AGN. NO.

REVISED MOTION BY SUPERVISORS HILDA L. SOLIS AND LINDSEY P. HORVATH

February 04, 2025

Moving Forward with Recommendations to Reimagine LA County's Approach to Human Trafficking

January ~~is~~was National Human Trafficking Prevention Month and there is no better time than now to move forward with advancing Los Angeles County's (County) efforts to reimagine its approach to addressing human trafficking as it continues to be an acute ongoing local and worldwide issue. Human trafficking victims are from various ethnicities, age groups, immigration statuses, gender identities, and sexual orientations, reflecting the diversity of the residents of the County. Human trafficking intersects with all aspects of our society, and addressing this issue requires collaboration from various County departments and agencies as well as community-based organizations (CBOs) and stakeholders.

Specifically in Los Angeles County, Monterey Park and its surrounding cities have unfortunately become a hub for immigrant victims of human trafficking before they are

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transported to other locations across the United States.[1] Monterey Park has long been a gateway for Chinese immigrants arriving in the United States.[2] Lack of English proficiency, financial stability, and legal immigration status leave these recently arrived immigrants vulnerable to human trafficking.

The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors (Board) takes the issue of human trafficking very seriously. In 2017, a sex trafficking symposium in the City of Pomona, sponsored by the office of Supervisor Solis, brought together County and community agencies to discuss available victim services, community and law enforcement efforts to prevent human trafficking, and infrastructure changes needed to address the issue more effectively. Additionally, on October 17, 2023, the Board adopted a motion, "Reimagining LA County's Approach to Human Trafficking," directing the Department of Consumer and Business Affairs (DCBA) through its Office of Immigrant Affairs (OIA) and its Office of Labor Equity (OLE), in consultation and collaboration with the Los Angeles Regional Human Trafficking Task Force (LARHTTF), and the Department of Public Health (DPH), including the Office of Women's Health (OWH), to report back with a history of efforts the County has taken to address human trafficking, the current state of affairs in the County as to abating and eliminating human trafficking and providing services to survivors, and recommendations on how the County can better address the issue of human trafficking with a public health framework. OIA submitted the written report on March 20, 2024.

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[1] *Sara Jean Green, Major prostitution bust: Seattle police raid 11 massage parlors, freeing 26 women, The Seattle Times (March 7, 2019),* https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/law-justice/a-crazy-amount-of-money-seattle-police-raid-prostitution-network-in-massage-parlors/

[2] *Cindy Chang, In an L.A. suburb, Chinese 'border crossers' seek a new life after harrowing journey, LA Times (July 27, 2023)* https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2023-07-27/monterey-park-chinese-border-crossers-seek-new-life

Two of the recommendations the report provided were to look into the feasibility of (1) establishing a countywide coordinating body for preventing human trafficking and (2) establishing collaborative and systematic human trafficking data collection and sharing by and among County agencies and CBOs.

The creation of a human trafficking prevention coordinating body will help to better identify the gaps in services and policies that are needed to address the issue of human trafficking from a holistic, public health, trauma-informed, and intersectional lens. The human trafficking prevention coordinating body would provide leadership in the creation and support of a survivor-centered, trauma-informed countywide approach to addressing human trafficking and would engage and collaborate with CBOs, people with lived experience, and County departments and agencies that engage with residents who may experience human trafficking, including those experiencing economic hardship, immigration concerns, discrimination and violence, incarceration, and substance use or mental health issues. The coordinating body should also be tasked with, among other things, providing and supporting education and training on human trafficking, evaluating and enhancing existing services for human trafficking prevention and intervention, and evaluating funding needs for wraparound services.

Establishing collaborative and systematic data collection and sharing among County agencies and CBOs will help the County improve its collective understanding of who, how, and where people are being trafficked in the County. As stated in the report, currently there are no data on the prevalence of human trafficking in the County.[3] The

[3] *Rafael Carbajal, Report on Reimagining Los Angeles County's Approach to Human Trafficking, (March 20,2024) pg 16* , https://file.lacounty.gov/SDSInter/bos/supdocs/185170.pdf

collection of these data will also help to illuminate short- and long-term outcomes as well as the needs of survivors so that resources and funding can be allocated appropriately.[4] Additionally, these data will lay a foundation for working towards meaningful, successful, data-driven prevention and intervention of human trafficking. To have the greatest impact, these data should be made public on a yearly basis.

~~I~~WE, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct the Chief Executive Office (CEO), in collaboration with the Department of Consumer and Business Affairs (DCBA) through its Office of Immigrant Affairs (OIA) and its Office of Labor Equity (OLE), the Department of Public Health (DPH), including its Office of Women's Health (OWH), the Los Angeles Regional Human Trafficking Task Force (LARHTTF), the Office of the County Counsel (County Counsel), and other relevant County Departments and agencies, including the departments of the Sheriff (LASD), Probation (DOP), Children and Family Services (DCFS), Justice, Care, and Opportunities (JCOD), Economic Development (DEO), Youth Development (DYD), Health Services (DHS), Mental Health (DMH), and the District Attorney's Office (DA) to conduct a feasibility study for the establishment of a countywide human trafficking prevention coordinating body and report back in writing in 120 days on the following:

a. The feasibility of creating and housing the coordinating body within the Department of Public Health, including any needed resources and staff to create the body, as well as any funding opportunities to support the body, including state funding;

b. The recommended structure of the coordinating body, including which

[4] Id.

County departments and agencies should be represented and additional actions that may be needed to support the body;

c. Recommendations on how the coordinating body might integrate and/or work with existing County-run human trafficking-related task forces and working groups such as the LARHTTF, the Wage Theft Task Force, and the County Child Trafficking Steering Committee;

d. Recommendations on how the coordinating body can integrate and/or work with the diverse CBOs and relevant local, state and federal agencies that serve the marginalized populations in the County that are most at risk for becoming victims of human trafficking; ~~and~~

e. Recommendations on how the coordinating body will intentionally support immigrants who are victims of human trafficking, including language access, cultural competencies, and immigration legal support~~.~~;

f. Ensure that the coordinating body shifts the County's approach to human trafficking from a punitive, public safety model to a public health model;

g. Ensure that the coordinating body's work centers on workers' rights and related matters, including, but not limited to, a potential workers' rights center; and

h. The coordinating body should support programs and policies that improve protective factors and reduce vulnerability to trafficking, including, but not limited to, comprehensive wraparound services, a coordinated response system that is inclusive of all potential survivors of human trafficking, expanded services for survivors with mental health and/or substance use disorders, and worker resource centers.

~~I~~WE, FURTHER, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct the Chief Executive Office (CEO), in collaboration with the Chief Information Office (CIO), County Counsel,

DPH, the LARHTTF, and other relevant County departments and agencies, to conduct a feasibility study on the establishment of a collaborative and systematic human trafficking data collection and sharing system/protocol by and among County departments and agencies and CBOs, and to report back in writing in 120 days. The feasibility study report back should include, but not be limited to, the following:

a. The feasibility of CIO leading the data collection efforts, and the resources, funding opportunities, including state funding, and support that CIO would need to coordinate and safeguard the data collection;

~~a.~~b. Recommendations on the data that should be captured, and which County departments and agencies would provide data—including the District Attorney, Sheriff, the Public Defender's Office, DCFS, DHS, and DPH—and an assessment of potential challenges related to the collection and safeguarding of immigration and human trafficking-related data obtained from these entities; and

~~b.~~c. Recommendations on whether CBOs should also provide data, and if so, specify the types of data that should be provided, and the potential challenges for the collection and safeguarding of immigration status and human trafficking-related data obtained from CBOs.

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