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To enrich lives through effective and caring service

July 5, 2017

TO: Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas, Chair
Supervisor Hilda L. Solis
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Supervisor Kathryn Barger

FROM: Cynthia D. Banks, Director
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SUBJECT: **UPDATE TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS - BRINGING OUR
LOVED ONES HOME (BOLOH) TASK FORCE**

Overview & Background

On February 28, 2017, your Board directed Workforce Development, Aging and Community Services (WDACS) to launch the BOLOH Task Force, comprised of WDACS, the Chief Executive Office, the Sheriff's Department, Department of Public Social Services, Office of Public Guardian, the Commission on Disabilities, the Los Angeles County Commission on Local Governmental Services, the Los Angeles County Commission for Older Adults, the Countywide Criminal Justice Coordination Committee and Alzheimer's Greater Los Angeles. The Task Force is to explore options and make recommendations to the Board to establish a countywide system and first responder training program, designed to expedite the recovery time of individuals who wander from their families and caregivers, such as individuals with dementia, Alzheimer's disease, or autism. Our last report to the Board was on May 2, 2017.

BOLOH Milestones Since the May 2, 2017 Report

BOLOH Task Force Meetings: The second Task Force meeting was held at the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration on **May 10, 2017**. Representatives from 23 organizations attended and participated. San Diego Sheriff's Department (SDSD) presented their "Take Me Home" Program, which is a photo-identification and information database of individuals suffering with autism, dementia and other debilitating conditions that causes these individuals to wander. The system allows family members to submit confidential information about their family members with special needs, and is accessible by all law

enforcement agencies in San Diego. The photo recognition system allows law enforcement personnel to capture photos in the field and submit them electronically to be cross-referenced in the database to expedite recovery. According to SDSO, there are over 2000 individuals enrolled in "Take Me Home". Additionally, several agencies represented in the Task Force also presented relevant information on programs that exist within their organizations.

The third Task Force meeting took place on **June 21, 2017**, at WDACS Headquarters and featured presentations from the Glendale Police Department and the MedicAlert Foundation. Glendale Police Department provided a demonstration of the Project Lifesaver system, which utilizes radio frequency based technology to track individuals who are fitted with a small wearable transmitter. According to Glendale PD, they have a 100% recovery rate utilizing this technology. Additionally, most individuals enrolled in the system are found within a few miles from home, with search times reduced from hours and/or days, to minutes. Currently there are 19 individuals who are registered for this service in the City of Glendale.

MedicAlert LEAP (Law Enforcement Agency Portal) program provides a free online portal where people may register community members in a national registry and database of individuals who are at risk of wandering. The database is designed to be used as a resource for storing individuals' personal information. This service is intended to assist law enforcement agencies during the search for a missing individual by providing vital medical related information (medical conditions, medications and dosages, allergies, etc.), about the missing person.

Current Efforts: WDACS requested Task Force members and other stakeholders to complete a questionnaire capturing information about existing systems, technological devices and first-responder training programs available within the County and neighboring areas. Thus far, information on relevant programs, database systems, tracking technologies, and recommendations has been gathered from 10 agencies through the survey. To capture additional responses, the questionnaire will remain open and available through July 20, 2017. In addition, detailed information about the tracking technologies and systems of seven leading technology providers has been gathered through preliminary research and interviews.

Academic Research Partnership: The USC Leonard Davis School of Gerontology was selected as the BOLOH Academic Research partner, in response to the solicitation WDACS released to form a partnership with a research entity that would take a lead role in the collection of information and analysis of programs, systems, technology and trainings related to wandering issues.

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Next Steps in Implementing BOLOH Task Force Objectives

Additional Task Force Meetings: The 4th BOLOH Task Force Meeting is scheduled for July 20, 2017. Detailed discussions and analysis of existing programs, issues, strategies, and a plan of action will take place in each meeting, and focused workgroup sessions may be utilized to delve into subject matter areas.

Data/Information Analysis and Development of BOLOH Task Force Recommendations: During the next sixty days, WDACS and the Academic Research partner will work closely with the Task Force members to collect, review, and evaluate various data related to program protocols and practices, training curriculum, database systems, and technological tracking devices. Evaluation will consider effectiveness and cost efficiency based on the needs of the populations vulnerable to the risks associated with wandering. The analysis will be based on information gathered through the BOLOH Questionnaire, Task Force proceedings (including focused workgroups), agency interviews, and additional sources. WDACS and the Academic partner will develop initial recommendations for consideration by the Task Force in areas that include: Coordination/Communication Protocols for a Wanderer Response, Database/Networks/Systems, Training Programs for First Responders and Caregivers, Technological Devices for Wanderers, and Community Outreach/Education.

Additional updates will be provided to your Board every 60 days until a final report is submitted, no later than December 1, 2017.

Should you have any questions, please contact me directly, or your staff may contact Lorenza C. Sanchez, Assistant Director, at LSanchez@wdacs.lacounty.gov.

CDB:OS:LCS
RF:rkl

c: Chief Executive Office

County Counsel

Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors

Alzheimer's Greater Los Angeles

Autism Interaction Solutions

California Highway Patrol (CHP)

City of Los Angeles Department of Aging

County of Los Angeles Fire Department

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Countywide Criminal Justice Coordination Committee (CCJCC)
Department of Children & Family Services (DCFS)
Department of Health Services (DHS)
Department of Mental Health (DMH)
Department of Mental Health, Office of Public Guardian (DMH - OPG)
Department of Public Health (DPH)
Department of Public Social Services (DPSS)
Glendale Police Department
Los Angeles City Attorney's Office
Los Angeles County Commission on Disabilities
Los Angeles County Commission for Older Adults (LACCOA)
Los Angeles County Commission on Local Governmental Services
Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office
Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (LASD)
Los Angeles Fire Department (City)
Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD)