

# Children, Youth and Families (CYF) Behavioral Health System of Care Council



## Agenda

February 12, 2024 | 9 to 10:30 a.m.

**Zoom meeting link for registration sent via Outlook meeting invitation:**

<https://us06web.zoom.us/join/9tZ9cOmsqj8pG9xiqvLT9PzQV-LEME54r2z>

- I. Welcome Council members, alternates, and meeting attendees** - (Celica Garcia-Plascencia) **5 minutes**  
Translation available
- Welcome Alicia Castro representing First 5 San Diego (Alternate)
  - Congratulations Stephanie Escobar!
  - Culture Share – **Celebrate Black History Month** - Handouts - **Pages 5-6**
    - Seeking volunteer for March 11, 2024
- II. Review of Meeting Summary** (Yael Koenig) **5 minutes**
- January 8, 2024, Meeting Summary - Handout - **Pages 7-10**
  - No Action items pending

**III. Business Items** (Yael Koenig) **15 minutes**

**Public Comment** - Inviting all participants to unmute or enter public input in the chat

### Board Letters / Board Actions

#### January 9, 2024

- County Supervisors Reelected Chairwoman, Nora Vargas for 2024 – Handout – **Page 11**
- County Board of Supervisors selected Sarah Aghassi as Interim Chief Administrative Officer – Handout – **Page 12**
- **Item 12:** County of San Diego American Rescue Plan Act Framework Update – Handouts include presentations – **Pages 13-44**
- **Item 14:** Fiscal Subcommittee Recommendations for Evergreen Fund Framework: Behavioral Health Services, Homelessness Services, Housing, Climate and Economic Prosperity – Handout – **Pages 45-61**

#### January 23, 2024

- **Item 06:** Protecting Our Community from Sexually Violent Predators
- **Item 11:** Remove Barriers to Health for People Experiencing Homelessness by Creating a Regionwide Street Health Initiative
- **Item 13:** Resolution in Support of Governor Gavin Newsom's Right to Safety Amendment & Call for Constitutional Convention
- **Item 14:** Resolution in Support of Proposition 1, Rebuilding California's Mental Health System – Handout – **Pages 62-66**

#### January 30, 2024

- **Item 01:** Community Response and Recovery: An Urgency Ordinance of the Board of Supervisors of the County of San Diego Exercising the County's Police Power to Prohibit Residential Evictions Without Just Cause and to Enact a Delay on Certain Residential Rent Increases; Fee Waivers; Contract Amendments – Handouts include presentations – **Pages 67-102**  
[Recovery \(alertsandiego.org\)](https://www.alertsandiego.org)

#### February 6, 2024

- **Item 01:** Authorize Acceptance of a Grant from the Public Health Institute by the San Diego County Office of Emergency Medical Services to Treat Opioid Use Disorder; Establish Appropriations; Execute Contracts Related to the Grant, and Authorize Competitive Procurements for Grant Implementation Services - Handout - **Pages 103-107**
- **Item 11:** Sustainable Planning for the Future Long-Term, State and Federally Funded Migrant Transfer Site and Respite Shelters for the San Diego Region to Address Street Releases - **Pages 108-112**
- **Item 13:** Making County Land Available for Emergency Homeless Shelter Solutions
- **Item 14:** Gun Violence Reduction Community Needs Assessment Final Report and Recommendations – Handout - **Pages 113-125**
- **Item 15:** Annual Report of Gun Violence - Handouts include presentation for items 14 and 15 - **Pages 126-154**

Board Letters that may be particularly of interest to the CYF Council are listed above. Due to size, only highlighted Board Letters are included in the meeting packet. However, all Board Letters can be found at the Clerk of Board of Supervisors (BOS) website.

Meeting Agendas, Board Letters, and access to the BOS meetings: <https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/cob/bosa/index.html>

### Information

- [Children and Youth Behavioral Health Initiative \(CYBHI\)](#)
  - [CYBHI January 2024 Update](#) - Handout - **Page 155**
  - [CYBHI 2023: Implementing the Vision](#) - Handout - **Page 156**
  - [BrightLife Kids](#) and [soluna](#) – Handouts – **Pages 157-165**
- [Live Well San Diego – Love your Heart](#) - February 14-29, 2024 - Handout - **Pages 166-167**

### Information (Continued)

- [Behavioral Health Director's Report -February 2024](https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/hhsa/programs/bhs/mental_health_services_act/bhab_meeting_materials.html) - Handout - **Pages 168-172**
- [Fourth Annual Birth of Brilliance Virtual Conference and Cultural Fair](https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/hhsa/programs/bhs/mental_health_services_act/bhab_meeting_materials.html) (Aisha Pope and Melanie Morones)  
Theme: **"Don't Just Think...Feel"** – February 29 and March 1, 2024 - Handouts - **Pages 173-174**
- [9<sup>th</sup> Critical Issues in Child and Adolescent Mental Health \(CICAMH\) Conference](#) (Charmi Patel Rao and Carrie Jackson)  
Hybrid conference – Breaking Barriers: Innovative Approaches to Youth and Family Well Being-April 26, 2024 - Handout - **Page 175**
- **10<sup>th</sup> Annual Youth Mental Health Well Being Celebration Planning** (Sten Walker) - Handouts - **Pages 176-177**  
[Meeting Registration - Zoom](#)
- Family Sector Committee -Third Thursday of the month from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. (Sten Walker) [Meeting Registration - Zoom](#) – Flier - **Page 178**
- San Diego State University (SDSU) School of Social Work - Conrad Prebys Clinical Supervision Program (Desiree Lopez) - Flier - **Page 179**  
[SDSU Supervision Request Form - LCSW \(google.com\)](#)

#### IV. Hot Topic: Committees and relevant groups mid-year updates/highlights

60 minutes

- Brief presentations were offered at the January meeting (highlighted in green). The non highlighted are scheduled for the February 2024 CYF Council meetings. PowerPoints submitted and to be presented at today's meeting are in the meeting packet (**Pages 180-258**)
- **All presentations will be available in the CYF Council website**
- Please enter comments, input, and questions in the meeting chat for the presenter to respond to.

Constituency/Committee/Group	Sector	Presenter	PowerPoint
Juvenile Court	Public	Judge Ana España	x
Cultural Competence Resource Team (CCRT)	All Sectors	Rosa Ana Lozada	x
CYF Council Training Academy	All Sectors	Edith Mohler	x
Public Health Services	Public	Dr. Tom Coleman	x
Healthcare (Pediatrician)	Private	Dr. Pradeep Gidwani	x
First 5 San Diego	Public	Stephanie Escobar	x
San Diego Regional Center	Private	Zach Guzik	x
Family and Youth Sector	Family	Sten Walker	x
Alcohol Drug Service Provider Association (ADSPA)	Private	Marisa Varond	x
Mental Health Contractors Association (MHCA)	Private	Golby Rahimi Saylor	x
Public Safety Group	Public	Delona King	x
Managed Care Plans	Private	James Trout	180-184
Child and Family Well Being (CFWB)	Public	Laura Krzywicki	185-189
Education Committee	Education	Heather Nemour	190-206
Outcomes	All Sectors	Eileen Quinn-O'Malley and Emily Velazquez Trask	207-212
CYF CADRE	Private	Julie McPherson and Marisa Varond	213-219
Early Childhood	All Sectors	Stephanie Gioia-Beckman and Jennifer Kennedy	220-232
Transitional Age Youth Council	All Sectors	Victor Esquivel	233-237
Medical Care Services	Public	Heather Summers	238-251
Behavioral Health Services Advisory Board (BHAB)	Public	Bill Stewart	
Behavioral Health Services	Public	Dr. Laura Vleugels	252-258
Homeless Solutions and Equitable Communities	Public	Katie Gordon	

#### V. Announcements (Stephanie Escobar)

5 minutes

- Poll Question
- **NAMI San Diego Community Advocacy – Reimagining Crisis Response Trainings via Zoom** - Flier - **Page 259**  
February 16 and 29, 2024 from 2 to 3:30 p.m.
- **Jewish Family Service - Free Citizenship Courses** - Weekly from February 20 to April 24, 2024 - Fliers - **Pages 260-261**
- [44<sup>th</sup> Annual California Mental Health Advocates for Children and Youth \(CMHACY\) Conference](#) - May 15-17, 2024 – Handout - **Page 262**

**Next Executive Committee Meeting:**  
**Date:** Thursday, February 21, 2024/**Time:** 10 to 10:30 a.m.

**Next Meeting:**  
**Date:** Monday, March 11, 2024/**Time:** 9 to 10:30 a.m.

Committees/Sectors/Workgroups Meetings Information is located at the end of the meeting summary. For Council materials go to:  
[https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/hhsa/programs/bhs/mental\\_health\\_services\\_children/CYFBHOCouncil.html](https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/hhsa/programs/bhs/mental_health_services_children/CYFBHOCouncil.html)

# Children, Youth and Families Behavioral Health System of Care Council Vision, Mission, and Principles



## **Council Vision:**

Wellness for children, youth and families throughout their lifespan.

## **Council Mission:**

Advance systems and services to ensure that children and youth are healthy, safe, lawful, successful in school and in their transition to adulthood, while living in nurturing homes with families.

## **Council Principles:**

1. **Collaboration of four sectors:** Coordination and shared responsibility between child/youth/family, public agencies, private organizations and education.
2. **Integrated:** Services and supports are coordinated, comprehensive, accessible, and efficient.
3. **Child, Youth, and Family Driven:** Child, youth, and family voice, choice, and lived experience are sought, valued and prioritized in service delivery, program design and policy development.
4. **Individualized:** Services and supports are customized to fit the unique strengths and needs of children, youth and families.
5. **Strength-based:** Services and supports identify and utilize knowledge, skills, and assets of children, youth, families and their community.
6. **Community-based:** Services are accessible to children, youth and families and strengthen their connections to natural supports and local resources.
7. **Outcome driven:** Outcomes are measured and evaluated to monitor progress and to improve services and satisfaction.
8. **Culturally Competent:** Services and supports respect diverse beliefs, identities, cultures, preference, and represent linguistic diversity of those served.
9. **Trauma Informed:** Services and supports recognize the impact of trauma and chronic stress, respond with compassion, and commit to the prevention of re-traumatization and the promotion of self-care, resiliency, and safety.
10. **Persistence:** Goals are achieved through action, coordination and perseverance regardless of challenges and barriers.



# BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES FRAMEWORK

## VISION

Children and youth are healthy, safe, lawful, successful in school and in their transition to adulthood, while living in nurturing homes with families.

## PRINCIPLES

Collaborative, Integrated, Child, Youth & Family Driven, Individualized, Strength-based, Community-based, Outcome & Data Driven, Culturally Competent, Trauma Informed, Persistence

## PRIORITIES

Ensure a full continuum of care through family-centered and youth-informed services that **are compassionate and** sensitive to the unique developmental needs of children and youth.

Strengthen partnerships with children/youth's circle of influence to create a supportive environment.

Provide services that empower children and youth to build a healthy sense of self and have confidence to make sound decisions, so they thrive in an ever-changing world.

Live Well San Diego-Areas of Influence

## HEALTH FACTORS



### Standard of Living

- Economic & Nutrition Security
- Timely Access to Healthcare Inclusive of Behavioral Health Services
- Employment Readiness



### Community

- Access to Parks, Playgrounds and Recreation Centers
- Usable Transportation
- Safe Neighborhoods & Schools
- Affordable Stable Housing
- Access to Extracurricular Activities



### Health

- Daily Physical Activity
- Limited & Supervised Screen Time
- Affordable Healthy Food
- Zero Sugary Beverages, Drink More Water
- No Substance Use
- No Tobacco Use
- Up to Date Immunizations
- Connection to a Health Home



### Social

- Supportive Families
- Nurturing Communities
- Connection to Natural Supports
- Positive Social Interactions



### Knowledge

- Quality Education
- Quality Preschool for All
- Good School Attendance
- School Success
- No Suspensions or Expulsions
- Obtain a High School Diploma
- Access to Higher Education & Vocational Programs





### **Black History Month**

Black History Month is recognized every February and is an annual celebration of the achievements and contributions of African Americans. Black History Month is celebrated during February to coincide with the birthdays of Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln, two notable leaders who played prominent roles in shaping Black history.

### **Why We Celebrate**

Black History Month is a time to honor and recognize African Americans for their influence and central roles in U.S. history. Each February is an opportunity to celebrate the immeasurable contributions of Black Americans, to honor the legacies and successes of past and present generations, and to confront the injustices that still exist today.

# BH-SOC Children, Youth, and Families

## Culture Share

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### What is Culture Share?

Culture share is a time to advance and integrate cultural learning, understanding, and practices into our work. This experience can honor and celebrate family, history, traditions, experiences, and practices that may bring joy and well-being. It can also bring discomfort, curiosity and **bias awareness**. Ultimately, it is an opportunity for self reflection and enlightenment to enhance our capacity to provide culturally responsive services to the children, youth, and families in our communities.

### 4 EASY STEPS

1. Maximum of a **3 Minute** Presentation:  
Use any medium - slide, poem, music, verbal, etc.
2. Introduce your experience from a cultural lens
3. Describe how this experience influences your work
4. Open it up for any group reflection

# Children, Youth and Families Behavioral Health System of Care Council CYF Council – Meeting Summary



January 8, 2024 | 9 to 10:30 a.m.

ITEM	SUMMARY AND ACTION ITEMS
<b>I. Welcome</b> Council members, alternates, and meeting attendees – Translation available (Stephanie Escobar) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Public Sector:</b> Homeless Solutions and Equitable Communities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o New Member: Katherine Gordon</li> <li>o New Alternate: Rosa Gracian (shifted from member role)</li> <li>o Thank you, Liki Porotesano (Alternate)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Private Sector:</b> Managed Care Health Plans <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Thank you, Kathleen Lang (Member)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Culture Share</b> – Vanessa Arteaga - Handouts – <b>Pages 5-8</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Seeking volunteer for February 12, 2024</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stephanie Escobar welcomed meeting attendees and announced Council membership changes on the Homeless Solutions and Equitable Communities and Managed Care Health plans constituencies</li> <li>• Vanessa Arteaga provided the Culture Share highlighting advocacy and promoting growth</li> </ul>
<b>II. Review of Meeting Summary</b> (Yael Koenig) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• November 13, 2023, Meeting Summary - Handout - <b>Pages 9-13</b></li> <li>• No action items pending</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Yael Koenig reviewed the meeting summary from November 13, 2023. There were no pending action items</li> </ul>
<b>III. Business Items</b> (Yael Koenig)	
<b>Public Comment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None</li> </ul>
<b>Board Letters / Board Actions</b> December 5, 2023 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New County Supervisor, <b>Monica Montgomery Steppe</b> Sworn into Office Handout – <b>Page 14</b> <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NPRU54wh_ww">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NPRU54wh_ww</a></li> <li>• <b>Item 06:</b> Adopt Resolution to Guide Implementation of Senate Bill (SB) 43 and Establish a Multisectoral Planning Process to Guide Implementation Handout – <b>Pages 15-18</b></li> <li>• <b>Item 13:</b> 2024 Legislative Program</li> <li>• <b>Item 24:</b> Housing Every Homeless Person in Addiction Recovery</li> <li>• <b>Item 30:</b> Enhancing Humanitarian Emergency Response and Relief: Supportive Services for Asylum Seeking Migrants</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Yael Koenig provided an overview of the highlighted Board Letters listed on the left</li> </ul> <p>Board Letters that may be particularly of interest to the CYF Council are listed on the left column. Due to size, only highlighted Board Letters are included in the meeting packet. However, all Board Letters can be found at the Clerk of Board of Supervisors (BOS) website. Meeting Agendas, Board Letters, and access to the BOS meetings: <a href="https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/cob/bosa/index.html">https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/cob/bosa/index.html</a></p>
<b>Information</b> <b>Department of Mental Health Services (DHCS)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Medi-Cal Transformation</a> – Handout – <b>Page 19</b></li> <li>• <a href="#">Children and Youth Behavioral Health Initiative (CYBHI)</a> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Fee Schedule - Cohort 1 Local Education Agencies – Handout – <b>Pages 20-22</b></li> <li>o <a href="#">CYBHI December 2023 Update</a> - Handout – <b>Pages 23-28</b></li> </ul> </li> <li>• <a href="#">Behavioral Health Director's Report -December 2023</a> – Handout – <b>Pages 29-34</b> <a href="https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/hhsa/programs/bhs/mental_health_services_act/bhab_meeting_materials.html">https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/hhsa/programs/bhs/mental_health_services_act/bhab_meeting_materials.html</a></li> <li>• Fiscal Year 2023-24 <b>Principles Awards</b> – Link: <a href="#">CYF Advancing Principles 2023 Recognition Form</a> – Handout – <b>Page 35</b></li> <li>• Live Well San Diego Youth Sector Town Hall: Youth for Mental Health on January 13, 2024 from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. - Handout - <b>Page 36</b> <a href="#">Youth-Led Town Halls Registration (google.com)</a></li> <li>• Child Mind Institute Youth Mental Health Academy - Handout – <b>Page 37</b> Apply at: <a href="#">YMHA: STUDENT Application - Child Mind Institute (smapply.us)</a></li> <li>• 2024 Point in Time Count -Volunteers Needed on January 25, 2024 Handout – <b>Pages 38-39</b> <a href="#">Regional Community Action Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness in San Diego</a></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Yael Koenig provided an overview of State and local updates, and informational items</li> </ul>

**IV. Hot Topic: Sector, Committees, and other pertinent mid-year updates/highlights – Handouts – Pages 40-133**

The highlighted rows represent presentations offered at the January meeting.

The non highlighted rows represent the constituencies scheduled to provide updates at the February 2024 CYF Council meeting.

Constituency/Committee/Group	Sector	Presenter	PowerPoint
Juvenile Court	Public	Judge Ana España	x
Cultural Competence Resource Team (CCRT)	All Sectors	Rosa Ana Lozada	x
CYF Council Training Academy	All Sectors	Edith Mohler	x
Public Health Services	Public	Dr. Tom Coleman	x
Healthcare (Pediatrician)	Private	Dr. Pradeep Gidwani	x
First 5 San Diego	Public	Stephanie Escobar	x
San Diego Regional Center	Private	Zach Guzik	x
Family and Youth Sector	Family	Sten Walker	x
Alcohol Drug Service Provider Association (ADSPA)	Private	Marisa Varond	x
Mental Health Contractors Association (MHCA)	Private	Golby Rahimi Saylor	x
Public Safety Group	Public	Delona King	x
Managed Care Plans	Private	James Trout	
Child and Family Well Being (CFWB)	Public	Laura Krzywicki	x
Education Committee	Education	Heather Nemour	
Outcomes	All Sectors	Eileen Quinn-O'Malley and Emily Velazquez Trask	x
CYF CADRE	Private	Julie McPherson and Marisa Varond	x
Early Childhood	All Sectors	Stephanie Gioia-Beckman and Jennifer Kennedy	
Transition Age Youth Council	All Sectors	Victor Esquivel	x
Medical Care Services	Public	Heather Summers	x
Behavioral Health Services Advisory Board (BHAB)	Public	Bill Stewart	
Behavioral Health Services	Public	Dr. Laura Vleugels	
Homeless Solutions and Equitable Communities	Public	Katherine Gordon	

**V. Announcements** (Celica Garcia-Plascencia)

- Poll Question
- **NAMI San Diego Trainings via Zoom – Fliers – Pages 134-135**
  - **Community Advocacy “Telling Your Story”**  
January 11, 2024 from 2 to 4 p.m. [Meeting Registration - Zoom](#)
  - **Reimagining Crisis Response**  
January 17, 2024 from 2 to 3:30 p.m. [Meeting Registration - Zoom](#)  
January 23, 2024 from 2 to 3:30 p.m. [Meeting Registration - Zoom](#)
- **Fourth Annual Birth of Brilliance Virtual Conference** on February 29, 2024) and **Cultural Fair** on March 1, 2024 -Theme: **“Don’t Just Think...Feel”**  
Registration is open. Early Bird registration ends January 19, 2024  
Handout – **Page 136**
- **9<sup>th</sup> Critical Issues in Child and Adolescent Mental Health (CICAMH)** Hybrid conference –  
Breaking Barriers: Innovative Approaches to  
Youth and Family Well Being-April 26, 2024 – Handout – **Page 137**
- **44<sup>th</sup> Annual California Mental Health Advocates for Children and Youth (CMHACY) Conference**  
May 15-17, 2024 – Handout – **Page 138**

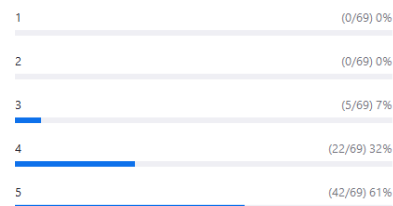
- Announcements included on the agenda are listed on the left column
- Announcements can be sent in advance to Edith Mohler  
at: [Edith.Mohler@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:Edith.Mohler@sdcounty.ca.gov)

**CYF Council Poll Question**

Poll ended | 1 question | 69 of 77 (89%) participated

1. On a scaled of 1-5 (1 the lowest and 5 the highest), how would you rate the relevance and your interest with today's Council meeting?  
(Single Choice)

69/69 (100%) answered

**Next Executive Committee Meeting:**

Date: February 21, 2024 -Time: 10 to 10:30 a.m..

**Next Meeting:**

Date: Monday, February 12, 2024 - Time: 9 to 10:30 a.m.

Committees/Sectors/Workgroups Meetings Information is located at the end of the meeting summary. For Council materials go to:

[https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/hhsa/programs/bhs/mental\\_health\\_services\\_children/CYFBHSCouncil.html](https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/hhsa/programs/bhs/mental_health_services_children/CYFBHSCouncil.html)

CONSTITUENCY		MEMBER	STATUS	ALTERNATE	STATUS
<b>PUBLIC SECTOR</b>					
1	Behavioral Health Advisory Board (BHAB)	Bill Stewart	O	Joel San Juan	O
2	Behavioral Health Services (BHS)	Dr. Laura Vleugels	+	Dr. Patricia Cardenas-Wallenfelt	O
3	Public Safety Group/ Probation	Tabatha Wilburn	+	Delona King	+
4	Child and Family Well Being (CFWB) Department – Office of Child Safety	Steven Wells	+	Norma Rincon	O
5	Homeless Solutions and Equitable Communities	Katie Gordon	+	Rosa Gracian	O
6	Public Health	Dr. Thomas R. Coleman	+	Rhonda Freeman	O
7	Medical Care Services	Dr. Kelly Motadel	E	Heather Summers	E
8	Juvenile Court	H. Judge Ana España	+	Beth Brown	+
9	CFWB Department – Office of Child and Family Strengthening - First 5 San Diego	Alethea Arguilez	O	Stephanie Escobar	+
<b>EDUCATION SECTOR</b>					
10	Special Education Local Plan Area (SELPA)	Russell Coronado	O	Jaime Tate-Symons	O
11	Regular Education Pupil Personnel Services	Heather Nemour	+	Mara Madrigal-Weiss	O
12	School Board	Barbara Ryan	+	Debra Schade	+
13	Special Education	Yuka Sakamoto	+	Misty Bonta	O
<b>PRIVATE SECTOR</b>					
14	San Diego Regional Center (SDRC) for Developmentally Disabled	Zachary Guzik	+	Lori Sorenson	+
15	Alcohol and Drug Service Provider Association (ADSPA)	Angela Rowe	O	John Laidlaw	O
16	ADSPA	Marisa Varond	+	Claudette Allen Butler	O
17	Mental Health Contractors Association (MHCA)	Julie McPherson	E	Vanessa Arteaga	+
18	MHCA	Laura Beadles	O	Golby Rahimi	+
19	Fee- For-Service (FFS) Network	Dr. Sherry Casper	+	Marcelo A. Podesta	+
20	Managed Care Health Plans	Vacant		James Trout	+
21	Healthcare/ Pediatrician	Dr. Pradeep Gidwani	+	Vacant	
<b>FAMILY AND YOUTH SECTOR</b>					
22	Consumer Advocacy/Family Education Services	Khalif Kelly	+	Sten Walker	+
23	Caregiver of child/youth served by the Public Health System	Vacant		Karilyn “Kari” Perry	O
24	Youth served by the Public Health System (Up to age 26)	Veronica Hernandez	O	Vacant	
25	Youth served by the public health system (Up to age 26)	Caitlynn Hauw	O		
<b>COMMITTEES (Non-voting members unless a member of the Council)</b>					
-	Executive	Stephanie Escobar/Celica Garcia-Plascencia	+/+		
-	Cultural Competence Resource Team (CCRT)	Rosa Ana Lozada	+		
-	CYF CADRE	Julie McPherson/Marisa Varond	E/+		
-	Early Childhood	Stephanie Gioia-Beckman/Jennifer Kennedy	+/+		
-	Education	Heather Nemour	+		
-	Family and Youth as Partners	Sten Walker	+		
-	Outcomes	Emily Trask Eileen Quinn-O'Malley	O/+		
-	Training	Edith Mohler Jennifer Rusit	+/O		



Total Attendees: 96			
Aisha Pope	Emily Gaines	Katie Gordon	Sade Carswell
Ana España	Erick Mora	Kelly Bordman	Sarah Baldwin
Aprille Peña	Ericka Hernandez	Kenia Urrutia	Serena Richards
Azmin Granados	Erin Murphy	Khalif Kelly	Shane Padamada
Babbi Winegarden	Faeth Jackson	Kristin Garrett	Shaun Goff
Barbara Ryan	Fran Cooper	Laura Vleugels	Sherry Casper
Beth Brown	Gabriela Contreras-Misirlioglu	Leslie Manriquez	Shewa Legesse
Bianca Huicochea	Gina Herbert	Lexie Palacio	Stacy Musso
Brenda Estrada	Ginger Bial-Cox	Lisa Potter	Sten Walker
Bridget Lambert	Golby Rahimi Saylor	Lori Sorenson	Stephanie Escobar
Carmen Pat	Grisel Ortega-Vaca	Marcelo Podesta	Stephanie Gioia-Beckman
Celeste Hunter	Hannah Zimmerman	Margarita Hernandez	Steven Wells
Celica Garcia-Plascencia	Heather Nemour	Maria Norris	Susana Antonio
Christine A. Davies	James Trout	Marisa Varond	Tabatha Wilburn
Christine Maggio	Jamie Pellegrino	Mayra Gonzalez-Munoz	Tanya Mercado
Danyte Mockus-Valenzuela	Janet Cacho	Melissa Penaflor	Tom Coleman
Debra Schade	Janette Magsanoc	Melizza Welton	Vanessa Arteaga
Delona King	Jennifer Alcaide	Michael Miller	Wences Savaiki
Dina Ali	Jennifer Kennedy	Michelle Houle	Wendy Maramba
Divya Kakaiya	Jody Erickson	Pradeep Gidwani	Yael Koenig
Donna Moore	Joseph Henson	Rafael-Ortiz Gomez	Yuka Sakamoto
Edith Mohler	Kacie Rodvill	Rhonda Crowder	Yvette Leyva
Eileen Quinn-O'Malley	Karen Giannini	Roberto Suarez	Zachary Guzik
Eliza Reis	Katie Demmler	Rosa Ana Lozada	Zayra Rios

#### Committees/Sectors/Workgroups Meetings Information:

**Most of the committees' meetings are occurring virtually**

**Please reach out to the sector lead or Executive committee member to obtain location/link**

**Behavioral Health Advisory Board (BHAB) meeting:** Meets the first Thursday of the month from 2:30 to 5:00 p.m.

**Outcomes:** Meets the first Tuesday of the month alternating start times of 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.

**Early Childhood:** Meets the second Monday of the month- from 11 a.m. to noon

**Education Advisory Ad Hoc:** Meets as needed

**TAY Council:** Meets the fourth Wednesday of the month 3 to 4:30 p.m.

**CYF CADRE:** Meets quarterly on the second Thursday of the month from 1:30 to 3 p.m.

**CYF Council Training Academy:** Meets on the first Wednesday of the month from 9 to 10 a.m.

**CCRT:** Meets the first Friday of the month from 10 to 11:30 a.m.

**Private Sector:** Ad Hoc/Meets as needed

**Children and Youth Mental Health Well Being Celebration Planning:** Meets the Third Thursday of the month from 1 to 2 p.m.

**Family Sector:** Meets the third Thursday of the month from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m.

**Peer Council:** Every third Tuesday of each month at 2 p.m. via Zoom

# County Supervisors Reelect Chairwoman for 2024



By [Tracy DeFore](#), County of San Diego Communications Office

Jan. 9, 2024 | 1:18 PM

The County Board of Supervisors voted unanimously to select Supervisor Nora Vargas as the chairwoman for 2024.

Chairwoman Vargas served as board chairwoman last year. The chair acts as the voice of the county.

During Tuesday's organizational meeting, Supervisor Terra Lawson-Remer was reelected as vice chair and Supervisor Joel Anderson as chair pro tempore.

After the vote, Chairwoman Vargas thanked her colleagues for their support.

She recognized all the hard work the Board had accomplished in the last year, including passing an \$8.1 billion budget that addressed key issues and maintained core County services.

The Chairwoman acknowledged the Board faces challenges in the year ahead as budgets tighten around the state. She said the Board must be diligent with their resources to prioritize the health and safety of residents, and support local businesses, so they have an opportunity to thrive.

"The work ahead will not be easy, but I have no doubt with compassionate, deliberate work, and collaborative spirit, that we're going to be able to once again move the county forward and our communities forward and do the great things we are meant to do as your elected officials and representatives," said Chairwoman Vargas.

[County Supervisors Reelect Chairwoman for 2024 | News | San Diego County News Center](#)

## County Board of Supervisors Approves Appointment of Interim Chief Administrative Officer



By [Sir Milo Loftin](#), County of San Diego Communications Office  
Jan. 9, 2024 | 2:16 PM

Sarah Aghassi has been selected by the Board of Supervisors to serve as Interim Chief Administrative Officer for the County of San Diego, bringing more than 20 years of progressively responsible executive-level strategic, political, and operational leadership in both the private and public sectors.

Aghassi succeeds Helen Robbins-Meyer whose last day was Jan. 9, 2024. Robbins-Meyer extended her March 30, 2023 retirement date to aid a smooth transition as the County Board of Supervisors continues its robust search for a permanent CAO.

[County Board of Supervisors Approves Appointment of Interim Chief Administrative Officer | News | San Diego County News Center](#)



# COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

## AGENDA ITEM

### BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

NORA VARGAS  
First District

JOEL ANDERSON  
Second District

TERRA LAWSON-REMER  
Third District

MONICA MONTGOMERY STEPPE  
Fourth District

JIM DESMOND  
Fifth District

**DATE:** January 9, 2024

**12**

**TO:** Board of Supervisors

### **SUBJECT**

**COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT FRAMEWORK UPDATE  
(DISTRICTS: ALL)**

### **OVERVIEW**

On June 8, 2021 (3), the San Diego County Board of Supervisors (Board) approved an American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) spending framework for the approximately \$650 million in ARPA funds received from the federal government to be used towards the County of San Diego's (County) response to the COVID-19 pandemic. This ARPA Framework not only addressed the needs of the region to test, trace and treat COVID-19 cases to reduce morbidity and mortality, but also addressed the economic and social impacts of the pandemic.

The ARPA Framework established by the Board was the culmination of input from every supervisorial district and comprehensive community engagement, which included community workshops held in March 2021 as well as review and consideration of correspondence received from community organizations and advocates. The ARPA Framework includes programs to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic as well as services for behavioral health, homelessness, food assistance, seniors and youth, small businesses, and critical infrastructure.

The ARPA funds allocated to the County represent a significant and extraordinary infusion of resources to the region, and the County has taken a leading role in utilizing these funds, employing a strategic three-pronged approach. The first prong prioritizes saving lives and protecting families, ensuring funds were directed towards critical initiatives such as testing, treatment, and vaccination sites. The second prong focuses on countering the economic impacts of the pandemic and making longer term investments for the region. This effort includes efforts to stimulate the economy and help San Diegans get back to work, marked by strategic investments like the small business and non-profit stimulus payments, aimed at revitalizing economic activity. The third prong includes resources for investing in our future, supporting programs such as child care, behavioral health, and evergreen funding initiatives. This structured approach highlights the County's commitment to addressing immediate needs while strategically planning for a resilient and prosperous future.

Of note, the federal guidelines require that ARPA funds are obligated by the end of 2024, and ultimately spent by the end of 2026. To ensure the ARPA funds are used most effectively and fully expended, County staff will be returning to the Board with recommended updates to the ARPA

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FRAMEWORK UPDATE (DISTRICTS: ALL)**

Framework based on discussion and actions taken today. County staff is currently reviewing the ARPA Framework as it relates to those programs that will have a funding need once ARPA funds are fully expended, as well as other programs that align with the ARPA Framework to provide essential services. In addition, consideration will be given to mitigate the impacts of any disallowances that the Federal Emergency Management Agency may have when reviewing the County's reimbursement submittals for COVID-19 programs.

Today's recommendations include receiving an update on the ARPA Framework, including projected spending levels and a report out on the Evergreen Fund recommendations of the Fiscal Subcommittee, and requesting direction from the Board related to allocation of any remaining resources of the ARPA Framework, to ensure these resources effectively respond to the priorities and needs across the region.

**RECOMMENDATION(S)**

**CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER**

1. Receive the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Framework Update report.
2. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to develop recommendations to revise the ARPA Framework based on projected remaining ARPA funds and return to the Board.

**EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

Today's actions support the mechanism to present the County of San Diego's framework for the use of American Rescue Plan Act funding in support of the most vulnerable residents in the county. The COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on the lives of individuals, businesses, and communities across San Diego County. To support the most vulnerable, an equity lens and a quantitative and qualitative data-driven approach were used to prioritize and integrate consideration of racial and gender equity in the recommendations to guide the distribution of COVID-19 response and recovery-related federal, State, and local funding and resources. Additionally, monitoring the impacts of the components of the ARPA Framework include the use of the Healthy Places Index to ensure equitable access and distribution of programs.

**SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

The proposed actions to receive an update on the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Framework and provide direction related to allocation of components of the ARPA Framework support the County of San Diego's Sustainability Goals #2, #4 and #5 by ensuring the ARPA Framework supports just and equitable access to County services, protecting the health and well-being of everyone in the region, and supporting stormwater infrastructure to protect the quality of our region's groundwater.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

There is no immediate fiscal impact associated with these requests. The remaining balance of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds is included in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2023-24 Operational Plan. County of San Diego (County) staff would return to the San Diego County Board of Supervisors (Board) as needed with additional actions tied to any future fiscal impacts that may result from today's recommendations.



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FRAMEWORK UPDATE (DISTRICTS: ALL)**

Today's recommendation is to receive the ARPA Framework Update report (*Attachment A on file with the Clerk of the Board*). As of the last submitted quarterly report to the United States Department of the Treasury, the County had spent \$323.8 million of the approximately \$650 million in funds received. This included leveraging an ARPA lost revenue strategy in some areas to redirect General Purpose Revenue. Based on current program activity and Board directive to expend funds by the end of FY 2024-25, \$67 million is projected to remain at the end of the period. Combined with the unused Evergreen Fund amount of \$66.6 million, the total projected balance for the ARPA Framework is \$133.6 million, which does not include infrastructure projects with a multi-year timeline. This balance presents an opportunity to continue to fund ARPA framework activities with ongoing costs for another fiscal year, still within the Treasury's expenditure timeframes, as well as mitigate some budgetary pressures related to these programs over the next couple of years.

While many programs initiated under ARPA were intended to be one-time to meet immediate needs resulting from the pandemic, ARPA funds were also used to accelerate the development of additional County programs supporting vulnerable populations. These programs, primarily supporting homeless services, do not have sustainable funding identified. ARPA funds remaining at the end of FY 2024-25 could be used to prevent a budgetary gap in these areas beginning in FY 2025-26. Additionally, these funds could be used to address an imminent gap in funding beginning in FY 2024-25 for the Regional Homeless Assistance Program, and to help mitigate impacts of any potential disallowances that the Federal Emergency Management Agency may have when reviewing the County's reimbursement submittals for COVID-19 programs (*Attachment C on file with the Clerk of the Board*).

The Evergreen Fund component of the ARPA Framework is funded in the amount of \$80.6 million, based on funding from the ARPA Framework (\$79 million) and another amount from the Local Assistance and Tribal Consistency Fund (\$1.6 million). The Board has already taken action on \$14.0 million (Supportive Services for Asylum Seeking Migrants and Housing Every Homeless Person in Addiction Recovery). The remaining balance of the Evergreen Fund, currently \$66.6 million, would be brought back to the Board for action on recommended options. The \$66.6 million may be reduced by actions taken by the Board today or at any meeting prior to staff's return. These ARPA funds would be used directly or leveraged through a lost revenue strategy to redirect existing General Purpose Revenue.

**BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT**

N/A

**ADVISORY BOARD STATEMENT**

N/A

**BACKGROUND**

**ARPA Framework Development**

On June 8, 2021 (3), the San Diego County Board of Supervisors (Board) approved the County of San Diego (County) American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) spending framework for the \$650 million ARPA funds received from the federal government to be used towards the County's

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FRAMEWORK UPDATE (DISTRICTS: ALL)**

response efforts to the COVID-19 pandemic. This ARPA Framework not only addressed the needs of the regions to test, trace and treat COVID-19 cases, but also addressed the economic and social impacts of the pandemic.

The ARPA Framework established by the Board was the culmination of input from every supervisorial district and comprehensive community engagement, which included community workshops held in March 2021 as well as review and consideration of correspondence received from community organizations and advocates. The ARPA Framework includes programs to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic as well as services for behavioral health, homelessness, food assistance, seniors and youth, small businesses, and critical infrastructure.

A year after the adoption of the initial ARPA Framework, on August 30, 2022 (20), the Board received an update on projected spending levels and directed the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) to reallocate \$119 million of ARPA funds to ensure the ARPA resources would be fully utilized to support programs most needed in the region. The reallocation continued to prioritize funding for homeless services, mental health services, and cash assistance programs and provided funding for an Evergreen Fund to support behavioral health and housing programs. The action taken by the Board effectively directed the CAO to ensure that ARPA Framework funding is spent by Fiscal Year (FY) 2024-25, to ensure efficient delivery of ARPA Framework programs and full expenditure of funding in advance of the federal deadline of December 2026.

**Regional Impact of the ARPA Framework**

Although federal guidelines permit the expenditure of ARPA Framework resources through 2026, this calendar year is the final year to obligate these resources. ARPA funding allocations to local governments have been to the magnitude which the State Legislative Analyst deems “once-in-a-generation.” The Board established the initial ARPA Framework and subsequently revised it with consideration for community priorities, great intention to maximize the impact of the ARPA Framework, and with consensus around key areas that would best serve the region. The ARPA Framework has helped to serve the most vulnerable in our region with a broad array of programs addressing day-to-day needs such as transportation and shelter, bolstering the regional economy through grants and direct assistance, and safeguarding the health and sustainability of our region with major infrastructure projects for water, electric vehicles, and broadband access.

This once-in-a-generation infusion of resources to the region provided both immediate relief and made investments with a lasting impact to the region.

***Savings lives and protecting families.***

The ARPA Framework was established to meet the everyday needs of our region’s residents, first and foremost. This first prong of the ARPA Framework was implemented in partnership with the community groups and included ensuring the public health of the region and mitigating the impacts of COVID-19 with an eye to equity and accessibility, ensuring services were provided in threshold languages. Equity was gauged in multiple ways such as tracking vaccine administration by the Healthy Places Index.

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*Stimulating the economy and getting back to work.*

Along with the immediate and direct response to COVID-19, the second prong of the ARPA Framework also seeks to address the impacts of COVID-19 on the regional economy and San Diego County workers. This includes providing direct stimulus payments to small businesses and non-profit organizations, and fee waivers for restaurants and special event organizers. These funds were used to assist 3,890 small businesses and non-profit organizations with costs of operations including protective equipment. The fee waiver programs of the ARPA program also benefited over 8,700 restaurants and 2,700 special events.

*Investing in the future of the region.*

Finally, the third prong of the ARPA Framework includes programs that invest in the long-term health and safety of the region by helping vulnerable populations to meet essential needs such as mental health, housing, food assistance, transportation, and internet access. This includes programs that have: provided screenings for thousands of middle school students to help determine social emotional needs and provide early intervention support; assisted over 5,000 households with security deposits, eviction counseling, and other tenant legal services; provided food assistance to 1,900 households and 575,000 nutritious meals to older adults; funded five developments that will result in the creation of 74 extremely low-income permanent supportive housing units across the county; and provided direct stimulus payments to 224 households with imminent needs related to shelter, medicine or food.

Besides this support for day to day needs of San Diegans, the ARPA Framework also provides support for infrastructure to provide equal access and safeguard health and safety for the region. This includes a plan to implement broadband infrastructure based on a study of census tracts throughout the region, investments in stormwater, sewer and drinking water infrastructure.

**ARPA Framework Current Status**

The current status of the ARPA Framework is provided in *Attachment A*, which includes the amount allocated for each ARPA Framework component along with projected remaining balances and the status for each program area. Based on current program activity, it is projected that \$67 million in ARPA funds will remain at the end of FY 2024-25 for components outside of the Evergreen Fund, and an additional \$66.6 million remains unprogrammed for the Evergreen Fund, resulting in a balance of \$133.6 million. The anticipated remaining balance of \$67 million for ARPA programs at the end of FY 2024-25 provides an opportunity in the current environment of growing needs and programs and constrained governmental revenues experienced Statewide. County staff intend to bring forward recommendations for the Board's consideration to use these balances to provide funding to extend programs of the ARPA Framework beyond FY 2024-25 that are anticipated to have ongoing costs. In certain cases, ARPA was used to initiate new services which will require funding sources for ongoing operations once the ARPA Framework funds have been expended. These programs are primarily in the homeless services section of the Framework for emergency sheltering solutions, but also included are items like tenant legal services and the recent Board directed employee child care benefit program. Staff continue to explore alternate sustainable funding sources, and the total ongoing funding need could shift as alternate funding sources are identified and sheltering solutions are operationalized.

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Other uses that may be considered for the remaining balance include other programs that align with the Framework, like the County's Regional Homeless Assistance Program, an emergency housing program that supports individuals experiencing homelessness in the unincorporated area of the county by leveraging hotels countywide as emergency housing options, a critical program that does not have an identified ongoing funding source. These amounts could also be considered for mitigating the impact of any potential disallowances by the Federal Emergency Management Agency for COVID-19-related programs, which the County submitted for reimbursement. While the projected available balance presents a significant opportunity to mitigate the gap in funding over the next budget cycle for critical services, it is important to note that even after applying this strategy there will be ongoing gaps beginning in FY 2026-27 for ARPA-initiated programs that will need to be addressed. Potential uses for the projected \$67 million balance, including ARPA Framework components as well as other programs, are summarized in *Attachment C*.

**Evergreen Fund**

The Evergreen Fund was funded in the amount of \$80.6 million based on ARPA funding from the ARPA Framework (\$79 million) and another amount from the Local Assistance and Tribal Consistency Fund (\$1.6 million). On August 30, 2022 (20), the Board provided initial direction to allocate a portion of the ARPA Framework funds for an Evergreen Fund, which was a fund to leverage ARPA Framework resources to draw down matching funds, philanthropic donations, or other funding sources that might provide a self-sustaining revenue stream. Following this initial direction, the Board further directed the CAO, on December 13, 2022 (30) to return with recommendations to align a portion of the Evergreen Fund with Housing Blueprint and Board direction related to housing based in consultation with the ad hoc Fiscal Management & Budget Strategy Subcommittee (Fiscal Subcommittee). The Fiscal Subcommittee has since sunset on March 31, 2023, pursuant to Board action on January 10, 2023 (2), but prior to sunset, the Fiscal Subcommittee did establish a set of recommendations for the Evergreen Fund. Details of each of these six recommendations are discussed in an April 28, 2023, memorandum to the Board summarizing the discussions of the Fiscal Subcommittee related to proposed uses of the Evergreen Fund (*Attachment B*).

1. *Behavioral Health Training Fund*. Renewable funds to be used in partnership with the Workforce Partnership Program.
2. *Behavioral Health Workforce Training*. A Workforce and Empowerment Fund to invest in training and increase opportunities for the behavioral health workforce.
3. *Green Economy Local Workforce Study*. A comprehensive study to catalyze the region's green economy workforce.
4. *Cleantech Green/Blue Jobs Impact Investment Fund*. An Impact Fund used to leverage additional investments from regional partners to create good, well-paying jobs while bolstering sustainability in the region.
5. *Incentivizing Manufacturing of Cutting-Edge Modular Housing*. A program to develop and implement a plan for modular housing manufacturing in the regions to create affordable housing and generate job opportunities.
6. *County of San Diego Employee Housing Opportunities*. An affordable housing program to support the County workforce.

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The April 28, 2023 Evergreen Fund Memorandum served to report to the full Board the discussions of the Fiscal Subcommittee, offer a staff briefing, and provide next steps, which noted Board action is required to move forward with any of the program recommendations noted in the memorandum. To date, in response to the Evergreen Fund Memorandum, staff have continued to receive inquiries and input in planning for the Evergreen Fund return to the full Board.

