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"Connecting communities and improving the lives of all generations"

September 11, 2017

TO: Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas, Chair
Supervisor Hilda L. Solis
Supervisor Sheila Kuehl
Supervisor Janice Hahn
Supervisor Kathryn Barger

FROM: Cynthia D. Banks, Director
Workforce Development, Aging and Community Services

**SUBJECT: UPDATE TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS - BRINGING OUR
LOVED ONES HOME (BOLOH) TASK FORCE**

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 Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (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 charged with exploring options and making 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 July 5, 2017.

BOLOH Milestones since the July 5, 2017 Report

During the past 60 days Task Force members and other stakeholders have continued to share, review, and discuss various data related to 1) program protocols and practices, 2) database systems and technological tracking devices, 3) training curriculum, and 4) community outreach.

BOLOH Task Force Meetings: The fourth Task Force meeting was held at the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration on **August 3, 2017**. Representatives from over 20 organizations attended and participated. WDACS presented information on current systems and training efforts gathered through BOLOH surveys and meetings/interviews with the Sheriff's Department, Los Angeles Police Department, Los Angeles County Department of Health Services, and others. Then, workgroup discussions occurred in the areas of Technology and Coordination. The Technology Workgroup focused on the review/discussion of 27 technological solutions (database systems and technological tracking devices), advantages and drawbacks of the different types of technologies, barriers to implementation, and recommendations for implementation strategies. The Coordination Workgroup discussed existing first responder agencies' communication protocols and practices, obstacles and challenges to coordination and communication, and best practices, as well as provided recommendations for enhanced communication and coordination among agencies.

The fifth Task Force meeting took place on **August 16, 2017** at the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration. Representatives from over 20 organizations attended and participated. WDACS provided updates on the development of a literature review, data collection through research and meetings with key agencies, and shared the recommendations from the previous two workgroup sessions. In addition, workgroup sessions occurred in the areas of Training and Community Awareness/Outreach. The Training Workgroup focused on training programs that are currently provided to first responders, gaps in the existing training programs, the needs of the community, and recommendations for building on the existing programs. The Community Awareness/Outreach Workgroup reviewed and explored existing community awareness/outreach opportunities, and identified areas in need of improvement to ensure a more informed society and effective community response when at-risk individuals go missing.

Additional Task Force Meetings are scheduled for October 4 and October 25, 2017. These meetings will be used to discuss initial recommendations, gain consensus among Task Force members and stakeholders, on the recommendations for the County's enhanced response to at-risk missing persons.

Research Efforts: WDACS and the Academic/Research Partner, the USC Leonard Davis School of Gerontology, are completing the following:

- A literature review of current technology (options, effectiveness, and cost efficiencies), coordination protocols, training programs and community outreach efforts.
- An analysis of information gathered from two BOLOH surveys (one designed for Task Force members and all other relevant agencies, and the other designed specifically for Law Enforcement Agencies).

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- Development of initial recommendations to the Board for review by the Task Force in its upcoming meetings.

Conclusion

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

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- c: Chief Executive Office
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