

The Honorable Miguel Santiago
California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 6027
Sacramento, California 95814

RE: AB 210 (Santiago), As Introduced –Support Relating to Homeless Multidisciplinary Personnel Teams - Assembly Human Services Committee

Hon. Assembly Member Santiago:

The City of Commerce supports your Assembly Bill 210 relating to Homeless multidisciplinary personnel teams.

Assembly Bill 210 would: 1) authorize counties to establish homeless adult, child and family multidisciplinary teams (MDT's); 2) require counties that choose to establish homeless MDT's to develop protocols on sharing confidential information; 3) authorize MDT members to exchange confidential information in-person, telephonically and electronically; and 4) establish privacy protections. Currently, there is no statutory authority for county departments and homeless service providers to share data on homeless youth, families, or single adults. The ability to share information would help to facilitate the identification, assessment, and linkage of homeless youth, families and individuals to the most appropriate housing and supportive services. It would also enable county departments and agencies to know what services homeless persons are currently receiving or have received in the past.

Addressing homelessness remains one of Los Angeles County's top priorities. On February 9, 2016, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors approved 47 coordinated Homeless Initiative strategies, developed through an unprecedented, inclusive, collaborative planning process. In January 2016, the County released a study on services to homeless single adults which found that 40 percent of the total expenditures were incurred on behalf of just five percent of the single adults known to have been homeless during Fiscal Year 2014-15. Based on this study, the Board directed County staff to target rental subsidies and related services to this heavy-user population. In response, the County developed a process where a heavy-services user list is made available to relevant County departments. However, because of current legal constraints, the information on the list of heavy users of services is limited to identifying information, such as name and date of birth, and does not include any information on current or past county services.

Assembly Bill 210 would achieve better coordination of services and strengthen continuity of care for the homeless population. Therefore, the City of Commerce supports your Assembly Bill 210.

Sincerely,

Ivan Altamirano
Mayor
City of Commerce