Since April 2023, the environment and resultant needs of the region have continued to evolve with additional pressures and response required to the humanitarian crisis for asylum seeking migrants as well as the homelessness crisis and substance use disorders. As a result, there have been recent Board meeting discussions regarding use of these funds for SB 43 planning and the full Board has approved the use of Evergreen Funds to ensure support of the region's vulnerable populations:

- \$3 million for Humanitarian Emergency Response and Relief: Supportive Services for Asylum Seeking Migrants (October 10, 2023 (14))
- \$8 million for Housing Every Homeless Person in Addiction Recovery (December 5, 2023 (24))
- An additional \$3 million for Enhancing Humanitarian Emergency Response and Relief: Supportive Services for Asylum Seeking Migrants (December 5, 2023 (30))

Currently, \$66.6 million of the amounts set aside for the Evergreen Fund remain. This amount may be reduced by actions taken by the Board today or at any meeting prior to staff returning to the Board.

To provide flexibility with regard to timeline and purpose for the Evergreen Fund, the County has put in place a lost revenue strategy. This strategy is based on the revenue loss provision of ARPA, which allows the use of ARPA funds to replace local revenue lost due to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. The remaining lost revenue strategy capacity is projected to be fully utilized with the implementation of the Evergreen Fund.

Today's recommendations include receiving an update on the ARPA Framework, which includes projected spending levels through FY 2024-25 and a report out on the Evergreen Fund recommendations of the Fiscal Subcommittee. The CAO is also recommending direction from the Board related to the ARPA Framework; this direction will be applicable to the remaining ARPA funds projected at the end of FY 2024-25 in addition to the unprogrammed component of the Evergreen Fund, for a combined balance of \$133.6 million. Based on the guidance, direction, and actions of the Board today, County staff anticipates returning with funding recommendations for adoption.

**LINKAGE TO THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO STRATEGIC PLAN**

Today's actions align with the County of San Diego's 2024-2029 Strategic Plan initiatives of Sustainability (Climate), Equity (Health, Housing, Economic Opportunity), Empower (Workforce), Community (Safety, Quality of Life), and Justice (Safety, Restorative) by ensuring public funds are maximized and continue to focus on the strategic goals of the Board of supervisors.



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Respectfully submitted,



HELEN N. ROBBINS-MEYER  
Interim Chief Administrative Officer

**ATTACHMENT(S)**

Attachment A – County ARPA Framework Project Snapshot - Updated 12/20/2023 Expenditures as of 09/30/23

Attachment B – Fiscal Management & Budget Strategy Subcommittee Recommendations Related to the Evergreen Fund (Board Memo April 28, 2023)

Attachment C – County ARPA Framework - Scenario for Projected Remaining Balance (Excludes Evergreen)

# Attachment A: County ARPA Framework Project Snapshot - Updated 12/20/2023 Expenditures as of 09/30/23

Funds must be obligated by December 31, 2024, and spent by December 31, 2026.

Framework Component		Approved/ Earmarked Amounts (\$M)	Expenditures (\$M) as of 9/30/23	Remaining Balance (\$M) as of 9/30/23	Estimated (Remaining) Balance (\$M) 6/30/2025	Status
<b>Prior and On-Going COVID-19 Response</b>						
Prior & On-Going COVID-19 Response Efforts Through September 2021 & Post September 2021 Efforts		\$ 241.80	\$ 194.98	\$ 46.82	\$ 24.66	Operational
<b>Sub-Total</b>		<b>\$ 241.80</b>	<b>\$ 194.98</b>	<b>\$ 46.82</b>	<b>\$ 24.66</b>	
<b>Premium Pay for Government Essential Workers</b>						
Hazard Pay for County Employees (Excludes Telework Stipends)		\$ 27.60	\$ 26.82	\$ 0.78	\$ 0.72	Completed
<b>Sub-Total</b>		<b>\$ 27.60</b>	<b>\$ 26.82</b>	<b>\$ 0.78</b>	<b>\$ 0.72</b>	
<b>Mental Health Services</b>						
*BHS Support for Children and Youth (all Ages, Including 0-5 and School Focus and TAY)		\$ 30.00	\$ 1.11	\$ 28.89	\$ 19.39	Operational
IHSS: Technology for Social Inclusion and Wellbeing		\$ 2.00	\$ 0.06	\$ 1.94	\$ 1.74	Operational
<b>Sub-Total</b>		<b>\$ 32.00</b>	<b>\$ 1.17</b>	<b>\$ 30.83</b>	<b>\$ 21.13</b>	
<b>Homeless Services **</b>						
Housing, Shelter, Including Acquisition of Facilities and Wrap-Around Services		\$ 70.00	\$ 6.19	\$ 63.81	\$ 13.00	
<i>Projects (tentative)</i>	<i>Palm Ave DV Shelter</i>	\$ 6.20	\$ 0.00	\$ 6.20	\$ 0.00	
	<i>*Specialized Funding for Imminent Needs</i>	\$ 3.00	\$ 0.38	\$ 2.62	\$ 0.00	Operational
	<i>*Emergency Housing</i>	\$ 46.05	\$ 1.54	\$ 44.51	\$ 13.00	Operational
	<i>Construction of Extremely Low Income Affordable Housing</i>	\$ 12.00	\$ 3.91	\$ 8.09	\$ 0.00	Operational
	<i>Shallow Rent Subsidy for Seniors</i>	\$ 2.75	\$ 0.36	\$ 2.39	\$ 0.00	Operational
Housing Vouchers & Local Rent Subsidy Program & Services, including Regional Homeless Assistance Program (RHAP)		\$ 10.00	\$ 1.25	\$ 8.75	\$ 0.00	Operational

Framework Component		Approved/ Earmarked Amounts (\$M)	Expenditures (\$M) as of 9/30/23	Remaining Balance (\$M) as of 9/30/23	Estimated (Remaining) Balance (\$M) 6/30/2025	Status
Projects	*Housing Vouchers & Local Rent Subsidy Program & Services	\$ 2.00	\$ 0.70	\$ 1.30	\$ 0.00	Operational
	*Regional Homeless Assistance Program (RHAP)	\$ 8.00	\$ 0.55	\$ 7.45	\$ 0.00	Operational
LGBTQ Homeless Services/Housing		\$ 5.00	\$ 0.02	\$ 4.98	\$ 0.00	Operational
<b>Sub-Total</b>		<b>\$ 85.00</b>	<b>\$ 7.47</b>	<b>\$ 77.53</b>	<b>\$ 13.00</b>	
<b>Food Assistance</b>						
Food Distribution Programs (Food Banks/Senior Nutrition Program, etc.)		\$ 9.00	\$ 5.30	\$ 3.70	\$ 0.00	Operational
Projects	Food Distribution (Food Banks)	\$ 4.50	\$ 2.40	\$ 2.10	\$ 0.00	Operational
	Food Distribution (Senior Nutrition Program)	\$ 4.50	\$ 2.90	\$ 1.60	\$ 0.00	Operational
Expansion of Mas Fresco More Fresh Nutrition Incentive Program		\$ 2.00	\$ 0.77	\$ 1.23	\$ 0.00	Operational
Nutrition Incentives Beyond SNAP to Medi-Cal		\$ 1.00	\$ 0.45	\$ 0.55	\$ 0.00	Operational
Community Food Production Projects		\$ 7.00	\$ 6.20	\$ 0.80	\$ 0.00	Operational
Food System Sustainability and Equity Procurement Guidelines		\$ 1.00	\$ 0.14	\$ 0.86	\$ 0.00	Operational
<b>Sub-Total</b>		<b>\$ 20.00</b>	<b>\$ 12.86</b>	<b>\$ 7.14</b>	<b>\$ 0.00</b>	
<b>Senior &amp; Youth Services</b>						
Career Pathways for Foster Youth (fka: Youth Services Fund - Career Pathways for Foster Youth (and Support SPA Promise Plan))		\$ 5.00	\$ 1.67	\$ 3.33	\$ 0.00	Operational
No-Cost Transportation to Youth (Students up to age 24) and Seniors		\$ 3.00	\$ 1.84	\$ 1.16	\$ 0.00	

Framework Component		Approved/ Earmarked Amounts (\$M)	Expenditures (\$M) as of 9/30/23	Remaining Balance (\$M) as of 9/30/23	Estimated (Remaining) Balance (\$M) 6/30/2025	Status
Projects	<i>No-Cost Transportation to Youth</i>	\$ 1.50	\$ 1.50	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	Completed
	<i>No-Cost Transportation to Seniors</i>	\$ 1.50	\$ 0.34	\$ 1.16	\$ 0.00	Operational
Grant Program for Youth Sports and Youth Camps		\$ 2.00	\$ 1.51	\$ 0.49	\$ 0.00	Completed
<b>Sub-Total</b>		<b>\$ 10.00</b>	<b>\$ 5.01</b>	<b>\$ 4.99</b>	<b>\$ 0.00</b>	
<b>Child Care Subsidies</b>						
Child Care Workforce Investment		\$ 10.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 10.00	\$ 0.00	
*Child Care Bridge Program (fka: Child Care Voucher Program for Targeted Populations)		\$ 1.50	\$ 0.00	\$ 1.50	\$ 1.36	Operational
Child Care Shared Services Alliances (fka: Shared Services Alliance (Child Care Grant Program))		\$ 2.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 2.00	\$ 0.00	Operational
Child Care Facility Development and Improvement		\$ 2.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 2.00	\$ 0.00	
Projects	<i>Child Care Facility Development and Improvement</i>	\$ 1.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 1.00	N/A	Pending Board Action
	<i>*Employee Child Care benefit Program</i>	\$ 0.50	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.50	\$ 0.00	Anticipated Operational 2/2024
	<i>Enhancing Child Care Infrastructure</i>	\$ 0.50	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.50	\$ 0.00	
<b>Sub-Total</b>		<b>\$ 15.50</b>	<b>\$ 0.00</b>	<b>\$ 15.50</b>	<b>\$ 1.36</b>	
<b>Direct Stimulus Payments</b>						
Innovation in Foster Care: Cash Transfer for Youth At-Risk Families		\$ 7.50	\$ 2.18	\$ 5.32	\$ 3.00	Operational
Direct Cash Assistance for Populations Disproportionately Impacted		\$ 10.00	\$ 10.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	Operational
<b>Sub-Total</b>		<b>\$ 17.50</b>	<b>\$ 12.18</b>	<b>\$ 5.32</b>	<b>\$ 3.00</b>	

Framework Component		Approved/ Earmarked Amounts (\$M)	Expenditures (\$M) as of 9/30/23	Remaining Balance (\$M) as of 9/30/23	Estimated (Remaining) Balance (\$M) 6/30/2025	Status
<b>Legal Services</b>						
Eviction Counseling and Outreach/Prevention Services for Tenants and Landlords in Financial Need		\$ 13.60	\$ 4.98	\$ 8.62	\$ 0.00	Operational
Projects	<i>Coordinated Eviction Prevention Program</i>	\$ 3.60	\$ 0.40	\$ 3.20	\$ 0.00	Operational
	<i>*Tenant Legal Services</i>	\$ 10.00	\$ 4.59	\$ 5.41	\$ 0.00	Operational
<b>Sub-Total</b>		<b>\$ 13.60</b>	<b>\$ 4.98</b>	<b>\$ 8.62</b>	<b>\$ 0.00</b>	
<b>Small Business &amp; Non-Profit Stimulus Payments</b>						
Small Business & Non-Profit Stimulus Program		\$ 33.00	\$ 28.07	\$ 4.93	\$ 3.00	Operational
Restaurant Fee Waivers		\$ 7.00	\$ 6.92	\$ 0.08	\$ 0.08	Completed
Special Event Fee Waiver		\$ 1.50	\$ 1.48	\$ 0.02	\$ 0.02	Completed
Arts & Culture (Augment Community Enhancement Funds)		\$ 5.00	\$ 3.92	\$ 1.08	\$ 0.00	Operational
Rental Assistance for Small Landlords With no Other Source of Rental Assistance		\$ 5.00	\$ 4.99	\$ 0.01	\$ 0.00	Completed
Security Deposit Assistance Program		\$ 4.00	\$ 3.86	\$ 0.14	\$ 0.03	Completed
<b>Sub-Total</b>		<b>\$ 55.50</b>	<b>\$ 49.23</b>	<b>\$ 6.27</b>	<b>\$ 3.13</b>	

Framework Component		Approved/ Earmarked Amounts (\$M)	Expenditures (\$M) as of 9/30/23	Remaining Balance (\$M) as of 9/30/23	Estimated (Remaining) Balance (\$M) 6/30/2025	Status
<b>Infrastructure</b>						
Broadband for County Region		\$ 10.00	\$ 0.50	\$ 9.50	N/A	Operational: Multi-Year Implementation
Investments in Stormwater, Sewer and Drinking Water		\$ 13.00	\$ 4.56	\$ 8.44	N/A	Operational: Multi-Year Implementation for projects
<b>Projects</b>	<i>Investments in Stormwater, Sewer and Drinking Water - San Diego Regional Policy and Innovation Center</i>	\$ 4.50	\$ 4.50	\$ 0.00	N/A	Operational
	<i>Investments in Stormwater, Sewer and Drinking Water - DPW for Green Streets Infrastructure</i>	\$ 2.50	\$ 0.00	\$ 2.50	N/A	Anticipated Operational early 2026
	<i>Investments in Stormwater, Sewer and Drinking Water - Camp Lockett Water System Improvements</i>	\$ 2.00	\$ 0.01	\$ 1.99	N/A	Operational
	<i>Investments in Stormwater, Sewer and Drinking Water - Water Improvements in the Tijuana River Valley</i>	\$ 2.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 2.00	N/A	Operational
	<i>Investments in Stormwater, Sewer and Drinking Water - Other Stormwater, Water and Wastewater Projects</i>	\$ 2.00	\$ 0.05	\$ 1.95	N/A	Operational
Investment Electric Vehicle Replacement/Infrastructure		\$ 3.00	\$ 3.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	Operational
Invest in Local, Independent Fire Districts		\$ 4.00	\$ 1.06	\$ 2.94	\$ 0.00	Operational
<b>Sub-Total</b>		<b>\$ 30.00</b>	<b>\$ 9.13</b>	<b>\$ 20.87</b>	<b>N/A</b>	
<b>TOTAL - COMPONENTS</b>		<b>\$ 548.50</b>	<b>\$323.83</b>	<b>\$ 224.67</b>	<b>\$ 67.01</b>	
Assistance for homeworkers and child care workers		\$ 1.50	\$ 0.00	\$ 1.50	N/A	Pending Board Action
Evergreen Fund Behavioral health renewable fund & Housing/Behavioral Health		\$ 66.60	\$ 0.00	\$ 66.60	\$ 66.60	Pending Board Action to program Evergreen Fund
Supportive Services for Asylum Seeking Migrants		\$ 6.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 6.00	\$ 0.00	Operational



Framework Component	Approved/ Earmarked Amounts (\$M)	Expenditures (\$M) as of 9/30/23	Remaining Balance (\$M) as of 9/30/23	Estimated (Remaining) Balance (\$M) 6/30/2025	Status
Housing Every Homeless Person in Addiction Recovery	\$ 8.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 8.00	\$ 0.00	Anticipated Operational early 2024
Project Homekey	\$ 24.50	\$ 0.00	\$ 24.50	\$ 0.00	
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>\$ 106.60</b>	<b>\$ 0.00</b>	<b>\$ 106.60</b>	<b>\$ 66.60</b>	
<b>TOTAL - COMPONENTS</b>	<b>\$655.10</b>	<b>\$323.83</b>	<b>\$331.27</b>	<b>\$ 133.61</b>	

\*Program anticipated to be ongoing. Estimated ongoing need will depend on a variety of factors including success of pilots and potential availability of new federal or State resources.

Notes:

- Operational is defined as one or more components operational. Projects may have multiple components on different timelines.
- Some programs were funded or are anticipated to be funded through an ARPA revenue loss strategy utilizing redirected General Purpose Revenue.
- Projected remaining balance not listed for items still pending Board action and for infrastructure projects which will spend through December 31, 2026.



# County of San Diego

**HELEN N. ROBBINS-MEYER**  
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**L. MICHAEL VU**  
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April 28, 2023

TO: Supervisor Nora Vargas, Chairwoman  
 Supervisor Terra Lawson-Remer, Vice-Chair  
 Supervisor Joel Anderson  
 Supervisor Nathan Fletcher  
 Supervisor Jim Desmond

FROM: Helen N. Robbins-Meyer  
 Interim Chief Administrative Officer

## **FISCAL MANAGEMENT & BUDGET STRATEGY SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS RELATED TO THE EVERGREEN FUND**

On August 30, 2022 (20), the San Diego County Board of Supervisors (Board) directed the CAO to explore the feasibility of establishing a fund, an "Evergreen Fund," with projected remaining balances and/or reallocated ARPA funding to draw down matching funds, philanthropic donations, grants, or other funding sources that could provide self-sustaining program revenue streams, and return to the Board with options within 180 days. The Evergreen Fund would be to create a dedicated capital pool from which loans and investments can be made to support key County of San Diego (County) initiatives. As loans and investments are repaid, the capital would revolve and be reloaned to support additional projects and initiatives. These funds would be "evergreen" sources of capital that can be recycled over and over to fund projects well into the future.

Also, on August 30, 2022 (20), the Board provided initial and potential funding for the Evergreen Fund by directing the CAO to reallocate \$79 million in ARPA funding as follows:

- A. \$15 million for behavioral health renewable funds in partnership with the Workforce Partnership Program;
- B. \$64 million on housing and behavioral health and directed the Chief Administrative Officer to return to the Board with program options.

The August direction provided by the Board was further detailed on December 13, 2022 (30), when the Board directed the CAO to continue developing evergreen fund concepts with the Fiscal Management & Budget Strategy Subcommittee ("Fiscal Subcommittee") and return to the Board with options for discussion. The December direction noted that timing of the report back on evergreen fund concepts could be aligned as needed to correspond with on-going discussions and work around the Housing Strategy blueprint.

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April 28, 2023

**FISCAL MANAGEMENT & BUDGET STRATEGY SUBCOMMITTEE  
RECOMMENDATIONS RELATED TO THE EVERGREEN FUND**

On March 14, 2022, the Fiscal Subcommittee, composed of the County Supervisor for District 3 and District 4, respectively, met to discuss the breakout and program recommendations of the Evergreen Fund, to be funded by the \$15 million for behavioral health purposes, \$64 million for housing and behavioral health programs, and \$1.6 million for Local Assistance and Tribal Consistency Fund. The purpose of the meeting was to develop consensus recommendations to report to the Board as it relates to the use of the Evergreen Fund and detailed below. The Fiscal Subcommittee has since sunset effective March 31, 2023, pursuant to Board action taken on January 10, 2023 (02).

**Fiscal Subcommittee Recommendations for the Evergreen Fund**

Below are the six recommendations agreed upon by the Fiscal Subcommittee for funding by the Evergreen Fund:

*1. Behavioral Health Training Fund (\$15 million)*

As part of Board direction on August 30, 2022 (20), the CAO was directed to reallocate \$15 million of ARPA funding to support behavioral health workforce efforts.

*2. Behavioral Health Workforce Training (\$9 million)*

Investing \$9 million for a Behavioral Health Workforce & Empowerment Fund, to invest in training behavioral health providers, through education-to-work models that grow the skillsets and credentials of the region's behavioral health workforce and accelerate pathways to high-quality jobs. Two potential options for implementation were presented, and would be included in staff study and analysis to establish the Fund:

- A. Training Program only available for individuals that are already or will be hired as County and School District employees (government workers, not contractor).
- B. Training Program in partnership with organizations providing workforce development and career learning, such as community colleges, universities, labor unions, worker-owned cooperatives, local government and medical/behavioral healthcare companies.

To the extent permissible, this fund would endeavor to support unionized providers.

*3. Green Economy Local Workforce Study (\$0.7 million)*

Investing \$700,000 to develop a comprehensive study to catalyze the region's green economy workforce in sectors including but not limited to green building, solar, wind, battery storage, modular construction, and energy efficiency. Elements of the study would include a plan with specific recommendations to support local economic growth and good jobs in these fields. A core focus of this program would be to produce pathways to create jobs in these economic industries, with a focus on unionized jobs, to the extent permissible. This program is intended to address housing affordability by supporting green building technology and cutting-edge innovations.

*4. Cleantech Green/Blue Jobs Impact Investment Fund (\$20 million)*

April 28, 2023

**FISCAL MANAGEMENT & BUDGET STRATEGY SUBCOMMITTEE  
RECOMMENDATIONS RELATED TO THE EVERGREEN FUND**

Investing \$20 million in seed funding to catalyze a \$100 million regional Cleantech Green/Blue Jobs Impact Investment Fund (“Cleantech Impact Fund”). The Cleantech Impact Fund would aim to leverage additional investments of institutional partners especially local foundations, universities, credit unions, community development and financial institutions, and other local mission-driven companies and investors. Investments would focus on opportunities in sectors that improve the environment and tackle climate change while creating good jobs, including but not limited to: green building, solar and wind, and Bluetech and marine ecosystems, leveraging our port and border to position San Diego as a global leader in climate friendly and environmentally sustainable businesses. With the creation of good, well-paying jobs, this program is intended to support housing affordability in the region.

*5. Incentivizing Manufacturing of Cutting-Edge Modular Housing (\$20 million)*

Investing \$20 million to jumpstart cutting-edge manufacturing of modular housing in the San Diego region to improve the affordability and timeline for housing production, advance housing affordability, environmental sustainability, and good-paying jobs with apprenticeships and benefits. This program could entail developing a market analysis, and leveraging partnership with private sector builders and manufacturers in developing and implementing a plan for local modular manufacturing facility that could produce affordable housing at a faster rate and lower cost, while supporting good jobs. Standing up the facility specializing in LEED aligned building standards would be a key program component for consideration. This housing would create high-quality, transit-oriented, mixed-use, walkable infill communities and not reproduce patterns of inequitable sprawl development. To the extent permissible, staff would look to specifically support unionized operations.

*6. County of San Diego Employee Housing Opportunities (\$15.9 million)*

Investing \$15.9 million to find impactful and effective options to support affordable housing opportunities to support the County workforce. Public entities, like the San Diego Unified School District, are increasingly investing in workforce housing to invest in their employees and address persistent staffing shortages. As an example, many in the County’s HHSA workforce, and specifically behavioral health workers, struggle with housing affordability and occupy positions that are difficult to hire. Staff would develop options to support a range of options along the housing ladder, including affordable rental opportunities for County employees that struggle with housing affordability, as well as for In-Home Supportive Services providers. This would be a leading model for a public sector employer to directly support workforce housing and boost employee hiring and retention goals. Creating affordable rental opportunities may include developing a plan to leverage development partners and housing operations entities to develop workforce affordable rental housing for employees that meet certain eligibility criteria.

**Proposed Next Steps**

Based on direction provided on August 30, 2022 (20) to reallocate \$15 million in ARPA funding for behavioral health renewable funds, implementation of a Behavioral Health Training fund is in alignment with that Board direction. Additional Board direction will be required to establish and administer the fund. Please refer to the April 2023 *Update on Addressing The Behavioral Health Worker Shortage In San Diego County* memorandum for more information.

