

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR JANICE HAHN

June 13, 2017

Homelessness has a devastating impact on children. Research has shown that homelessness puts children at increased risk of health and mental health issues, behavioral, learning, and developmental disabilities and lower educational achievement. The youngest children, who account for more than half of all children in homeless shelters, are disproportionately impacted. According to the Administration of Children and Families (Jan. 2016), California is third in the nation with the highest percentage of children under age 6 experiencing homelessness. Many of these homeless families never find their way to shelters. Such families often face numerous barriers to accessing the programs and services that can support the healthy development of their children, including early care and education.

In recognition of the challenges faced by homeless families, the Measure H Revenue Planning Group recommended significant funding investments to house homeless families. While housing is a critical component to a homeless family's stabilization, it is just one component. For homeless families, the importance of quality child care cannot be overstated.

- MORE -

MOTION

SOLIS	_____
KUEHL	_____
HAHN	_____
BARGER	_____
RIDLEY-THOMAS	_____

Child care plays a critical role in supporting homeless parents as they work to stabilize their households. Without first arranging for the care for their children, homeless mothers and fathers cannot look for work or participate in the education and training programs necessary to improve their employability. Access to child care offers two important benefits — a safe setting for children to grow and learn, and the opportunity for parents to stabilize their households. High-quality child care can, especially for young children, bolster the early learning skills necessary for success in school and later in life.

Measure H strategies must consider the importance of addressing the whole family. This includes connecting families to existing services, and where necessary, creating new services that address all needs of homeless families in a comprehensive manner.

**I, THEREFORE, MOVE** that the Board of Supervisors Direct the Chief Executive Office – Homeless Initiative to convene a work group comprised of the Department of Public Social Services, the CEO Office for the Advancement of Early Care and Education, the Department of Children and Family Services, First Five Los Angeles and any other relevant County departments and community child care providers to report back to the Board of Supervisors in 90 days with the following:

1. For homeless families who are eligible for subsidized child care:
  - a. Identification of any barriers to the utilization of subsidized child care resources, and potential actions to eliminate those barriers, including the feasibility of on-site enrollment, at homeless service provider locations, of homeless children into subsidized child care programs.

2. For homeless families who are not eligible for subsidized child care:
  - a. An assessment of the need for child care, and an analysis of current resources and programs available to address the need. The analysis should include all programs, or the lack thereof, that designate homeless children and their families as a priority population for services.
  - b. A plan for utilizing Measure H funds to implement an emergency child care voucher and referral program, similar to the program currently piloted by the Department of Child and Family Services (DCFS). The feasibility assessment should include associated costs, a timeline for implementation, and an annual evaluation of the impact of the emergency child care voucher and referral program in helping homeless families to stabilize.
  - c. Recommendations for creating and securing an annual child care funding allocation for homeless families from the California Department of Education (CDE), to eventually eliminate the need for Measure H funding for this purpose.

# # #

JH:kd