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May 29, 2015

Office of Health Integration
Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 W. Temple St., Room 726
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: Draft Report to the Board of Supervisors regarding possible creation of a health agency

Thank you for a well-written, thoughtful response to various issues raised about the proposed health agency integration. Topics that received scant attention in the draft report include:

- The potential impacts – positive and negative - of the integration on partners and stakeholders outside of the existing County agency and contractor ‘infrastructure’, including the 88 cities within Los Angeles County, community health and housing advocates and non-profit agencies.
- Housing problems and their relationship to health concerns of many County residents (e.g. asthma).

I would like to draw your attention to Issue Number Two of *Social Determinants of Health* which was published in February 2015 by the Department of Public Health, entitled ‘Housing and Health in Los Angeles County’. Its recommendations have implications for the proposed health agency integration, and include:

General Recommendation:

- Increase collaboration across government agencies at all levels and between stakeholders from community groups, public health agencies and private groups (e.g. employers) to ensure a coordinated approach to housing as a determinant of health and health disparities.

Housing Quality Recommendations:

- Improve and enforce current federal, state and local housing codes and guidelines to reflect current knowledge regarding hazards within the home environment.
- Use national, state and local public campaigns and programs to educate and empower private-and public-sector housing providers, owners and tenants about the dangers of unsafe and unhealthy housing and about their rights and responsibilities.
- Increase resources and expand the role of public health agencies in housing education, inspections and enforcement at the local, state and national level.

Local municipalities often have more control over a variety of housing issues and code enforcement than does the County, and cities need to be your partners to achieve improvements in the health of all our residents. Advocates keep all of us focused. Non-profit and business partners have contributions to make as well. Please consider incorporating recommendations from this DPH report into your ongoing health planning efforts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Sally Richman".

Sally Richman
Director, Knowledge Management and Evaluation