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April 28, 2023

**FISCAL MANAGEMENT & BUDGET STRATEGY SUBCOMMITTEE  
RECOMMENDATIONS RELATED TO THE EVERGREEN FUND**

In order for all other recommendations set for by the Fiscal Subcommittee to be operationalized, each would need approval from the Board. Additional research will need to be Board directed in order for staff to determine program feasibility and design.

Also, based on direction from the Board provided on August 30, 2022 (20), to explore the feasibility of establishing an Evergreen Fund, which was subsequently followed by direction provided on December 13, 2022 (30), to continue developing evergreen concepts with the fiscal subcommittee, staff will return to the Board with options for discussion on evergreen fund concepts.

If your office would like a brief on any of the aforementioned recommended programs, or if you have any questions, please contact Joan Bracci at [Joan.Bracci@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:Joan.Bracci@sdcounty.ca.gov).

Respectfully,



HELEN N. ROBBINS-MEYER  
Interim Chief Administrative Officer

Attachments: N/A

cc: Michael Vu, Assistant Chief Administrative Officer  
Claudia G. Silva, County Counsel  
Ebony N. Shelton, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer/Chief Financial Officer  
Joan Bracci, Acting Deputy Chief Administrative Officer/Chief Financial Officer  
Judy Ying, Acting Chief Operations Officer  
Caroline Smith, Director, Economic Development and Governmental Affairs  
Nick Macchione, Agency Director, Health and Human Services Agency  
Patty Danon, Chief Operations Officer, Health and Human Services Agency  
Amy P. Thompson, Executive Finance Director, Health and Human Services Agency  
David Estrella, Director, Housing & Community Development Services  
Aurora Kiviat, Assistant Director, Behavioral Health Services

## Attachment C: County ARPA Framework - Scenario for Projected Remaining Balance (Excludes Evergreen)

Framework Component	FY 25-26 Estimated One-time Costs (\$M)	FY 25-26 Estimated Ongoing Costs (\$M)	Total FY 25-26 Estimated Costs*	Notes
<b>Prior and On-Going COVID-19 Response</b>				
Prior & On-Going COVID-19 Response Efforts Through September 2021 & Post September 2021 Efforts	\$10.00	\$-	\$10.00	Anticipate some level of trace and response costs in FY 25/26.
<b>Mental Health Services</b>				
BHS Support for Children and Youth (all Ages, Including 0-5 and School Focus and TAY)	\$-	\$5.00	\$5.00	Exploring alternate revenue sources
<b>Homeless Services **</b>				
Housing, Shelter, Including Acquisition of Facilities and Wrap-Around Services	\$1.30	\$9.60	\$10.90	
Specialized Funding for Imminent Needs	\$-	\$1.00	\$1.00	
Emergency Housing		\$8.60	\$8.60	Currently undergoing due diligence process for site evaluation
Shallow Rent Subsidy for Seniors	\$1.30		\$1.30	Bridge funding for program transition; pending evaluation of program
Housing Vouchers & Local Rent Subsidy Program (LRSP) & Services, including Regional Homeless Assistance Program (RHAP)	\$-	\$10.00	\$10.00	RHAP program demand will be based on number of County emergency sheltering sites established. Exploring alternate revenue sources for LRSP.
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>\$1.30</b>	<b>\$19.60</b>	<b>\$20.90</b>	
<b>Child Care Subsidies</b>				
Child Care Bridge Program	\$-	\$0.50	\$0.50	
Employee Child Care benefit Program	\$-	\$0.50	\$0.50	
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>\$-</b>	<b>\$1.00</b>	<b>\$1.00</b>	
<b>Direct Stimulus Payments</b>				
Innovation in Foster Care: Cash Transfer for Youth At-Risk Families	\$3.00	\$-	\$3.00	Project timeframe estimated to go past FY 2024-25.
<b>Legal Services</b>				
Tenant Legal Services	\$-	\$1.50	\$1.50	
<b>TOTAL - COMPONENTS</b>	<b>\$14.30</b>	<b>\$27.10</b>	<b>\$41.40</b>	Ongoing costs for programs established under ARPA are estimated at <b>approximately \$20M</b> . Estimated ongoing costs of \$27.1M are inclusive of an estimate of \$7M for RHAP which was established prior to the ARPA Framework.
<b>Additional near-term ARPA eligible budgetary pressures that could draw upon remaining balances</b>				
Framework for Ending Homelessness - Regional Homeless Assistance Program (RHAP)			\$15.00	Estimated one-time costs for FY 2024-25. Ongoing costs at a reduced level included in FY 25-26 estimate.
FEMA Disallowance Contingency			\$10.60	Pending FEMA Review of County COVID-19 response programs, current estimated risk for Non-Congregate Sheltering is \$24M - \$34M.
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$25.60</b>	
<b>Total Combined Need FY 24-25 and FY 25-26</b>			<b>\$67.00</b>	

\* Some programs may be funded through an ARPA revenue loss strategy utilizing redirected General Purpose Revenue.



# ITEM #12: COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT FRAMEWORK UPDATE

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Eric C. McDonald, MD, Interim Agency Director, Health and Human Services Agency  
Amy Thompson, Executive Finance Director, Health and Human Services Agency  
Ebony Shelton, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer / Chief Financial Officer,  
Finance & General Government Group

January 9, 2024



# AGENDA



ARPA in San  
Diego County

County ARPA  
Framework  
Update

Evergreen  
Fund

# ARPA IN SAN DIEGO COUNTY



The American Rescue Plan was enacted in 2021 to provide direct relief to Americans, contain the COVID-19 virus, and rescue the economy.

Eligible uses include:

- Responding to public health emergency
- Addressing negative economic impacts, including from natural disasters
- Replacing lost revenue
- Providing premium pay for essential workers
- Investing in infrastructure, including water, sewer, surface transportation, broadband
- Supporting Community Development Block Grant programs

# STRATEGIC ARPA FUND INVESTMENTS



Saving lives and  
protecting families





# STRATEGIC ARPA FUND INVESTMENTS



Stimulating the economy and  
getting back to work



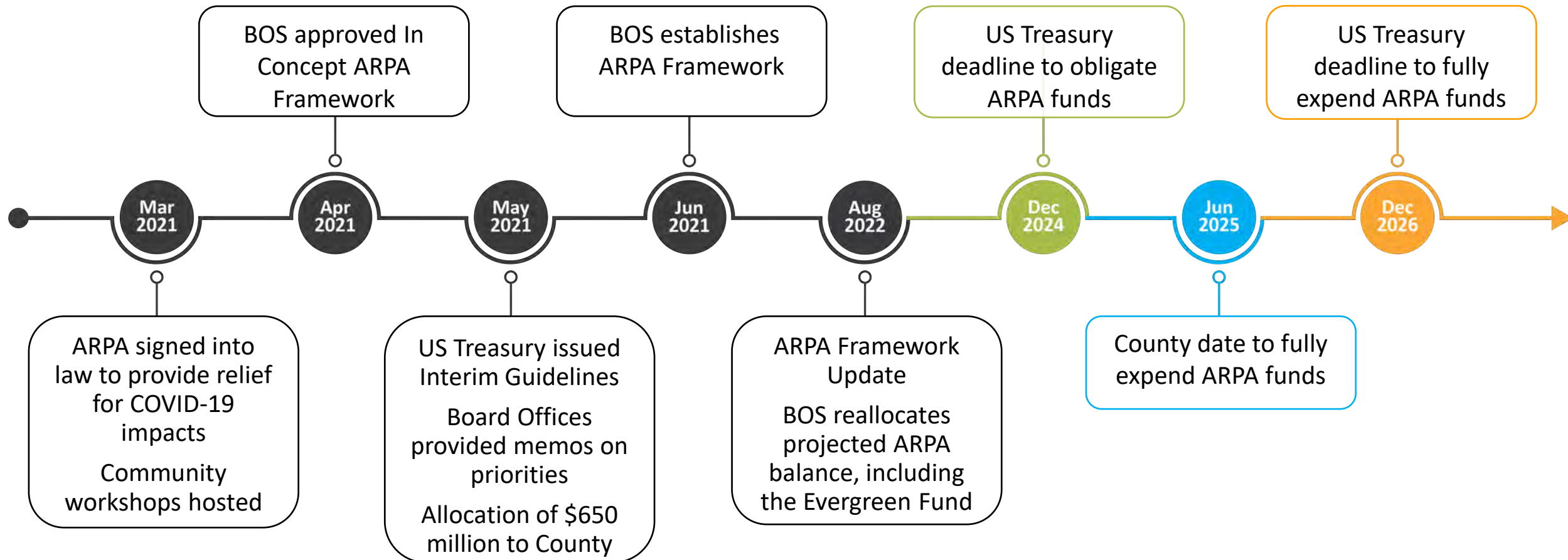
# STRATEGIC ARPA FUND INVESTMENTS



Investing in the  
future of the region



# ARPA FRAMEWORK MILESTONES





# ARPA FRAMEWORK UPDATE



Framework Component Balances (in millions)	Approved Amount	Estimated Remaining Balance FY 24-25
Saving Lives and Protecting Families	275.4	25.4
Stimulating the Economy and Getting Back to Work	73.0	6.1
Investing in the Future of our Region	240.1	35.5
<b>ARPA Framework Anticipated Remaining Balance</b>	<b>\$588.5</b>	<b>\$67.0</b>
Evergreen Fund	66.6	66.6
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$655.1</b>	<b>\$133.6</b>

*Note: Remaining balances do not include infrastructure projects with a multi-year timeline.*

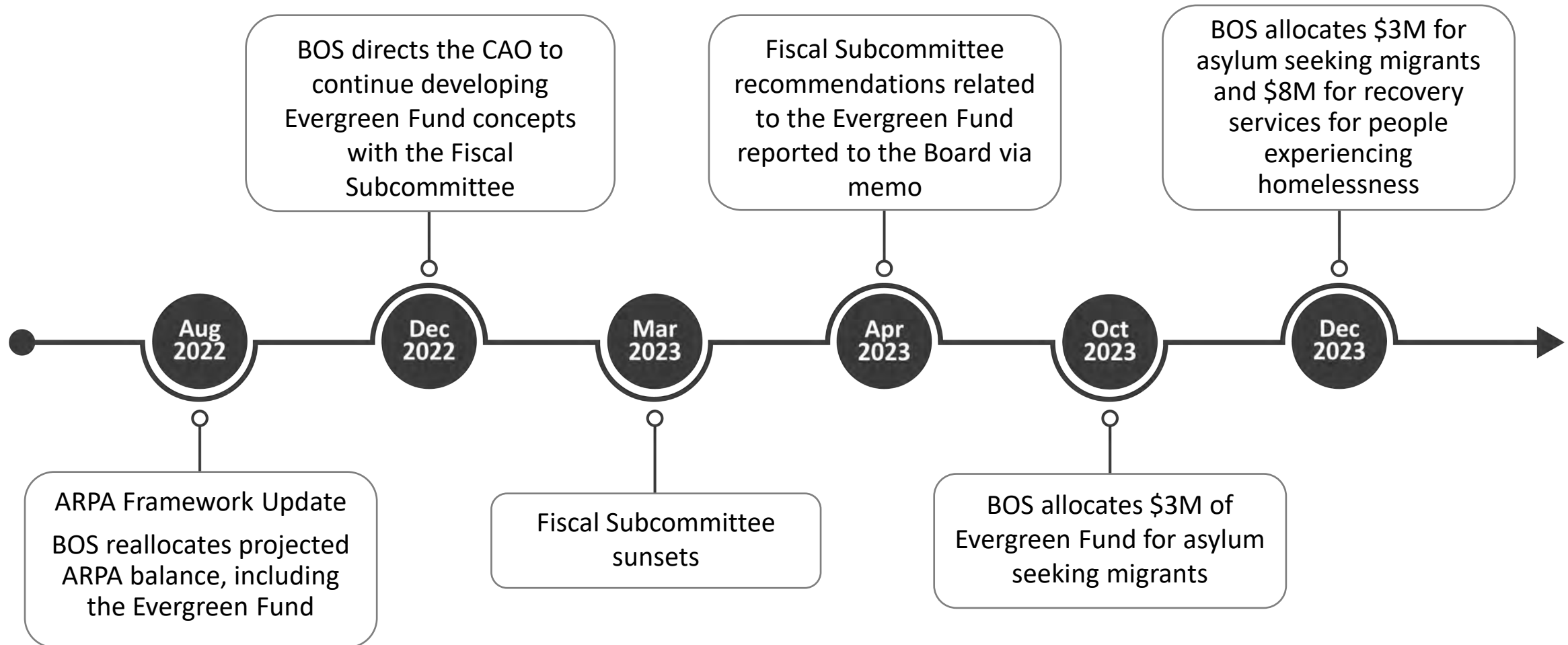
# ARPA BALANCE CONSIDERATIONS



Fiscal Year	ARPA Framework Eligible Item	Estimated Costs (in millions)
FY 24/25 & FY 25/26	Regional Homeless Assistance Program	\$22.0
FY 25/26	COVID-19 Response	\$10.0
FY 25/26	Funding to complete pilot programs	\$4.3
FY 25/26	Ongoing Operating Costs for ARPA programs	\$20.1
<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>\$56.4</b>
		\$10.6
<b>Total use of ARPA Balance</b>		<b>\$67.0</b>

*Note: Some programs may be funded through an ARPA revenue loss strategy utilizing redirected General Purpose Revenue.*

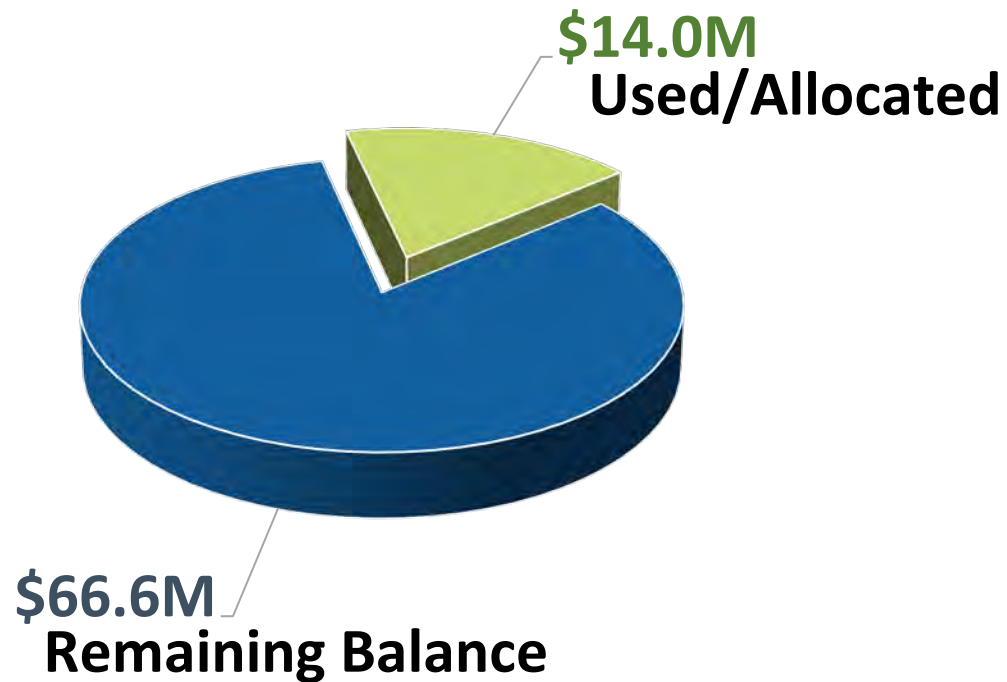
# EVERGREEN FUND MILESTONES



# EVERGREEN FUND



## Evergreen Fund \$80.6M




- Housing
- Behavioral Health
- Sustainability and Environmental Justice
- Homelessness Support
- Humanitarian Support for Asylum-seeking Migrants

# ARPA FRAMEWORK RECOMMENDATIONS



Receive the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Framework Update report.



Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to develop recommendations to revise the ARPA Framework based on projected remaining ARPA funds and return to the Board.

# ITEM #12: COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT FRAMEWORK UPDATE

Eric C. McDonald, MD, Interim Agency Director, Health and Human Services Agency  
Amy Thompson, Executive Finance Director, Health and Human Services Agency  
Ebony Shelton, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer / Chief Financial Officer,  
Finance & General Government Group

January 9, 2024





# **TERRA LAWSON-REMER**

## **VICE-CHAIR**

**SUPERVISOR, THIRD DISTRICT  
SAN DIEGO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

### **AGENDA ITEM**

**DATE: January 9, 2024**

**14**

**TO: Board of Supervisors**

#### **SUBJECT**

**FISCAL SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR EVERGREEN FUND  
FRAMEWORK: BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES, HOMELESSNESS SERVICES,  
HOUSING, CLIMATE AND ECONOMIC PROSPERITY (DISTRICTS: ALL)**

#### **OVERVIEW**

Over the past three years, this County Board of Supervisors (Board) has made unprecedented commitments to delivering services that meet urgent community needs and invest in long-standing deficits in behavioral health, homelessness, affordable housing, and advancing climate justice and shared economic prosperity across our region. The commitments and actions of the Board are moving us forward towards a more equitable and inclusive future for those who live and work in San Diego County.

As part of this effort, a Fiscal Management and Budget Strategy Subcommittee (Fiscal Subcommittee) was established in 2021 to work with County staff to develop long-term fiscal strategies to advance the key priorities of the Board.

On August 30, 2022, the Board directed the establishment of an “Evergreen Fund”, using a total of \$80.6 million in projected remaining balances and/or the use of a lost revenue strategy employed with a portion of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding. Rather than immediately spending these one-time revenues on one-time expenses that would permanently deplete the funds, the Board created the Evergreen Fund to prioritize investments in programs with self-sustaining revenue sources, or that draw down and leverage external matching funds.

On December 13, 2022 (30), the Board directed the CAO and the Fiscal Subcommittee to develop Evergreen Fund recommendations in collaboration with County experts from behavioral health, housing, homelessness, economic development, and the Chief Financial Officer and the Finance and General Governmental Group team, and to report back to the Board with program recommendations for consideration and approval. The Board directed the Fiscal Subcommittee to explore promising opportunities in the areas of Behavioral Health Workforce, Affordable Housing, Homelessness, and Other Key Board Priorities. An initial memo of program concepts was circulated to the Board on April 28, 2023



**SUBJECT: FISCAL SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR EVERGREEN FUND FRAMEWORK: BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES, HOMELESSNESS SERVICES, HOUSING, CLIMATE AND ECONOMIC PROSPERITY**

as an early status update prior to full final recommendations being brought back to the Board for a vote. The programs have continued to be refined since that time.

The Fiscal Subcommittee was prepared to report back with this Evergreen Framework in July 2023 but decided to wait to bring back the Evergreen Framework for Board consideration until the Fourth District vacancy could be filled. This Evergreen Fund report back has therefore been timed for January 9, 2024, to ensure all five districts could be represented at the vote.

Today's item outlines a framework of Evergreen Fund program options for consideration, developed by the Fiscal Subcommittee in collaboration with County experts from behavioral health, housing, homelessness, economic development, as well as the Chief Financial Officer, and the Finance and General Government Group team. It is based on the concepts outlined in the April 28, 2023, memo, that have been refined and updated to better support program implementation and respond to emerging Board priorities.

It includes recommendations to take immediate action on three programs based on the urgency of these issues and the critical need to implement prompt solutions without delay; Program 3 supports SB-43 implementation and the serious concerns about hospital emergency room overcrowding by expanding recuperative care homeless bed capacity, Program 4 addresses the critical shortages in our behavioral health workforce, which needs to add 18,500 new workers in order to meet the mental health and addiction treatment needs of our communities, and Program 5 responds to the impact of rising healthcare costs on County workers and the impact to our County workforce recruitment and retention efforts.

This item further includes recommendations to support two programs, not for immediate implementation, but for inclusion as options for the Board to consider in the forthcoming ARPA update from the Chief Administrative Officer, which is anticipated to come to Board in February 2024. These include Program 6, which proposes a first-ever workforce housing program at the County of San Diego to add affordable housing stock and bolster recruitment and retention efforts, and Program 7, which supports economic prosperity, small business expansion, and climate action by better leveraging federal grants resources and supporting small businesses with loan fund resources.

Taken together, these programs align with and build on prior actions taken by this Board to invest in critical infrastructure that strengthens the County's long-term ability to deliver on its commitment to tackling homelessness, providing behavioral health and addiction treatment, address rising housing costs with affordable housing options, advancing sustainability and climate justice, and catalyzing equitable and inclusive economic prosperity for our region.

**The program recommendations are as follows:**

**1. Enhancing Humanitarian Emergency Response and Relief: Supportive Services for Asylum Seeking Migrants**

**Program:** Chairwoman Vargas and Supervisor Anderson brought forward proposals on October 10, 2023 (14), and December 5, 2023 (30) to allocate a total of \$6 million to support local partners in their work with asylum seeking migrants and mitigate street releases. This funding

**SUBJECT: FISCAL SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR EVERGREEN FUND FRAMEWORK: BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES, HOMELESSNESS SERVICES, HOUSING, CLIMATE AND ECONOMIC PROSPERITY**

supports a range of essential services to asylum-seeking migrants to facilitate their onward move from San Diego County to their final destination.

**Why:** The current humanitarian and migrant crisis impacting our border community reflect the significant federal immigration issue that has overwhelmed local communities. The expiration of Title 42 has brought an influx of asylum-seeking migrants to border communities, with over 42,000 individuals released in San Diego County between September and November of 2023.

**Funding:** \$6 million, approved by the Board on October 10, 2023 (14) and December 5, 2023, (30).

2. **Housing Every Homeless Person in Addiction Recovery**

**Program:** Supervisor Desmond brought forward a proposal on December 5, 2023 (24), to allocate \$8 million to expand residential recovery beds for all homeless persons with an open admission to County-funded outpatient substance use treatment or recovery services in San Diego County. The one-time allocation of funding will support expansion of recovery residences to cover up to 909 individuals over a two-year period and bridge the gap until anticipated new funding becomes available from the State through changes to the Mental Health Services Act.

**Why:** Over a third of our homeless population also have a substance use disorder that compounds their challenges to address housing instability and episodes of homelessness. Stable housing would support recovery, improve health outcomes, and reduce episodes of homelessness.

**Funding:** \$8 million, approved by the Board on December 5, 2023 (24).

3. **Supporting SB-43 Implementation and Addressing Hospital Overcrowding with Recuperative Care Homeless Beds**

**Program:** Allocate capital funding to support the development of new recuperative care shelter capacity to provide critically needed step down beds to support SB-43 implementation and address hospital overcrowding for medically vulnerable homeless individuals.

