

Areta Crowell, Ph.D.
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June 2, 2015

Honorable Mayor Mike Antonovich
Honorable Hilda Solis
Honorable Mark Ridley-Thomas
Honorable Sheila Kuehl
Honorable Don Knabe
Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

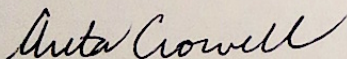
Dear Supervisors,

I was dismayed to learn of your effort to consolidate the major health related departments in Los Angeles County. My many years of working in huge organizations have convinced me that the real work of improvement occurs at the street level, not at the top of bureaucracies, no matter how appealing the rhetoric. The creation of a new health agency would be a distracting drain of necessary creativity and energy. Los Angeles deserves better, as I am sure you would agree.

I have been very pleased to learn of an alternative proposal for an Office of Healthcare Enhancement made to you by a Coalition of over 100 mental health and public health organizations. I strongly support that proposal and the analysis which it incorporates. It will be a better, more cost effective and result-oriented way to accomplish your goal of improved health for all the residents of Los Angeles County.

My long years of working in many parts of the health sector to improve services lead me to oppose the agency construct and support the more focused approach of an Office of Healthcare Enhancement.

Yours sincerely,



Areta Crowell, Ph.D.
Director Emerita (1992-1998)
Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health
Director, Mental Health Services, San Diego County 1998-1992
Member, CA Managed Risk Medical Insurance Board 2002-2010