

Response to Questions on the FY 2011 Budget

Request By: Supervisor Cook

Question: Does the transfer of resources supporting Homeless Services to OPEH completely transfer DFS LOB 67-15? If some funding remains in DFS, why was it not transferred and how much is it?

Response: In an effort to coordinate resources and efforts aimed at supporting the Ten Year Plan to End Homelessness, funding of \$9.0 million is transferred from the Department of Family Services (DFS) to the Office to Prevent and End Homelessness (OPEH). This funding primarily supports contracts to operate the County's six emergency shelters and the Hypothermia Program. Funding for emergency financial assistance to prevent individuals and families from becoming homeless is also included in the transfer. As a result, most of the resources included in LOB 67-15 are transferred from DFS to OPEH with the exception of \$0.2 million for the Medical Respite Program.

The Medical Respite Program enables homeless individuals to be assured that they have medical care and a shelter bed to heal from serious injuries or a surgery. A DFS social worker works in partnership with the Health Department's nurse practitioner to assess applicants for the program. The social worker, the nurse practitioner and shelter staff coordinate services. The social worker also manages home care aides. Since this program involves direct service provision, it was not transferred to OPEH as a decision was made to maintain direct services provided to homeless individuals and families in those agencies providing the services. The services transferred to OPEH are primarily contracted out to community partners.