**Why:** Senate Bill 43 expands the eligibility for conservatorship for people with severe substance use disorder and is expected to put more pressure on already strained hospital emergency rooms. Recuperative care facilities offer one lower-cost alternative that allows some homeless patients with medical and behavioral health vulnerabilities to step down from a hospital to a residential setting while still receiving medical care and treatment. However, unlike homeless shelters, these facilities receive operational funding not from local governments but through reimbursements from hospitals, the VA, and the managed care plans under the new CalAIM initiative. This model frees up space in our hospitals and expands shelter for homeless individuals, while leveraging external funding sources for long-term operational costs. The County has seen success with this model, investing \$9 million in capital funding to support the creation of the 106-bed Abraham and Lillian Turk Recuperative Care Center, which opened in May 2022.

**SUBJECT:** FISCAL SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR EVERGREEN  
FUND FRAMEWORK: BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES,  
HOMELESSNESS SERVICES, HOUSING, CLIMATE AND ECONOMIC  
PROSPERITY

**Funding:** \$8 million in capital funding, which could leverage up to \$35 million in operational funding from health plans over a five-year period.

**4. Expanding the County of San Diego's Public Behavioral Health Workforce**

**Program:** Allocate funding to support investments toward enhancing and expanding the public behavioral health workforce across the County. This proposal aims to address the behavioral health workforce shortage through investments that (1) support the training, education, recruitment and retention of public behavioral health staff, including better pay, more voice in the workplace, and tuition assistance, and (2) engage and expand the pool of organizations equipped to provide behavioral health care within the public behavioral health system, including diverse community-based organizations to participate in the provision of Medi-Cal funded behavioral health services, broadening the diversity and representation of organizations offering mental health and substance use services.

The purpose of this program is to leverage public resources to shift both the supply and demand curves in the healthcare workforce and create incentives for employers who prioritize high-quality jobs and workforce investments. The program will be designed in collaboration with healthcare workforce unions and other key stakeholders, to ensure the program is effectively designed to permanently shift the labor market in behavioral health. County staff will also explore opportunities to draw additional state and federal funding to support San Diego's behavioral health needs.

The effort compliments other actions approved by the Board, including the approval of the first-of-its-kind *Public Behavioral Health Workforce Development and Retention Program* approved by the Board on May 2, 2023 (5), which establishes a regional workforce training fund to support recruitment, training, and education of public behavioral health workers. It also builds on successful models throughout California of public sector focused workforce training that draw on partnerships between healthcare providers, local government, and unionized healthcare professionals and labor partners. A similar approach was successfully modeled by Futuro-Health, a partnership between Kaiser Permanente and SEIU-UHW to train and place 10,000 new healthcare workers into high-quality unionized healthcare jobs.

**Why:** The County of San Diego has adopted a bold vision for tackling the behavioral health crisis to address the intersection of mental health and addiction treatment and is investing to expand the continuum of services across prevention, treatment, and recovery. Simultaneously, the region is facing a significant behavioral health workforce shortage that continues to impact the ability to recruit and retain a qualified workforce. A 2022 report titled *Addressing San Diego's Behavioral Health Worker Shortage* found that the San Diego region is currently 8,000 behavioral health workers short of the estimated 25,000 professionals needed to address growing rates of substance use and psychological distress in our communities. Furthermore, the San Diego region needs to educate, train, attract, employ, and retain 18,500 new behavioral health professionals by 2027.

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**Funding:** \$24 million of County funding and anticipated to also leverage additional funding partners.

**5. Supporting County Workforce Well-Being and Addressing Hiring and Retention Shortfalls in Key Positions by Investing in Wellness One-Time Payments**

**Program:** Allocate funds to provide County workforce wellness one-time payments to address the impact of projected increases in healthcare costs, to support County employee well-being and hiring and retention goals. Program design, structure, and terms will be designed in negotiation with labor organization(s) representing County workers during the meet and confer process.

**Why:** The County is facing a rapid increase in healthcare costs for the upcoming Fiscal Year 2024-25, but the available flexible credit resources for County employees is not keeping pace. As a result, these rising healthcare costs are effectively reducing salaries and wages, making it harder to attract, train, recruit and retain an already understaffed workforce. This Board has voted to expand our workforce by 13.5% over the past three years, reflecting the urgent need for more services driven by the COVID-19 pandemic response, changes in state legislation mandating new areas of County work, as well as a deepened commitment to respond to regional challenges around behavioral health and homelessness. However, we currently have over 2,000 positions that remain vacant. This program would help recruitment and retention to address this County workforce shortage. County represented classified employees and union representation have raised this issue and this program is included to authorize our County labor negotiators to respond to these concerns.

**Funding:** \$13 million to enhance wellness one-time payments for County employees.

**6. Creating County Employee Workforce Housing**

**Program:** Allocate funding to find impactful and effective options to support affordable housing opportunities to support the County workforce. This bold step will be the first ever for the County to make investments into workforce affordable housing. As part of this effort, staff should assess a pilot project option to develop workforce housing for County employees to support County recruitment and retention goals. Funding could support predevelopment and site acquisition activities. County staff would identify and pursue options for suitable parcels as well as funding, development, and property management partners. Eligibility criteria would include low-and-moderate income County workers earning up to 120% of the area median income (currently \$126,150 for a family of three), with prioritization of our lowest wage County workers, and prioritization of our hardest to recruit job classifications. To ensure these investments best meet the needs of our workforce, projects will be co-created with significant engagement from potentially eligible employees and employee-bargaining groups. As part of this effort, staff should report back with any legislative changes may be needed to effectuate such pilot programs.

**Why:** Across the state, high housing costs are hitting public employees hard, leading to staffing shortages in essential fields and challenges with recruitment and retention. The County has expanded its workforce by 13.5% in the past three years and currently has over 2,000 unfilled

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positions, such as probation officers, psychiatric nurses, licensed mental health clinicians, and child welfare specialists. Other public agencies, such as San Diego Unified, Alpine School District, and Chula Vista Elementary School District, are developing workforce housing to support recruitment and retention.

**Funding:** At least \$7.6 million but up to \$25 million if additional funding resources can be identified. These funds support predevelopment and site acquisition activities and are anticipated to be leveraged by additional funding sources such as philanthropic impact investments, bonds, and tax credits.

**7. Advancing Economic Prosperity, Climate Justice, and Small Businesses by Growing the Green Economy**

**Program:** Launch two programs to accelerate economic prosperity, support small businesses, and drive inclusive regional growth in the green economy by securing more federal resources, creating high-quality green jobs, and advancing the County’s climate justice, sustainability and decarbonization efforts.

- Economic Prosperity and Climate Justice Matching Flex Fund – Create a regional matching fund to provide a source of local dollars needed to secure state and federal economic development, infrastructure, and climate justice grants. Matching dollars are the biggest challenge for local entities and prevent our communities from maximizing our fair share of the billions in federal grant resources, especially from the Economic Development Administration.
- Green Jobs and Cleantech Small Business Fund – Collaborate with industry organizations and academic institutions to create a Green Jobs and Cleantech Small Business Fund to provide small business loans and technical assistance to support the growth of local small businesses in the green economy. Loan funds would be repaid over time to allow for a return on investment.

**Why:** This Board has taken bold action to advance equity, shared economic prosperity, climate justice, and regional competitiveness in the world economy. Chairwoman Nora Vargas championed the creation of a new office to advance Economic Prosperity, housed within the Office of Economic Development and Government Affairs, which completed the region’s first Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy in 2022. The green economy is poised for major growth in the coming years with hundreds of billions in federal investments coming, and the San Diego region is well-positioned to capture the growth of this sector to drive inclusive economic prosperity and support sustainability efforts. However, accessing these state and federal funds require a local matching source, which is currently missing in San Diego County. This action would allow our County and regional partners to access billions of dollars in federal funding by providing the 20-50% local match required to draw down these grants.

**Funding:** Allocate \$14 million to launch these two funds. Both would be leveraged with additional funding sources to increase the size of the funds.

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<b>Evergreen Fund Framework Programs</b>	<b>Amount (million)</b>
1. Enhancing Humanitarian Emergency Response and Relief: Supportive Services for Asylum Seeking Migrants	\$6.0
2. Housing Every Homeless Person in Addiction Recovery	\$8.0
3. Supporting SB-43 Implementation and Addressing Hospital Overcrowding with Recuperative Care Homeless Beds	\$8.0
4. Expanding the County of San Diego's Behavioral Health Workforce	\$24.0
5. Supporting County Workforce Well-Being and Hiring and Retention Goals by Investing in Wellness One-Time Payments	\$13.0
6. Creating County Employee Workforce Housing	\$7.6
7. Advancing Economic Prosperity, Climate Justice, and Small Businesses by Growing the Green Economy	\$14.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$80.6</b>

The Evergreen Fund Framework advances the key priority areas that the Board has committed to tackling including: responding to the migrant crisis, tackling the homeless and behavioral health crisis, addressing the acute shortages in our behavioral health workforce, building more affordable housing, driving economic prosperity and small business growth, taking action on climate change and environmental justice, and investing in our County workforce to support hiring and retention goals.

**RECOMMENDATION(S)**

1. Accept the Evergreen fund framework report back as developed by staff and the Fiscal Subcommittee.
2. Take immediate action to address urgent needs related to SB-43 implementation, behavioral health workforce shortages, and County workforce healthcare by implementing Program 3 (Supporting SB-43 Implementation and Addressing Hospital Overcrowding with Recuperative Care Homeless Beds), Program 4 (Expanding the County of San Diego's Behavioral Health Workforce), and Program 5 (Supporting County Workforce Well-Being and Hiring and Retention Goals by Investing in Healthcare Stipends).

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Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to allocate \$45.0 million in funding, including \$8.0 million for Program 3, \$24 million for Program 4, and \$13.0 million for Program 5, as described in this letter, and utilize a lost revenue strategy under the final ARPA guidance as necessary based on previously allocated General Purpose Revenue and to make the appropriate budget adjustments in future operational status letter updates.

3. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to include Program 6 (Creating County Employee Housing) and Program 7 (Advancing Economic Prosperity, Climate Justice, and Small Businesses by Growing the Green Economy) as described in this Board Letter as options for Board consideration for the Evergreen component of the ARPA Framework in the return back within 60 days.

**EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

The proposed actions will assist the County of San Diego in expanding services to underserved populations including asylum-seeking migrants, homeless individuals with medically vulnerabilities and/or participating in recovery services, and communities needing more behavioral health and addiction treatment services. These actions also align with regional efforts to ensure economic prosperity and equitable access to high-quality jobs in the green economy especially for underrepresented populations in these fields, and provide and retain a skilled, adaptable, and diverse workforce for County departments and enable the County to deliver superior services to the residents and visitors of the County of San Diego.

**SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

The proposed actions align with the County of San Diego's Sustainability Goals by protecting health and wellbeing for all San Diego residents, promoting sustainable and inclusive economic growth and expansion of the green economy, promoting sustainable development technologies, as well as promoting just and equitable wages and quality job opportunities for all San Diego County residents.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

Funds associated with this request are included in the Fiscal Year 2023-24 Adopted Operational Plan. The Board has already taken action on \$14.0 million outlined in proposed Program 1 (Supportive Services for Asylum Seeking Migrants), and Program 2 (Housing Every Homeless Person in Addiction Recovery). If approved, this request will result in one-time costs and revenue of \$45.0 million for Program 3, Program 4, and Program 5. The funding sources will be American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds allocated to the Evergreen component of the ARPA Framework and ARPA Local Assistance and Tribal Consistency Funds (\$1.6 million, which may also be used for Evergreen items). These ARPA funds may be used directly or leveraged through a lost revenue strategy to redirect existing General Purpose Revenue. There will be no change in net General Fund cost and no additional staff years.

**BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT**

N/A

**ADVISORY BOARD STATEMENT**



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N/A

**BACKGROUND**

On August 30, 2022 (20), the San Diego County Board of Supervisors (Board) directed the establishment of an “Evergreen Fund”, using a total of \$80.6 million in projected remaining balances and/or the use of a lost revenue strategy with a portion of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding. Rather than immediately spending these one-time ARPA revenues on one-off expenses, the Board created the Evergreen Fund to invest in programs with self-sustaining on-going revenue sources, or that draw down and leverage external matching funds, to advance key County priorities to deliver results in behavioral health, housing, tackling homelessness, and equity.

On December 13, 2022 (30), the Board directed CAO and the Fiscal Subcommittee to develop Evergreen Fund recommendations in collaboration with County experts from behavioral health, housing, homelessness, economic development, and the Chief Financial Officer and the Finance and General Government Group team, and to report back to the Board with recommendations for consideration and approval. An initial memo of program concepts was circulated to the Board on April 28, 2023, as an early status update prior to full final recommendations being brought back to the Board for a vote. The programs have continued to be refined since that time.

The Fiscal Subcommittee was prepared to report back with this Evergreen Framework in July 2023. Due to the creation of an extended vacancy of the District 4 Supervisor Seat, the Fiscal Subcommittee and County staff decided to wait to bring back the Evergreen Framework for Board consideration until after the Fourth District vacancy could be filled. This Evergreen Fund report back was therefore timed for January 9, 2024, to ensure all five districts could be represented at the vote.

Today’s item outlines a framework of Evergreen Fund program options for consideration, developed by the Fiscal Subcommittee in collaboration with County experts from behavioral health, housing, homelessness, economic development, as well as the Chief Financial Officer, and the Finance and General Governance team.

It includes recommendations to take immediate action on Program 3, 4, and 5 based on the urgency of these issues and the critical need to implement prompt solutions without delay. Program 3 supports SB-43 implementation and the serious concerns about hospital emergency room overcrowding by expanding recuperative care homeless bed capacity, Program 4 addresses the critical shortages in our behavioral health workforce, which needs to add 18,500 new workers in order to meet the mental health and addiction treatment needs of our communities, and Program 5 responds to the impact of rising healthcare costs on County workers and the impact to our County workforce recruitment and retention efforts.

This item further includes recommendations to support Program 6 and 7, not for immediate implementation, but for inclusion as options for the Board to consider in the forthcoming ARPA update from the Chief Administrative Officer, which is anticipated to come to Board in February 2024. These include Program 6, which proposes a first-ever workforce housing program at the County of San Diego to add affordable housing stock and bolster recruitment and retention efforts, and Program 7, which supports

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economic prosperity, small business expansion, and climate action by better leveraging federal grants resources and supporting small businesses with loan fund resources.

Taken together, these programs align with and build on prior actions taken by this Board to invest in critical infrastructure that strengthens the County's long-term ability to deliver on its commitment to tackling homelessness, providing behavioral health and addiction treatment, address rising housing costs with affordable housing options, advancing sustainability and climate justice, and catalyzing equitable and inclusive economic prosperity for our region.

**Evergreen Fund Framework Programs**

**1. Enhancing Humanitarian Emergency Response and Relief: Supportive Services for Asylum Seeking Migrants**

**Program:** Chairwoman Vargas and Supervisor Anderson brought forward proposals on October 10, 2023 (14), and December 5, 2023 (30) to allocate a total of \$6 million to support local partners in their work with asylum seeking migrants and mitigate street releases. This funding supports a range of essential services to asylum-seeking migrants to facilitate their onward move from San Diego County to their final destination.

**Why:** The current humanitarian and migrant crisis impacting our border community reflect the significant federal immigration issue that has overwhelmed local communities. The expiration of Title 42 has brought an influx of asylum-seeking migrants to border communities, with over 42,000 individuals released in San Diego County between September and November of this year.

**Funding:** \$6 million funded - Board action taken on October 10, 2023 (14) and December 5, 2023 (30).

**2. Expansion of Recovery Residential for All Homeless Persons in County Recovery Services**

**Program:** Supervisor Desmond brought forward a proposal on December 5, 2023 (24), to allocate \$8 million to expand residential recovery beds for all homeless persons with an open admission to County-funded outpatient substance use treatment or recovery services in San Diego County. The one-time allocation of funding will support expansion of recovery residences to cover up to 909 individuals over a two-year period and bridge the gap until anticipated new funding becomes available from the State through changes to the Mental Health Services Act. MHSA modernization was signed by the Governor of October 12, 2023, and will go the California voters for approval as Proposition 1 in March 2024. If passed, MHSA modernization would be implemented July 1, 2026, and recovery residences could be included in the annual plan for approval by the Board of Supervisors.

**Why:** Over a third of our homeless population also have a substance use disorder that compounds their challenges to address housing instability and episodes of homelessness. Stable housing would support recovery, improve health outcomes, and reduce episodes of homelessness.

**Funding:** \$8 million, approved by the Board on December 5, 2023 (24).

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**3. Supporting SB-43 Implementation and Addressing Hospital Overcrowding by Expanding  
Recuperative Care Homeless Shelter Capacity**

**Program:** Allocate capital funding to support the development of new recuperative care bed capacity to provide critically needed step down beds to support SB-43 implementation and address hospital overcrowding for medically vulnerable homeless individuals. A competitive procurement would be issued to identify a service provider to construct and operate the recuperative care facility, leveraging operational funding through hospitals, the VA, and the managed care plans.

**Why:** Senate Bill 43 expands the eligibility for conservatorship for people with severe substance use disorder and is expected to put more pressure on already strained hospital emergency rooms. Recuperative care facilities offer a lower-cost alternative that allow some homeless patients with medical and behavioral health vulnerabilities to step down from a hospital to a residential setting while still receiving medical care and treatment. It prevents homeless individuals from being discharged directly to the streets, where their medical and behavioral health challenges spiral out of control.

However, unlike homeless shelters, these facilities receive operational funding not from local governments but through reimbursements from hospitals, the VA, and the managed care plans under the new CalAIM initiative. This model frees up space in our hospitals and expands shelter for homeless individuals, while leveraging external funding sources for long-term operational costs.

The County has seen success with this model, investing \$9 million in capital funding to support the creation of the 106-bed Abraham and Lillian Turk Recuperative Care Center in Escondido, which opened in May 2022.

\$8 million in capital funding would serve as seed capital and would be matched with additional capital contributions from private foundations and philanthropies. Additionally, a 100-bed recuperative care facility could leverage over \$35 million in operational funding from the hospitals, managed care plans, and the VA over a five-year period to expand our regional homeless response system.

Program evaluations of recuperative care have shown a 28% reduction in hospital days for chronically homeless individuals, a 59% reduction in health care costs, and an estimated savings of \$20 million to the healthcare system over a year.

**Funding:** \$8 million in one-time capital funding.

**4. Expanding the County of San Diego's Public Behavioral Health Workforce**

**Program:** Allocate \$24 million to support investments towards enhancing and expanding the public behavioral health workforce across the county. This investment would offer financial incentives to individuals and community-based providers to participate in the delivery of care

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within public behavioral health and create high-quality jobs. This proposal aims to address the behavioral health workforce shortage through investments that (1) support the training, education, recruitment and retention of public behavioral health staff, including better pay, more voice in the workplace, and tuition assistance, and other incentives, and (2) expand the pool of organizations equipped to provide behavioral health care within the public behavioral health system, including training and technical assistance for diverse community-based organizations to participate in the provision of Medi-Cal funded behavioral health services, broadening the diversity and array of providers equipped to provide mental health and substance use care and support services.

The program will establish a regional workforce training fund to support recruitment, training, and education systems for workers, inclusive of scholarships, stipends, in-school support, loan forgiveness, and other incentives for public service. It will also help diverse community-based organizations participate in providing Medi-Cal funded behavioral health services by investing in training and technical assistance. This would increase diversity and representation among behavioral health providers. Grant funding may include, but is not limited to, assisting providers in establishing essential administrative capacity, clinical expertise, electronic health record capability, financial planning capability, training, and other key functions to successfully work within public insurance.

It's critical that this program create pathways to high-quality jobs and create incentives for the industry employers to offer good jobs that treat employees well, rather than subsidizing training for bad employers who don't prioritize workforce investments or fair wages and drive a race to the bottom. Instead, the program should create pathways to high-quality jobs and careers in the behavioral health industry and create incentives for employers who offer good jobs and treat employees well to partner with the program. Thus, these efforts will be designed in consultation and collaboration with local and statewide healthcare workforce unions and other key stakeholders, to ensure the program best meets the needs of workers, uses incentives to make workplaces more worker friendly, and supports the expansion of an organized healthcare workforce.

There are existing models throughout California of public sector focused workforce training that draw on partnerships between healthcare providers, local government, and unionized healthcare professionals and labor partners. This behavioral health workforce program will build on best practices of existing models. One approach was successfully modeled by Kaiser Permanente and SEIU-UHW, who partnered to launch a nonprofit, Futuro-Health, to train and place 10,000 new healthcare workers into a unionized healthcare workforce. That model delivers an education-to-work pipeline that supports candidates through career coaching, education financing, and concrete pathways towards credentials and licensure. It's particularly well suited for existing mid-career workers, who are disproportionately women and people of color, who may already be working in related fields, but need practical support to advance their careers into high-quality, well-paying jobs.

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As part of this effort, the Fund will develop options for flexible models similar to the Futuro - Health model to assist greater access to trained behavioral health workers for small and medium sized providers, who typically are not as competitive in wage compensation and benefits. We're looking to replicate the success of the AlliedUP Worker Coop model, which launched a worker cooperative to hire health workers, providing union-scale benefits and compensation, and contract the workers out to the smaller scale community-based providers. This model could also encourage greater diversity, equity, and representation among behavioral healthcare workers, and service providers.

County staff will also explore opportunities to draw additional state and federal funding to support San Diego's behavioral health needs.

**Why:** The County of San Diego has adopted a bold vision for tackling the behavioral health crisis to address the intersection of mental health and addiction treatment and is investing to expand the continuum of services across prevention, treatment, and recovery. Simultaneously, the region is facing a significant behavioral health workforce shortage that continues to impact the ability to recruit and retain a qualified workforce. This challenge is not unique to San Diego but is being felt across the state due to worker burnout, impacts from the pandemic, retirements from the "baby boom" generation, and wage competition from other industries.

A 2022 report titled Addressing San Diego's Behavioral Health Worker Shortage found that the San Diego region is currently 8,000 behavioral health workers short of the estimated 25,000 professionals needed to address growing rates of substance use and psychological distress in our communities. Furthermore, the San Diego region needs to educate, train, attract, employ, and retain 18,500 behavioral health professionals by 2027. This program was developed in response to the workforce shortage report.

The Behavioral Health Workforce Training Fund compliments other actions approved by the Board, including the approval of the first-of-its-kind *Public Behavioral Health Workforce Development and Retention Program* funded through the Mental Health Services Act Innovation funds and approved by the Board on May 2, 2023 (5), and subsequently approved by the Mental Health Oversight and Accountability Commission on June 15, 2023.

**Funding:** \$24 million of County funding and anticipated to leverage with additional funding partners.

**5. Supporting County Workforce Well-Being and Hiring and Retention Goals by Expanding Wellness One-Time Payments**

**Program:** Allocate \$13 million to provide County workforce wellness one-time payments to address the impact of projected increases in healthcare costs and support County employee well-being and hiring and retention goals. Program design, structure, and terms will be designed in

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negotiation with labor organization(s) representing County workers, SEIU-221, during the meet and confer process.

