

# Agenda Report

**TO:** CITY COUNCIL

**DATE:** May 21, 2001

**THROUGH:** Legislative Committee

**FROM:** City Manager

**SUBJECT:** Support for Assembly Bill 1421

**RECOMMENDATION:**

It is recommended that the City Council:

1. Support Assembly Bill 1421 (Thompson, Perata) An act to add and repeal Article 9 (commencing with Section 5345) of Chapter 2 of Part 1 of Division 5 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, relating to mental health, and making an appropriation therefor.
2. Authorize the Mayor to send letters to the appropriate authorities stating Pasadena's position.

**BILL SUMMARY:**

This bill would provide involuntary treatment of mentally ill people who may not be able to lucidly make decisions about their care on their own. This bill will create an outpatient program that treats chronically mentally ill persons who have an inherently high risk of a poor outcome with a community based programs supported by grant funding.

**BACKGROUND:**

The City of Pasadena has a substantial population of homeless and mentally ill individuals. From 4/1/00 through 5/1/01, the police department responded to 732 calls for service involving mentally disturbed individuals. Many of these calls were connected to crimes of survival such as petty theft, defrauding an innkeeper and panhandling.

Currently, the *Lanterman-Petris-Short Act* authorizes the involuntary detention for a period of 72 hours for evaluation of persons who are dangerous to self or others, or gravely disabled, as defined. Specifically the law requires each person admitted to a facility for 72-hour treatment and evaluation to receive an evaluation as soon after he or she is admitted and receives whatever treatment and care his or her condition requires for

the full period that he or she be held. The current law also requires that certain procedures be followed in all cases of involuntary 14-day intensive treatment.

Furthermore, if a person is detained for 72 hours or under court order for evaluation and has received an evaluation, he or she may be certified for not more than 14 days of intensive treatment related to the mental disorder or impairment by chronic alcoholism if certain conditions are met. However, current law also provides for a further period of intensive treatment of 180 days after the expiration of the initial period of intensive treatment if certain conditions exist.

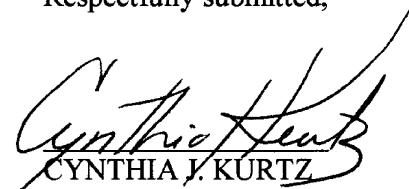
In April, 2001 Assembly Member Thompson and Senator Perata introduced AB 1421 to reform the Lanterman-Petris-Short Act that will enable law enforcement the ability to protect and assist severely mentally ill individuals before they become a danger to themselves or others. This bill would:

- Make various legislative findings regarding involuntary outpatient treatment of persons with mental disorders.
- Create an assisted outpatient treatment program for any person 18 years of age or older who is suffering from a psychotic disorder or other mental illness that puts him or her at high risk for a poor outcome. The program could operate only in counties that receive grants pursuant to this program. The program would involve the delivery of community-based care by multidisciplinary teams of highly trained health professionals with staff-to-client ratios of no more than 1 to 10.
- Specify requirements for the petition alleging the necessity of treatment, various rights of the person who is the subject of the petition, and hearing procedures.
- Provide for the settlement agreements as an alternative to the hearing process.
- Provide that if the person fails to comply with outpatient treatment, despite efforts to solicit compliance, a licensed mental health provider may request that the person be placed under a 72 – hour hold based on an involuntary commitment.
- Require the State Department of Mental Health to award grants to counties that provide, or demonstrate they can provide, specified mental health services to persons with the most severe and persistent mental illness.
- Require each county selected to receive a grant to provide certain data to the department.
- Allocate funds from an unspecified item of the Budget Act of 2001 for the purposes of the bill.

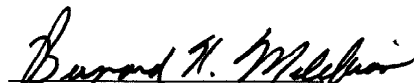
**FISCAL IMPACT:**

There are no costs for the City of Pasadena associated with this Bill.


Respectfully submitted,

  
CYNTHIA J. KURTZ  
City Manager

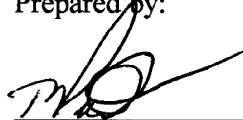
Approved by:

  
Bernard K. Melekian  
Chief of Police


Reviewed by:

  
Michele Beal Bagneris  
City Attorney/Prosecutor

Prepared by:

  
Thomas J. Pederson, Sergeant  
Adjutant to the Chief of Police

Concurred by:

  
Wilma Allen  
Public Health Director