use of force incidents involving another arm of government. It is therefore the CEO's recommendation that CBO involvement as a FAP partner should be explored in coordination with OIG and stakeholders, as a critical component of the program, including the possibility of having CBOs act as peers/liaisons to impacted families.

### **SUMMARY AND NEXT STEPS**

In light of recent feedback suggesting the need to re-evaluate whether County employees should be in direct contact with impacted families during traumatic incidents such as those necessitating FAP assistance, CEO will work with the OIG and various stakeholders to determine the most viable program model, including identification of a formal program lead. Once these elements have been identified, this will allow for the program lead to conduct an assessment of FAP operational and funding needs across departments and CBOs (if deemed viable) and work with CEO to collaboratively pursue sustainable funding options. Any available funding recommendations on a long-term funding plan will be

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provided in future budget phases. This will allow recommendations to be made within the context of the overall budget and numerous competing funding priorities and requests.

Should you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact me or Erika Bonilla at (213) 974-9689 or [ebonilla@ceo.lacounty.gov](mailto:ebonilla@ceo.lacounty.gov).

FAD:JMN:MM  
MM:EB:bjs

c: Executive Office, Board of Supervisors  
County Counsel  
District Attorney  
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Medical Examiner-Coroner  
Mental Health  
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