**Why:** The County is facing a rapid increase in healthcare costs for the upcoming Fiscal Year 2024-25 budget year, but the available flex credit resources for County employees is not keeping pace. As a result, these rising healthcare costs are effectively reducing salaries and wages, making it harder to attract, train, recruit and retain an already understaffed workforce. County classified employees represented by SEIU-221 have raised this issue and this program is included to authorize our County labor negotiators to respond to their concerns.

The County has expanded its workforce by 13.5% over the past three years, reflecting the need for more services driven by the COVID-19 pandemic response, changes in state legislation mandating new areas of County work, as well as a deepened commitment to respond to regional challenges around behavioral health and homelessness. The County currently has over 2,000 positions vacant.

**Funding:** \$13 million in one-time funding.

**6. Creating County Employee Workforce Housing**

**Summary:** Allocate funding to find impactful and effective options to support affordable housing opportunities to support the County workforce. This bold step will be the first ever for the County to make investments into workforce affordable housing. As part of this effort, staff should assess a pilot project to develop workforce housing for County employees to support County recruitment and retention goals. Staff would develop employee eligibility criteria that include low-and-moderate income County workers earning up to 120% of the area median income (currently \$126,150 for a family of three), with prioritization of our lowest wage County workers, and prioritization of our hardest to recruit job classifications.

This funding could support predevelopment and site acquisition activities, including identification of suitable County-owned assets, or existing properties suitable for acquisition and rehabilitation. We should prioritize sites near major County employment centers and in places with access to transit and where density bonus programs create development incentives.

To ensure these investments best meet the needs of our workforce, projects will be co-created with significant engagement from potentially eligible employees and employee-bargaining groups. Project concept and design parameters, including site locations and unit specifications and design, will be developed based on robust feedback and engagement from the San Diego County labor unions representing County employees who would be eligible for participation in the Workforce Housing Program, as well as County Employee Groups.

As part of this effort, staff should report back with any legislative changes may be needed to effectuate such pilot programs.

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County staff may potentially issue a Request for Statement of Qualification (RFSQ) to identify potential development partners to support this effort, including assisting staff with predevelopment and development activities and pursuing additional funding sources, including but not limited to state tax credits, tax-exempt bonds, and philanthropic funding to support construction and permanent financing. The RFSQ should include priorities for “speed to market”, which would incentivize faster build times and encourage innovations such as the use of prefabricated construction techniques.

**Why:** Across the state, high housing costs are hitting public employees hard, leading to staffing shortages in essential fields and challenges with recruitment and retention. The County has expanded its workforce by 13.5% in the past three years and currently has over 2,000 unfilled positions, such as probation officers, psychiatric nurses, licensed mental health clinicians, and child welfare specialists. Other public agencies, such as San Diego Unified, Alpine School District, and Chula Vista Elementary School District, are developing workforce housing to support recruitment and retention.

**Funding:** At least \$7.6 million but up to \$25 million if additional funding resources can be identified. These funds support predevelopment and site acquisition activities and are anticipated to be leveraged by additional funding sources such as philanthropic impact investments, bonds, and tax credits.

**7. Advancing Economic Prosperity, Climate Justice, and Small Businesses by Growing the Green Economy**

**Summary:** Launch two programs to accelerate economic prosperity, support small businesses, and drive inclusive regional growth in the green economy by securing more federal resources, creating high-quality green jobs, and advancing the County’s climate justice, sustainability and decarbonization efforts.

- Economic Prosperity and Climate Justice Matching Flex Fund – Create a regional matching fund to provide a source of local dollars needed to secure state and federal economic development, infrastructure, and climate justice grants. Matching dollars are the biggest challenge for local entities and prevent our communities from maximizing our fair share of the billions in federal grant resources. This effort should include consideration for preferences for projects and programs that support union-apprenticeships within green economy sectors. Staff would also develop key outcomes and performance metrics to assess the impact of this fund.
- Green Jobs and Cleantech Small Business Fund – Collaborate with industry organizations and academic institutions to create a Green Jobs and Cleantech Small Business Fund to provide small business loans and technical assistance to support the growth of local starts-ups and small businesses in the green economy. County staff should identify potential partners to administer the fund, seeking opportunities to leverage expertise in the following: San Diego cleantech industry, loan fund administration, and additional sources of funding to create a larger impact. Loan funds would be repaid over time to



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allow for a return on County investment. A key part of this effort will be to ensure the creation of high-quality job standards, inclusive access to these jobs to encourage diverse representation, especially among populations that are historically underrepresented in the technology sector. Thus, this effort should include consideration for preferences for projects and programs that support union-apprenticeships within green economy sectors. Staff would also develop key outcomes and performance metrics to assess the impact of this fund.

**Why:** The Board has taken bold action to advance economic prosperity, climate justice, quality of life, and regional competitiveness in the world economy. The green economy is poised for major growth in the coming years with hundreds of billions in federal investments coming and the San Diego region is well-positioned to capture the growth of this sector to drive inclusive economic prosperity and support sustainability efforts. Chairwoman Nora Vargas championed the creation of a new office to advance Economic Prosperity, which completed the region's first Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy in 2022. This allows the County and regional partners greater access to billions of dollars in federal funding from the Economic Development Agency, typically with a 20-50% local match requirement to draw down these grants.

The County has also taken strong climate action and commissioned a groundbreaking regional decarbonization study that anticipates nearly 10,000 local jobs in the green economy to be created by 2030. However, a key missing ingredient has been access to capital for small businesses to incubate and accelerate the growth of these green technologies to drive good jobs.

Los Angeles County faced a similar challenge and launched the Los Angeles Cleantech Incubator in 2011, a collaboration between the City and County of Los Angeles, Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, CARB, California Energy Commission, Workforce Development Board, US Department of Energy, and Southern California Edison, and the Wells Fargo Foundation. They launched a \$6 million Cleantech Debt Fund to provide small business loans of \$25,000 to \$250,000 to 100 small businesses to help scale up their operations and support high-quality job creation.

**Funding:** \$14 million in one-time capital, the loan fund portion would be revolving and be repaid back to the County to support additional programs.

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PROSPERITY

**LINKAGE TO THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO STRATEGIC PLAN**

Today's actions align with the County of San Diego's 2024 – 2029 Strategic Plan initiatives of Sustainability (Climate), Equity (Health, Housing, Economic Opportunity), Empower (Workforce), Community (Safety, Quality of Life), and Justice (Safety, Restorative) by ensuring public funds are maximized and continue to focus on the strategic goals of the Board of Supervisors around housing, homelessness, behavioral health, sustainability, economic prosperity, and workforce empowerment.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Terra Lawson-Remer', is positioned above the printed name.

TERRA LAWSON-REMER  
Supervisor, Third District

**ATTACHMENT(S)**  
N/A



# **TERRA LAWSON-REMER**

## **VICE-CHAIR**

**SUPERVISOR, THIRD DISTRICT  
SAN DIEGO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

### **AGENDA ITEM**

**DATE: January 23, 2024**

**14**

**TO: Board of Supervisors**

#### **SUBJECT**

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF PROPOSITION 1, REBUILDING CALIFORNIA'S  
MENTAL HEALTH SYSTEM (DISTRICTS: ALL)**

#### **OVERVIEW**

Mental illness affects 1 in 5 people in the United States. Without treatment, individuals with severe mental illness and co-occurring substance abuse are more susceptible to becoming unemployed, homeless, inappropriately incarcerated, and experiencing poor quality of life. Some of the most severe cases of mental illness can result in suicide or death.

Locally, in San Diego County, overdose deaths rose and nearly doubled over a four-year stretch between 2018 and 2022. These statistics reflect a system that doesn't respond to the needs of our residents, until they are in crisis. Over the last three years, the County has taken unprecedented action to invest in behavioral health staffing, prevention, diversion, and long-term community support for our most vulnerable, but we need more resources to help unwind the decades of poor decision-making regarding mental health, substance abuse, and homelessness.

In decades past, California shut down many state hospitals for people with severe mental health challenges without adequately funding community-based services to serve these individuals. For the first time in decades, with Proposition 1 "Treatment not Tents," Californians will have a direct line to transform and rebuild our mental health system and modernize programs to meet the needs of our communities.

If passed, Proposition 1 "Treatment not Tents," will refocus billions of dollars in existing funds to prioritize individuals that have the greatest mental health needs, are living in encampments, or suffering from substance abuse issues. It will help to build 11,150 new treatment beds and supportive housing, create 26,700 outpatient treatment slots, and set aside \$1 billion for veteran housing along with recruiting and training of 65,000 mental health workers.

#### **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

**SUBJECT: RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF PROPOSITION 1, REBUILDING CALIFORNIA'S MENTAL HEALTH SYSTEM (DISTRICTS: ALL)**

**VICE-CHAIR TERRA LAWSON-REMER**

1. Adopt the Resolution titled: A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO IN SUPPORT OF PROPOSITION 1, REBUILDING CALIFORNIA'S MENTAL HEALTH SYSTEM

**EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

Since 2021 County of San Diego has taken a proactive approach to address the behavioral health needs of our communities, especially our most vulnerable populations including youth, seniors and people experiencing homelessness. We have launched Countywide Clinician-led Mobile Crisis Response Teams and doubled our County Crisis Stabilization Units. On October 1, 2023, San Diego County became one of seven Cohort One counties to implement the CARE Act, which provides community-based behavioral health services and supports to Californians living with untreated schizophrenia spectrum or other psychotic disorders through a new civil court process. By January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025, we must launch SB43 reforms to conservatorship. All these efforts aim to serve and protect our most vulnerable communities. The passage of Prop 1 will help ensure we have the resources and infrastructure to implement these programs effectively and care for our communities.

**SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

The proposed item contributes to the County of San Diego's Sustainability Goals by prioritizing the long-term health, safety, and well-being of San Diego residents through support for actions that will help get mental health services to those that need them.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

There are no fiscal impacts associated with today's recommendations. There will be no change in General Fund costs and no additional staff years.

**BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT**

N/A

**ADVISORY BOARD STATEMENT**

N/A

**BACKGROUND**

Millions of people in the United States are impacted by mental illness every single year and approximately 1 in 5 individuals will experience mental illness in their lifetime. Yet, over half of those individuals go untreated. Without treatment, individuals with severe mental illness and co-occurring substance abuse are more susceptible to becoming unemployed, homeless, inappropriately incarcerated, and experiencing poor quality of life. Some of the most severe cases of mental illness can result in suicide or death.

San Diego County is experiencing a homelessness crisis and roughly 40% of this unhoused population is experiencing some type of mental health illness. For individuals who do not have resources or access to care, the impacts can be staggering. Many fall into cycles of going untreated. In addition, decades of inaction led to overdose deaths nearly doubling over a 4-year stretch between 2018 and 2022.

**SUBJECT: RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF PROPOSITION 1, REBUILDING CALIFORNIA'S MENTAL HEALTH SYSTEM (DISTRICTS: ALL)**

These statistics reflect a system that doesn't respond to the needs of our community, until it is in crisis. It is imperative that the County support long-term solutions moving from a crisis model to care. Instead of waiting for individuals to become ill, it should work toward front end services that meet people where they are at, and get people help before their health issues have exacerbated at an extreme cost to both the individual and the taxpayer.

In decades past, California shut down many state hospitals for people with severe mental health challenges without adequately funding community-based services to serve these individuals. For the first time in decades, Californians will have a direct opportunity to transform and rebuild our mental health system and modernize programs to meet the needs of our communities. If passed, Proposition 1 "Treatment not Tents," will refocus billions of dollars in existing funds to prioritize individuals that have the greatest mental health needs, are living in encampments, or suffering from substance abuse issues. It will help to build 11,150 new treatment beds and supportive housing, create 26,700 outpatient treatment slots, and set aside \$1 billion for veteran housing along with recruiting and training of 65,000 mental health workers.

The item today supports action to take critical steps in mitigating the mental health crisis, investing in community services, getting homeless individuals off the streets, and supporting our mental and behavioral healthcare workers.

**LINKAGE TO THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO STRATEGIC PLAN**

Today's proposed action to adopt a resolution in support of a California State behavioral health bond reform measure support the Equity, Empower, and Community Strategic Initiatives within the County of San Diego's 2024-2029 Strategic Plan by working to expand community care, reforming the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) to include funding for mental health and addiction services, and help to fund behavioral health workforce development.

Respectfully submitted,



TERRA LAWSON-REMER  
Supervisor, Third District

**ATTACHMENT(S)**

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO IN SUPPORT OF PROPOSITION 1, REBUILDING CALIFORNIA'S MENTAL HEALTH SYSTEM

Resolution No.:

Meeting Date: 1-23-2024

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO IN  
SUPPORT OF PROPOSITION 1, REBUILDING CALIFORNIA'S MENTAL HEALTH SYSTEM

WHEREAS, Mental illness affects 1 in 5 individuals in the United States and without treatment individuals can experience debilitating impacts such as unemployment, substance abuse, homelessness, inappropriate incarceration, and poor quality of life; and

WHEREAS, San Diego County has one of the largest homeless populations in the United States, with approximately 40% of unhoused individuals experiencing mental health illnesses. For those that don't have access to care, the impacts can be staggering; and

WHEREAS, in San Diego County, overdose deaths rose and nearly doubled over a 4-year stretch between 2018 and 2022; and

WHEREAS, these statistics reflect a system that doesn't respond to the needs of our community, until it's in crisis; and

WHEREAS, over the last three years the County of San Diego has taken unprecedented action to invest in behavioral health staffing, prevention, diversion, and long-term community support for the most vulnerable, but the County needs more resources to help unwind decades of poor decision-making regarding mental health, substance abuse and homelessness; and

WHEREAS, it's imperative that the County continue to support long-term solutions moving from a crisis model to patient centered care model. Instead of waiting for individuals to become ill, it should work toward front end services that meet people where they are at; and

WHEREAS, Californians will have a direct opportunity to transform and rebuild our mental health system and modernize programs to meet the needs of our communities; and

WHEREAS, California's Proposition 1 "Treatment not Tents," will refocus billions of dollars to prioritize individuals that have the greatest mental health needs, are living in encampments or suffering from substance abuse issues; and

WHEREAS, infrastructure such as 11,150 new treatment beds and supportive housing, create 26,700 outpatient treatment slots, and \$1 billion for veteran housing will be set aside, along with recruiting and training of 65,000 mental health workers;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the County of San Diego supports Proposition 1, "Treatment not Tents," aiming to rebuild California's mental health system.

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY  
Claudia G. Silva, County Counsel  
BY: Caitlin Rae, Assistant County Counsel





# COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

## BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

1600 PACIFIC HIGHWAY, ROOM 335, SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA 92101-2470

### AGENDA ITEM

**DATE:** January 30, 2024

**01**

**TO:** Board of Supervisors

#### **SUBJECT**

**COMMUNITY RESPONSE AND RECOVERY; AN URGENCY ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO EXERCISING THE COUNTY'S POLICE POWER TO PROHIBIT RESIDENTIAL EVICTIONS WITHOUT JUST CAUSE AND TO ENACT A DELAY ON CERTAIN RESIDENTIAL RENT INCREASES; FEE WAIVERS; CONTRACT AMENDMENTS (DISTRICTS: ALL)**

#### **OVERVIEW**

On January 22, 2024, San Diego County experienced the heaviest rainfall in a single day in over one hundred years. As the rain subsided, our communities were left with significant damage.

One of the biggest responsibilities we have as local governments is to protect the health and safety of our community members. In the San Diego region, we have worked to strengthen the partnerships across federal, state and local agencies, and with non-profit and private sectors to come together in times of emergencies. Our first responders, public servants and volunteers who work tirelessly during the diversity of emergencies we have faced in our region are a testament to our County of San Diego (County) Motto: The Noblest Motive is the Public Good. But more can be done to support them in their efforts. According to FEMA, there are four phases to emergency management: mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery.

Mitigation involves the type of activity that can be taken to prevent future emergencies or minimize their effects. This can include activities that prevent an emergency, reduce the chance of an emergency happening, or reduce the damaging effects of unavoidable emergencies. Mitigation activities take place before and after emergencies occur.

Preparedness is about how we prepare to handle an emergency. This includes plans or preparations made to save lives and to help response and rescue operations such as evacuation plans and stocking food and water. Preparedness activities take place before an emergency occurs.

**SUBJECT: COMMUNITY RESPONSE AND RECOVERY; AN URGENCY ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO EXERCISING THE COUNTY’S POLICE POWER TO PROHIBIT RESIDENTIAL EVICTIONS WITHOUT JUST CAUSE AND TO ENACT A DELAY ON CERTAIN RESIDENTIAL RENT INCREASES; FEE WAIVERS; CONTRACT AMENDMENTS (DISTRICTS: ALL)**

Response includes actions taken to save lives and prevent further property damage in an emergency situation. It is about putting the preparedness plans into action. Response activities take place during an emergency.

Recovery from an emergency includes actions taken to return to a normal or even safer situation following an emergency. It includes obtaining resources needed to help rebuild and restore a community.

To successfully navigate these four phases, also referred to as the life cycle of an emergency, we must know and understand the unique needs of our communities during each phase. This can be achieved by partnering with trusted community partners, conducting trainings in threshold languages, increasing Community Emergency Response Teams, and completing Emergency Plans for communities, families, and individuals.

Additionally, planning for the Recovery phase of an emergency cannot wait until after the Response phase. Protocols and plans for Recovery should be in place and activated at the same time the Response is occurring so that the Recovery phase can begin immediately based on the needs of the community and the type of emergency. It could mean providing for housing or standing up Local Assistance Centers within the first 24 hours of an emergency.

Today’s recommendations seek to help with both the immediate need in aftermath of the most recent catastrophic atmospheric river, as well as ensure the resiliency of our communities for the future.

## **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

### **CHAIRWOMAN VARGAS AND SUPERVISOR MONTGOMERY STEPPE**

1. In accordance with Board Policy A-87, Competitive Procurement, and Administrative Code Section 401, authorize the Director, Department of Purchasing and Contracting, subject to successful negotiations and a determination of a fair and reasonable price, to amend the contracts’ terms to expand services, subject to the availability of funds; and amend the contracts as required in order to reflect changes to services and funding allocations, subject to the approval of the Director of the Office Emergency Services and Interim Director of the Health and Human Services Agency.
  - a. Arbor E&T, LLC dba Equus Workforce Solutions (Contract #564750)
  - b. Legal Aid Society of San Diego Inc. (Contract #567549)
  - c. Hagerty Consulting, Inc. (Contract #564118)
2. Adopt the Ordinance:

**AN URGENCY ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE  
COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO EXERCISING THE COUNTY’S POLICE POWER TO**

**SUBJECT:** COMMUNITY RESPONSE AND RECOVERY; AN URGENCY ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO EXERCISING THE COUNTY’S POLICE POWER TO PROHIBIT RESIDENTIAL EVICTIONS WITHOUT JUST CAUSE AND TO ENACT A DELAY ON CERTAIN RESIDENTIAL RENT INCREASES; FEE WAIVERS; CONTRACT AMENDMENTS (DISTRICTS: ALL)

PROHIBIT RESIDENTIAL EVICTIONS WITHOUT JUST CAUSE AND TO ENACT A DELAY ON CERTAIN RESIDENTIAL RENT INCREASES (4 VOTES)

3. Direct the Interim Chief Administrative Officer to work with community stakeholders to develop a plan to avoid unjust evictions and/or provide rental or other assistance to those affected by the storm. A plan may include an additional ordinance to protect unjust evictions on a case-by-case basis as well as other possibilities.
4. Waive Board Policy B-29, Fees, Grants, Revenue Contracts – Department Responsibility for Cost Recovery, for the waiver of plan check, building, septic system and water well permit fees for homes and plan check fees for hazmat or restaurant businesses affected by the catastrophic storm event for a five-year trial period commencing January 31, 2024 until January 31, 2029. During this five-year trial, fees would be waived provided there is sufficient funding remaining to cover the fees charged. Once funding has been used the fees would no longer be waived.
5. Authorize the Director of Environmental Health and Quality to waive the fee required for hazmat facilities impacted by the catastrophic storm event for hazardous materials non-notification.
6. Authorize the Director of Planning & Development Services (PDS) to work with the Office of Emergency Services (OES) and the Office of Evaluation, Performance and Analytics (OEPA) and other entities as needed to finalize the map to be used to determine the exact boundaries of the geographic areas eligible for the fee waivers based on the data collected during the emergency response effort for the 2024 catastrophic storm event.
7. Adopt a resolution entitled:

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO DECLARING THE REBUILDING OF STRUCTURES IN THE UNINCORPORATED AREA DAMAGED BY JANUARY 2024 CATASTROPHIC STORM EVENT TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR PERMIT FEE WAIVERS.

8. Direct the Interim Chief Administrative Officer to assess and report back within 60 days on what more can be done to strengthen our regional capabilities in the four phases of emergency management, including but not limited to resources needed to establish a Recovery division in the County’s Office of Emergency Services,

**SUBJECT:** COMMUNITY RESPONSE AND RECOVERY; AN URGENCY ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO EXERCISING THE COUNTY’S POLICE POWER TO PROHIBIT RESIDENTIAL EVICTIONS WITHOUT JUST CAUSE AND TO ENACT A DELAY ON CERTAIN RESIDENTIAL RENT INCREASES; FEE WAIVERS; CONTRACT AMENDMENTS (DISTRICTS: ALL)

9. Convene community outreach meetings to understand the needs of our diverse communities during emergencies and throughout the recovery so that their input can be incorporated into the assessment.
10. Revise the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Framework to reallocate \$10 million of the Evergreen component of the ARPA Framework to make funding available to meet the emergency caused by the severe atmospheric river resulting in conditions of extreme peril to the safety of persons and properties as described in the proclamation ratified by the Board of Supervisors on January 24, 2024 (8).
11. Direct the Interim Chief Administrative Officer to utilize a lost revenue strategy under the final ARPA guidance based on previously allocated General Purpose Revenue, which includes the following actions:
  - a. Transfer revenue of \$10 million from Finance Other, Intergovernmental Revenue to the Public Defender based on ARPA revenue to replace previously allocated General Purpose Revenue and;
  - b. Transfer appropriations of \$10 million from Finance Other, Other Charges to Office of Emergency Services, Services and Supplies, to fund immediate relief for those impacted by the emergency based on General Purpose Revenue.
12. Authorize the Interim Chief Administrative Officer or designee(s) to seek reimbursement from federal, State, or other possible resources, for funds expended by the County for emergency relief in the region.
13. Direct the Interim Chief Administrative Officer to have all County departments continually assess opportunities to assist the community as they recover from this storm, and to come back to the Board for additional action on any items identified.

#### **EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

The consequences of years of inequitable community investments become starkly apparent during natural disasters, disproportionately affecting communities of color and low income. When disasters strike, these underfunded communities face disastrous outcomes, exacerbating the already existing disparities. To combat the lack of resources and preparedness that significantly amplifies the impact on residents, compounding the challenges they face during and after natural disasters, we will take a whole community approach in emergency management.

#### **SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

A critical component to the sustainability of the region is resiliency, as outlined in the County’s Strategic Plan. The ability to respond to, and recover from, disasters is essential. Repairs of needed infrastructure such as homes and roads are essential, as well financial security for those who

**SUBJECT:** COMMUNITY RESPONSE AND RECOVERY; AN URGENCY ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO EXERCISING THE COUNTY’S POLICE POWER TO PROHIBIT RESIDENTIAL EVICTIONS WITHOUT JUST CAUSE AND TO ENACT A DELAY ON CERTAIN RESIDENTIAL RENT INCREASES; FEE WAIVERS; CONTRACT AMENDMENTS (DISTRICTS: ALL)

experience loss. Today’s actions support immediate assistance and long-term planning to ensure the viability of our communities as future storms are inevitable due to climate change.

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

Funds associated with this request are included in the Fiscal Year 2023-24 Operational Plan. If approved, this request will result in one-time costs of up to \$10 million to fund immediate relief for those impacted by the emergency. The funding source will be General Purpose Revenue. \$10 million of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds allocated to the Evergreen component of the ARPA Framework will be recognized as lost revenue and redirected to the Public Defender to replace previously allocated General Purpose Revenue, which will in turn be available for the Office of Emergency Services. Staff will return to the Board as needed with recommendations to transfer these appropriations to other County departments from the Office of Emergency Services based on needs of the community. There will be no change in net General Fund cost and no additional staff years. This action will impact the amount of remaining balance of the Evergreen Fund, for which the Board directed, on January 9, 2024 (12), the CAO to return with recommendations.

### **BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT**

N/A

### **ADVISORY BOARD STATEMENT**

N/A

### **BACKGROUND**

On January 22, 2024, San Diego County experienced the heaviest rainfall in a single day in over one hundred years. Our region experienced three inches of rainfall in just three hours, which resulted in an overwhelming of our existing stormwater infrastructure. According to the National Weather Service, the intensity of downpour was “double what was expected.” On that day, the Interim Chief Administrative Office Proclaimed a Local State of Emergency, which was ratified by the Board of Supervisors on January 24. Additionally, Governor Newsom issued an emergency proclamation for our region on January 23.

As the rain subsided, our communities were left with significant damage. More than 300 people reported significant damage and dozens of vehicles were destroyed by the deluge. Mud and other debris inundated neighborhoods and roadways. The County of San Diego’s (County) online damage reporting tool received nearly 2,800 submissions and that number continues to grow. From these reports, it is evident that much of the storm’s impact was centered on some of our most vulnerable communities where the overwhelming majority of residents do not hold flood insurance policies.

**SUBJECT:** COMMUNITY RESPONSE AND RECOVERY; AN URGENCY ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO EXERCISING THE COUNTY'S POLICE POWER TO PROHIBIT RESIDENTIAL EVICTIONS WITHOUT JUST CAUSE AND TO ENACT A DELAY ON CERTAIN RESIDENTIAL RENT INCREASES; FEE WAIVERS; CONTRACT AMENDMENTS (DISTRICTS: ALL)

Many residents of District 1 and District 4 were severely impacted, but there were reports of damage across the region in every Supervisorial district. Many residences and cars were flooded, cars were carried away by the flooding, and residents were displaced due to the destruction.

Both districts represent communities of color, who historically have been impacted by systemic inequitable policies. In 2021, the County's Supervisorial District Demographic Profiles showed 61.1% of District 1 residents were Hispanic, 5.8% Black, and 11.4% Asian. District 4's residents were 33.6% Hispanic, 8.9% Black, and 18.5% Asian. Furthermore, of majority percentage of residents had a household income of under \$35,000. When compared to the other Supervisorial Districts within the County, residents of Districts 1 and 4 have a disproportionately lower median household income compared to their counterparts.

As County staff continue to work with impacted communities by removing debris and assisting those who have been displaced with finding vital resources at this difficult time, it is clear more needs to be done to help put our communities back together.

Today's recommended actions, detailed below, address the primary areas of need facing the communities hit hardest by this catastrophic atmospheric river. As more continuous days of rain are forecasted this week, it is critical we fill the duty we have to keep our residents safe and resilient.

### **Housing Options**

Natural disasters have the potential to occur at any time and may displace a segment of population from their homes. Although local governments and non-governmental organization have plans in place to assist people during an emergency, there can be an additional need to shelter households impacted by the storm in non-congregate sheltering options. To meet the anticipated increased sheltering need, the County seeks to work with a contractor Arbor E&T (Contract 564750) to provide non-congregate sheltering to impacted households and case management services to assist households in the program with connections to available resources. The program is anticipated to provide qualified households with non-congregate sheltering for 30 days while case managers work with the households to connect them to available resources. Any extensions beyond 30 days will be evaluated based on the very specific household circumstances. If approved by the Board, this program will serve impacted households whose home experienced major damage and is not habitable, and who are not currently receiving temporary housing through other sources such as homeowners or renters' insurance and are in need of temporary housing while their home is restored and able to be safely habitable again. The County will work with Hagerty Consulting, Inc., recognized experts in the field of disaster recovery, in order to maximize efficiencies and opportunities for cost recovery when implementing the program.

**SUBJECT:** COMMUNITY RESPONSE AND RECOVERY; AN URGENCY ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO EXERCISING THE COUNTY’S POLICE POWER TO PROHIBIT RESIDENTIAL EVICTIONS WITHOUT JUST CAUSE AND TO ENACT A DELAY ON CERTAIN RESIDENTIAL RENT INCREASES; FEE WAIVERS; CONTRACT AMENDMENTS (DISTRICTS: ALL)

### **Protecting People from Predatory Evictions**

Numerous residents affected by the flooding have reported their landlords have failed to make necessary repairs to make their housing meet basic requirements of habitability, have demanded full rent despite uninhabitable conditions, and have evicted or threatened to evict tenants who clearly suffered economic hardship because of the storm damage. In one example reported by local media, tenants at an apartment complex were given 10-days’ notice to relocate and informing them that relocation expenses would only be paid through the end of January, after which point their leases would be cancelled.

Economic hardship caused by the storm may result from property damage, the need to take time off from work to address property damage and engage in property cleanup, the inability to get through flooded streets to get to work, and a variety of other negative effects from flooding. Tenants faced with the economic hardships resulting from the storm are less able to pay rent than normal, exposing them to risk of eviction as a consequence of the flooding and its devastating effect on the local economy.

For these reasons, it is necessary for a brief and limited period of time to provide protection to those tenants in areas devastated by the storm by proscribing evictions that exacerbate their economic hardship. Without sufficient eviction protections, many tenants “self-evict” and move out even without adequate replacement housing, rather than face an eviction that could impact their ability to find new housing.

Proposed is a temporary 60-day restriction on evictions and delay in rent increases that is limited only to those areas most affected by the catastrophic atmospheric river, and to tenants who have suffered economic loss as a result of the catastrophic atmospheric river. Residents living in the specific zip codes will not have to worry about losing their lease or being evicted as they repair their lives and their homes during this stressful and difficult time. Understanding that repairs take time, we also need longer term solutions for tenants who may face difficult situations in the future and plans to dissuade predatory landlords from taking advantage of their tenants. Also proposed is for the County amend its contract with Legal Aid Society of San Diego to expand outreach and legal services for tenants struggling with their landlords over repairs, relocation assistance, rent payments or anything else related to damage caused by the catastrophic atmospheric river.

To ensure long term stability for tenants, it is proposed the Interim Chief Administrative Officer work with community stakeholders to develop a plan to avoid unjust evictions and/or provide rental or other assistance to those adversely affected by the storm. That plan may include an additional ordinance to protect unjust evictions on a case-by-case basis as well as other possibilities.



**SUBJECT:** COMMUNITY RESPONSE AND RECOVERY; AN URGENCY ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO EXERCISING THE COUNTY’S POLICE POWER TO PROHIBIT RESIDENTIAL EVICTIONS WITHOUT JUST CAUSE AND TO ENACT A DELAY ON CERTAIN RESIDENTIAL RENT INCREASES; FEE WAIVERS; CONTRACT AMENDMENTS (DISTRICTS: ALL)

### **Fee Waivers**

#### Funding of Existing Planning & Development Services (PDS) Fee Waivers for Minor Construction Homeowner Relief Act (HRA) in the Unincorporated Area

The County has an existing fee waiver program called the Homeowner Relief Act (HRA) that waives permit costs for many of the repairs needed for most water damage. This includes permit costs for water heater replacements, drywall replacement, exterior siding or plastering, and other related items. HRA is an existing Board directed program that began in 1995. This program does not require further Board direction but would require additional funding. Program funds have been expended and additional funding would be needed to cover the costs of additional waivers related to the flooding event.

#### Establishment of a New PDS Fee Waiver Program for Major Repairs and Rebuilds

There will likely be damage to homes and businesses that is not covered under HRA, such as structural impacts, substantial damage to retaining walls not covered under the HRA, or more significant damage. The number of buildings that must be rebuilt is likely considerably lower than the number that will need to be remediated or repaired based on the nature of the flood damage and early field assessments. However, there are some homes and businesses that will sustain substantial enough damage to require complete demolition and reconstruction. To waive fees in those cases, it would require Board direction to establish a new fee waiver program in PDS flood victims for this purpose.

More minor repairs under HRA are likely to occur sooner than full rebuilds. If authorized, the new fee waiver program for Major Repairs and Rebuilds is proposed to last for five (5) years, with allocations to be assessed annually, or at the Board’s discretion, based on demand.

#### Regionwide DEHQ Fee Waivers

There may be residential properties that have damaged or destroyed septic systems or water wells. As part of the rebuilding process, the requested action would provide appropriations to the Department of Environmental Health and Quality (DEHQ) to offer permit fee waivers for disaster survivors who need to repair or remove septic systems or water wells on their property.

Initial damage assessments show there are potentially 14 hazmat facilities and nine food facilities that may have experienced major flood damage resulting from the January 2024 catastrophic atmospheric river and may require DEHQ plan check permit fees to rebuild. Today’s action requests an appropriation to waive associated permit fee waivers to assist these impacted hazmat or food facilities in their recovery process.

DEHQ fee waivers will be provided until the funding for this specific waiver program has been expended.

**SUBJECT:** COMMUNITY RESPONSE AND RECOVERY; AN URGENCY ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO EXERCISING THE COUNTY’S POLICE POWER TO PROHIBIT RESIDENTIAL EVICTIONS WITHOUT JUST CAUSE AND TO ENACT A DELAY ON CERTAIN RESIDENTIAL RENT INCREASES; FEE WAIVERS; CONTRACT AMENDMENTS (DISTRICTS: ALL)

Hazmat facilities are required to notify DEHQ when they have hazardous materials or waste on site and when notification does not occur, DEHQ assesses a fee. The Board is requested to authorize the Director of DEHQ to waive the fee required for hazmat facilities impacted by the catastrophic storm event for hazardous materials non-notification.

#### Other Fee Waivers Countywide

The County Assessor/Recorder/Clerk’s Office also issues Vital Records and reassessment of property damaged by misfortune or calamity. These fees are already waived via the Governor’s declaration of emergency.

#### **The Future of Response/Recovery**

Response includes actions taken to save lives and prevent further property damage in an emergency situation. It is about putting the preparedness plans into action. Response activities take place during an emergency.

Recovery from an emergency includes actions taken to return to a normal or even safer situation following an emergency. It includes obtaining resources needed to help rebuild and restore a community.

To successfully navigate these four phases, also referred to as the life cycle of an emergency, it is imperative for us to know and understand the unique needs of our communities during each phase. This can be achieved by partnering with trusted community partners, conducting trainings in threshold languages, increasing Community Emergency Response Teams, and completing Emergency Plans for communities, families, and individuals.

Additionally, planning for the Recovery phase of an emergency cannot wait until after the Response phase. Protocols and plans for Recovery should be in place and activated at the same time the Response is occurring so that the Recovery phase can begin immediately based on the needs of the community and the type of emergency. It could mean providing for housing or standing up Local Assistance Centers within the first 24 hours of an emergency.

Today’s action directs the Interim Chief Administrative Officer to report to the Board within 60 days with additional actions that can be taken to support these efforts.

#### **Fiscal Actions**

Due to the emergency caused by the catastrophic atmospheric river resulting in conditions of extreme peril to the safety of persons and properties, it is recommended that \$10.0 million of funds allocated to the Evergreen Fund be used to provide emergency relief or to alleviate the immediate negative economic impacts of this natural disaster. The recommendations before the Board make appropriations available to the Office of Emergency Services, Services and

**SUBJECT:** COMMUNITY RESPONSE AND RECOVERY; AN URGENCY ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO EXERCISING THE COUNTY’S POLICE POWER TO PROHIBIT RESIDENTIAL EVICTIONS WITHOUT JUST CAUSE AND TO ENACT A DELAY ON CERTAIN RESIDENTIAL RENT INCREASES; FEE WAIVERS; CONTRACT AMENDMENTS (DISTRICTS: ALL)

Supplies, to fund the immediate actions necessary to meet the community’s needs. Staff will return to the Board as needed with recommendations to transfer these appropriations to other County departments from the Office of Emergency Services based on the needs of the community.

The recommendation before the Board today is to be incorporated into the Evergreen Fund framework when staff returns to the Board. On January 9, 2024 (12), the Board directed the CAO to return on February 27, 2024, with Evergreen Fund recommendations for the remaining balance allocated to the Evergreen Fund. Since this time Board members have provided priorities to the Chief Administrative Officer to consider when formulating options for the full Board’s consideration. Staff are to continue the work related to the January 9, 2024 (12) direction from the Board, and should return to the Board to provide recommendations for the remaining amount allocated to the Evergreen Fund, anticipated to be \$35.6 million if today’s recommendations are approved.

In addition, in order to meet the immediate needs of the community that has been impacted, it is recommended that the Board direct the Chief Administrative Officer to utilize a lost revenue strategy under the final ARPA guidance based on previously allocated General Purpose Revenue. Approval of this action will ensure there is funding available to support our communities through this difficult time. County staff should continue to pursue other funding or reimbursement opportunities that could be used for the current community needs. Other emergency funding sources that need to be explored include all FEMA emergency funding sources and funding through the California Disaster Assistance Act. Additionally, County staff must continue to research and seek out other funding sources to help our community recover.

**SUBJECT:** COMMUNITY RESPONSE AND RECOVERY; AN URGENCY ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO EXERCISING THE COUNTY’S POLICE POWER TO PROHIBIT RESIDENTIAL EVICTIONS WITHOUT JUST CAUSE AND TO ENACT A DELAY ON CERTAIN RESIDENTIAL RENT INCREASES; FEE WAIVERS; CONTRACT AMENDMENTS (DISTRICTS: ALL)

**LINKAGE TO THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO STRATEGIC PLAN**

Today’s proposed actions support the County of San Diego’s 2024-2029 Strategic plan by supporting the Strategic Initiatives of Sustainability and Justice. Sustainability is supported in the area of Resiliency by ensuring the capability to respond and recover to immediate needs for individuals, families, and the region. Justice is supported in the Environmental component by placing an urgent focus on communities of color and low-income communities recognizing they historically lacked the same degree of protection from environmental and health hazards.

Respectfully submitted,



NORA VARGAS  
Chairwoman, First District



MONICA MONTGOMERY STEPPE  
Supervisor, Fourth District

**ATTACHMENT(S)**

Attachment A - AN URGENCY ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO EXERCISING THE COUNTY’S POLICE POWER TO PROHIBIT RESIDENTIAL EVICTIONS WITHOUT JUST CAUSE AND TO ENACT A DELAY ON CERTAIN RESIDENTIAL RENT INCREASES

Attachment B - A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO DECLARING THE REBUILDING OF STRUCTURES IN THE UNINCORPORATED AREA DAMAGED BY JANUARY 2024 CATASTROPHIC STORM EVENT TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR PERMIT FEE WAIVERS.

# Community Response and Recovery

**Special Meeting  
January 30, 2024**



- 
- Map of San Diego County showing precipitation data points for 2015. The map includes major cities like San Diego, Escondido, and Vista, and various parks and wilderness areas. Data points are marked with green circles and labeled with precipitation values in inches. The map also shows major roads like I-5 and I-805.
- Key locations and features labeled on the map include:
- Cities/Towns:** Fallbrook, Vista, Escondido, Encinitas, Solana Beach, La Jolla, San Diego, National City, Chula Vista, Imperial Beach, Tecate.
  - Parks/Wilderness Areas:** Santa Rosa Mountains State Wilderness, Anza-Borrego Desert State Park, Cleveland National Forest, Pine Creek Wilderness, Ocotillo Wells State Vehicular Recreation Area, Sawtooth Mountains Wilderness Area, Carrizo Gorge Wilderness Area, Campo Kumeyaay Nation Meekins Geyser, Olay Mountain Wilderness, Agua Tibia Wilderness, Los Coyotes Cahuilla Cupeno Band, Lipay Nation, El Cajon.
  - Other Features:** Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Ramona, Lakeside, Lemon Grove, Chula Vista, Imperial Beach, Tecate.
- Major roads shown include I-5, I-805, and SR-56.
- 79



# Historic Rain and Flooding Impacts



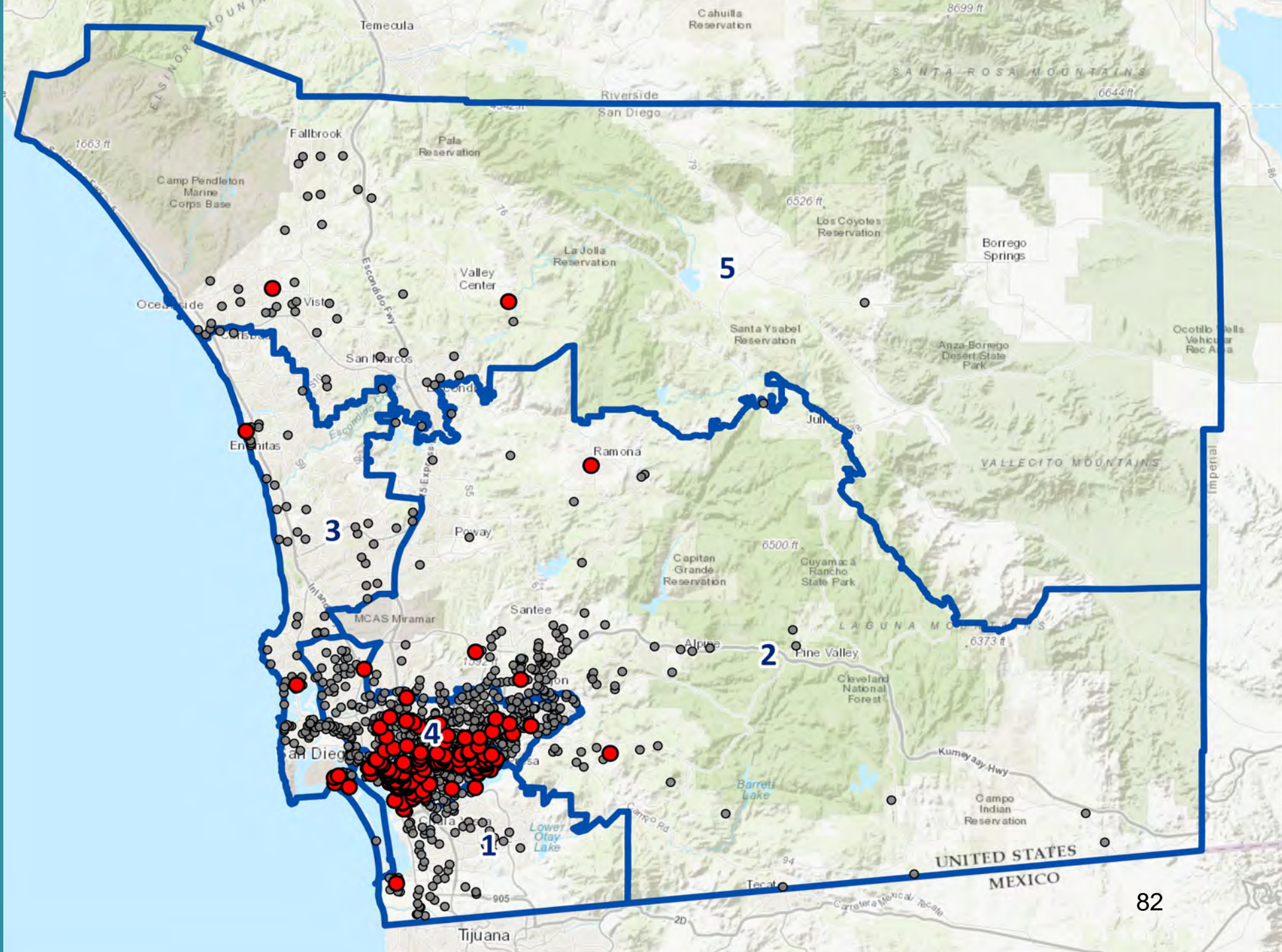


# Historic Rain and Historic Response



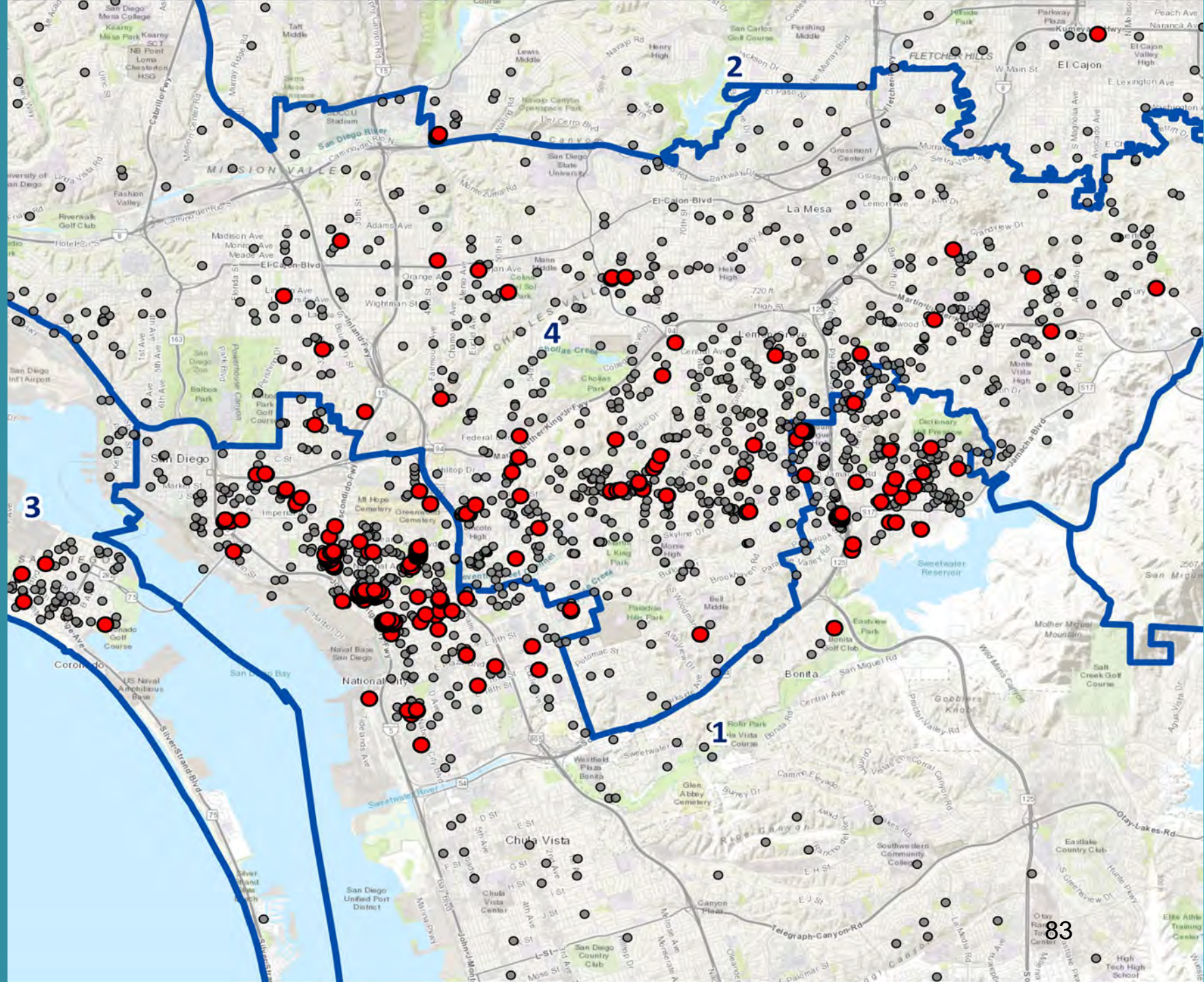


# Areas Impacted with Damage





# Areas Impacted with Damage



# County Response

- **1/22/24** - County's Emergency Operations Center Activated
- **1/22/24** - Issued a Proclamation of Local Emergency
- **1/22/24** - Cities of San Diego and Coronado also Proclaimed Emergency
- **1/23/24** - Governor Proclaimed State of Emergency for San Diego County

## Regional Coordination

- Red Cross Shelter Support
- Daily Coordination Calls with Jurisdictions
- Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster
- 2-1-1 Emergency Activation
- San Diego Foundation Activation





# Snapshot of Impact and Damage



## **Initial Damage Assessment of Public/Municipal Damage:**

- \$90 Million across the Region
- \$4.1 Million for the County of San Diego

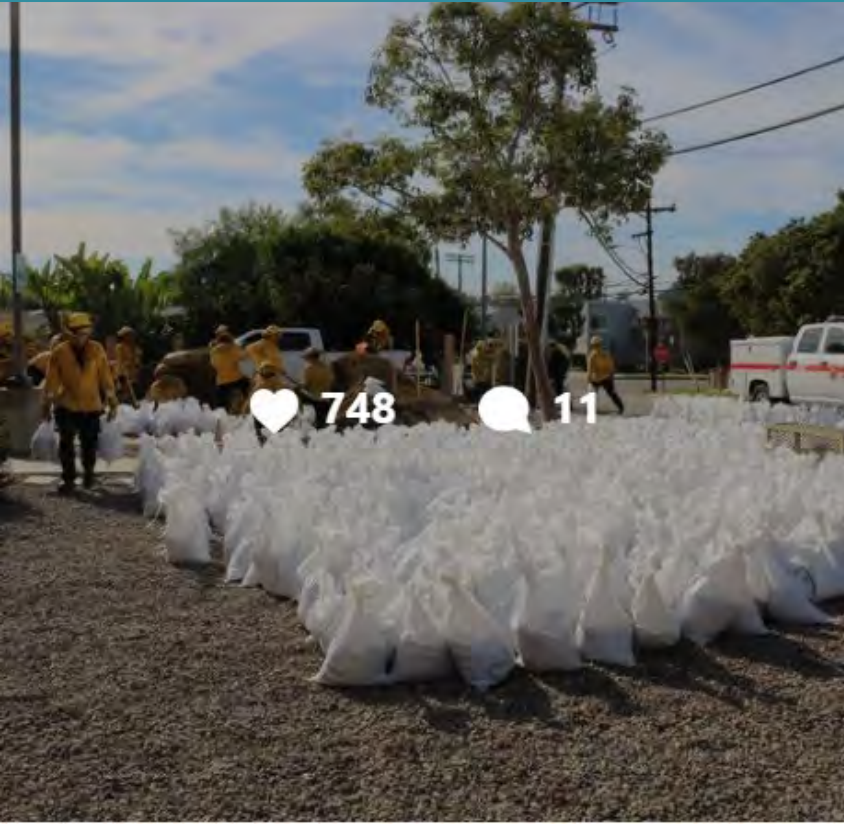
## **Residential Damage:**

- 2,991 residents with self-reported damage, 525 assessed as major damage

## **County Facilities:**

- Department of Public Works: Debris Removal, Drain, Culverts and Sinkholes in Spring Valley and Casa de Oro
- County Facilities: County Administration Center, Hall of Justice and the County Operations Center Crime Lab all had some damage

# Public Communication



- 173 social media posts
- 5 Nextdoor posts
- 18 County News Center stories
- 11 incident updates on Alert San Diego and emergency app
- Alert San Diego website
- 56 translations and interpretations
- 15 Partner Relay messages
- Dozens of media responses
- 4 messages to County employees

# Regional Response to Community

- Live Well on Wheels mobile offices provided outreach and resources to the community at two pop up sites
- Public Health Nurses at shelters
- Public Health Nurses distributed N95 masks, COVID test kits, and naloxone with administration instructions
- County Community Health Workers connected community members with County resources





# Regional Response to the Community

- Contacted more than 53,000 County permitted facilities and community organizations throughout the region; guidance to over 50 businesses with self-reported damages
- Created guidance documents and information resource library on public health topics: flood water safety, mold, safe clean up

# Local Assistance Center

- Spring Valley Library
- 25 government and non-governmental agencies
- 777 Households/2,000 individuals

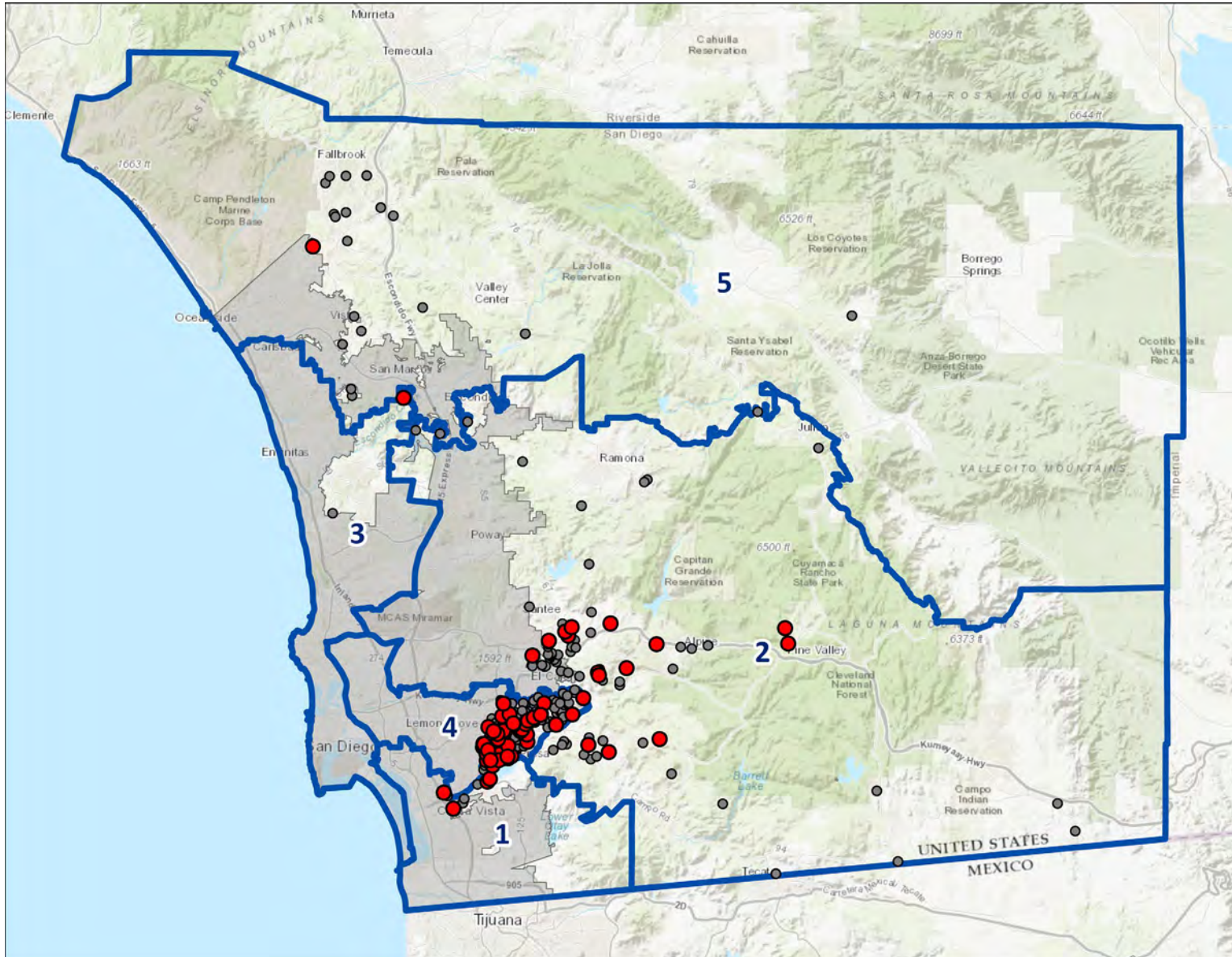


# Requests for State and Federal Assistance

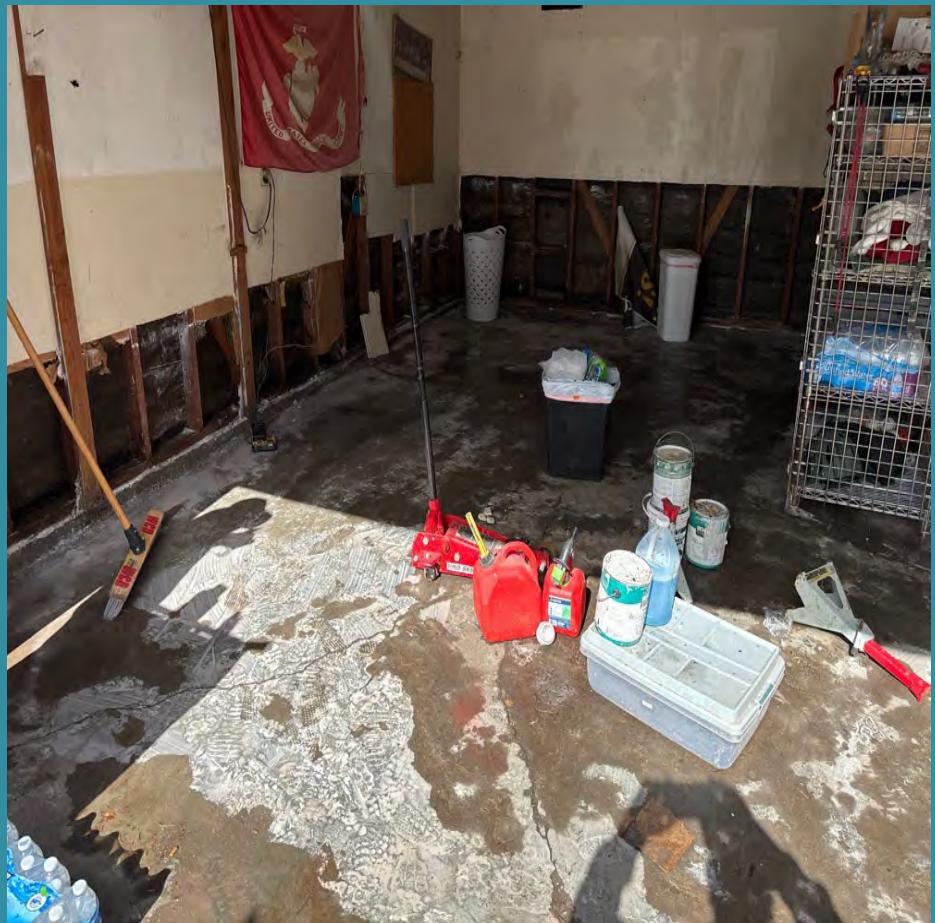
- **California Disaster Assistance Act (CDAA)**
- **Small Business Administration Disaster Declaration (SBA)**
- **Presidential Major Disaster Declaration**
  - Public Assistance
  - Individual Assistance
- **Advocacy Letters**
  - Chairwoman Vargas Presidential Request
  - Interim Chief Administrative Officer Request to Cal OES Director



# Unincorporated Areas Impacted with Damage







# Unincorporated Areas Impacted with Damage: Private Property





# Unincorporated Areas Impacted with Damage: County Roads and Infrastructure





# Unincorporated Areas Impacted with Damage: County Parks





# Unincorporated Areas Impacted with Damage: Agricultural Operations



# Unincorporated Area Response to Community

- Reaching out to Survivors
- Road services
- Vehicle Removals





# Unincorporated Area Response to Community

- County Parks
- Agricultural Operations





# Unincorporated Area Recovery

- Community Outreach
- Debris removal
- Inspecting, cleaning up facilities





# Unincorporated Area Recovery

- Clean up & disposal event in Spring Valley



# Unincorporated Area Preparing for Incoming Storms

- Community Outreach
- Outreach to agricultural operations
- Sandbags





# Unincorporated Area Preparing for Incoming Storms

- Road safety
- Facility preparation



# Community Response and Recovery

**Special Meeting  
January 30, 2024**





# COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

## AGENDA ITEM

### BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

NORA VARGAS  
First District

JOEL ANDERSON  
Second District

TERRA LAWSON-REMER  
Third District

MONICA MONTGOMERY STEPPE  
Fourth District

JIM DESMOND  
Fifth District

**DATE:** February 6, 2024

**01**

**TO:** Board of Supervisors

**SUBJECT:**

**AUTHORIZE ACCEPTANCE OF A GRANT FROM THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSTITUTE BY THE SAN DIEGO COUNTY OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES TO TREAT OPIOID USE DISORDER; ESTABLISH APPROPRIATIONS; EXECUTE CONTRACTS RELATED TO THE GRANT, AND AUTHORIZE COMPETITIVE PROCUREMENTS FOR GRANT IMPLEMENTATION SERVICES (DISTRICTS: ALL)**

**OVERVIEW**

On October 10, 2023 (13), the Board of Supervisors (Board) approved the updated priorities of the Opioid Settlement Framework (Framework) that details how the County of San Diego (County) will utilize settlement funds to stem and reverse the trend of overdoses and deaths caused by the opioid crisis. The County's Framework includes allocating funding for healthcare integration initiatives designed to improve access to care, minimize stigma, lower costs, and improve overall health outcomes for people with an Opioid Use Disorder (OUD).

The Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Office, a division of San Diego County Fire, has created the Buprenorphine Induction Initiative, a pilot program that provides buprenorphine medication to patients by EMS professionals in a prehospital setting, and is designed to treat symptoms of opioid withdrawal, thus allowing the patient to focus on treatment and break their cycle of addiction. The Buprenorphine Induction Initiative aligns with the County's approved Framework goal of Harm Reduction, an approach that emphasizes working directly with OUD patients to prevent overdose and infectious disease transmission, along with improving the physical, mental, and social wellbeing of those served.

The EMS Office has been awarded a grant by the Public Health Institute (PHI) to support the Buprenorphine Induction Initiative. The PHI funding provides an opportunity for EMS to regionally expand the Buprenorphine Induction Initiative and allow greater access to buprenorphine medication for persons with an OUD. Today's action requests the acceptance of \$ 375,000 in grant funds from the PHI, along with authorization by the Director of San Diego County Fire, or designee, to execute grant agreement documents with PHI and distribute grant funds to participating fire and EMS agencies in accordance with the County's Department of Purchasing and Contracting established guidelines, and PHI grant guidelines. Funds will be primarily used to train EMS professionals on the administration of buprenorphine medication, purchase of the



**SUBJECT:** AUTHORIZE ACCEPTANCE OF A GRANT FROM THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSTITUTE BY THE SAN DIEGO COUNTY OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES TO TREAT OPIOID USE DISORDER; ESTABLISH APPROPRIATIONS; EXECUTE CONTRACTS RELATED TO THE GRANT, AND AUTHORIZE COMPETITIVE PROCUREMENTS FOR GRANT IMPLEMENTATION SERVICES (DISTRICTS: ALL)

medication, and patient costs associated with navigation to services. All grant funds must be expended by April 15, 2024.

## **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

### **CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER**

1. Authorize the acceptance of \$375,000 in grant funds from the Public Health Institute's CA Bridge Program for the performance period of March 1, 2023, to April 15, 2024, to support local buprenorphine pilot programs and authorize the Director of San Diego County Fire, or designee, to execute all required grant documents and agreements, including any annual extensions, amendments, and/or revisions thereto that do not materially impact or alter the services or funding level.
2. Establish appropriations of \$375,000 in County Fire, Services & Supplies, for the Buprenorphine Induction Initiative based on Public Health Institute's CA Bridge Program grant. **(4 VOTES)**
3. In accordance with Section 401, Article XXIII of the County Administrative Code, authorize the Director, Department of Purchasing and Contracting, to issue competitive solicitations for Opioid Use Disorder services, and upon successful negotiation and determination of fair and reasonable price, award contracts for an initial term of one (1) year with up to four (4) one-year options and an additional six months if needed, subject to the availability of funds and a need for the services, and to amend the contracts and other current contracts as needed to reflect the changes to services and funding, subject to approval of the Director of San Diego County Fire.
4. Authorize the Director of San Diego County Fire, or their designee, to distribute grant funds to participating fire and EMS agencies, and amend current contracts with them, as needed, to reflect changes to services and funding.

## **EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

The County EMS Office's Buprenorphine Induction Initiative provides medication-assisted treatment to patients in the community with an Opioid Use Disorder in a tailored but time critical manner, along with access to social and medical services to overcome opioid addiction. Acceptance of this funding will allow Emergency Medical Services professionals to equitably deliver new and innovative services to vulnerable individuals, along with advancing the Board of Supervisors efforts to combat the opioid crisis. De-identified buprenorphine patient data will be collected from all EMS agencies participating in the initiative and analyzed for quality assurance and equity purposes.

## **SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

Acceptance of Public Health Institute grant funds will allow the County EMS Office to further support local agency implementation of the Buprenorphine Induction Initiative. This action contributes to the County of San Diego's Sustainability Goals to protect the health and well-being of residents and visitors alike by providing access to tailored healthcare resources and improving the Emergency Medical Services delivery system. Furthermore, it provides just and equitable

**SUBJECT:** AUTHORIZE ACCEPTANCE OF A GRANT FROM THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSTITUTE BY THE SAN DIEGO COUNTY OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES TO TREAT OPIOID USE DISORDER; ESTABLISH APPROPRIATIONS; EXECUTE CONTRACTS RELATED TO THE GRANT, AND AUTHORIZE COMPETITIVE PROCUREMENTS FOR GRANT IMPLEMENTATION SERVICES (DISTRICTS: ALL)

access to County services with investments focused on vulnerable individuals and underserved communities.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

Funds for this request are not included in the Fiscal Year 2023-24 Operational Plan for San Diego County Fire. If approved, this request will result in current year estimated one-time costs and revenue of \$375,000. The funding source is grant funds from the Public Health Institute. There are no match requirements for this grant. There will be no change in net General Fund cost and no additional staff years.

**BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT**

N/A

**ADVISORY BOARD STATEMENT**

N/A

**BACKGROUND**

The Board of Supervisors (Board) has taken significant steps to address the opioid crisis, including but not limited to the adoption of the Comprehensive Harm Reduction Strategy on June 8, 2021 (4), The development of a culturally and age-appropriate media campaign to prevent fentanyl overdoses in youth on October 19, 2021 (2), declaring illicit fentanyl a public health crisis on June 28, 2022 (22), enhancing fentanyl education programs and strengthening harm reduction efforts for young people on October 11, 2022 (11), and approving the Opioid Settlement Framework priorities on October 10, 2023 (13), which included support for a buprenorphine pilot program to treat people suffering from an Opioid Use Disorder (OUD). Acceptance of the Public Health Institute's (PHI) grant to support County EMS's Buprenorphine Induction Initiative is aligned with the Board's previous actions to address the opioid crisis. Funds will be used to support implementation efforts and improve the overall quality of EMS services to the public.

***Buprenorphine Induction Initiative***

Buprenorphine is a Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved medication that prevents withdrawal symptoms caused by addiction to opioids like heroin, oxycodone, fentanyl, and hydromorphone. Furthermore, buprenorphine reduces opioid cravings, thus lowering the harm associated with opioid misuse. Traditionally, buprenorphine could only be administered to patients in hospital and clinical settings, but in 2022, the County's Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Office, a Division of San Diego County Fire, received state authorization for the Buprenorphine Induction Initiative, a pilot program that allows specially trained paramedics to administer the medication in the field. Utilization of buprenorphine in combination with counseling and behavioral health therapy provides a whole-patient approach to treating opioid dependency. PHI funding will further support the County's Buprenorphine Induction Initiative by supporting training of EMS professionals on the administration of buprenorphine medication, purchase of the medication, and patient costs associated with navigation to services.

**SUBJECT:** AUTHORIZE ACCEPTANCE OF A GRANT FROM THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSTITUTE BY THE SAN DIEGO COUNTY OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES TO TREAT OPIOID USE DISORDER; ESTABLISH APPROPRIATIONS; EXECUTE CONTRACTS RELATED TO THE GRANT, AND AUTHORIZE COMPETITIVE PROCUREMENTS FOR GRANT IMPLEMENTATION SERVICES (DISTRICTS: ALL)

An EMS professional in the field, such as a paramedic or emergency medical technician, frequently makes contact with patients experiencing opioid withdrawal or an overdose. Such encounters require EMS professionals to transfer the patient to a hospital emergency department to receive medication to treat their opioid addiction. However, some OUD patients refuse transport to the emergency room, thus creating an access gap to vital medication and addiction services. The Buprenorphine Induction Initiative is designed to bridge this access gap by allowing trained EMS staff to administer buprenorphine in the initial encounter with the patient. Furthermore, EMS staff will actively manage cases and conduct follow ups with OUD patients after providing them with buprenorphine and additional recovery resources.

Currently, the Escondido Fire Department and the San Dieguito EMS District (CSA-17), which provides paramedic-level ambulance transportation services to Del Mar, Encinitas, Solana Beach, and Rancho Santa Fe, are the only EMS agencies with an active buprenorphine program. PHI funds will serve as a catalyst for wider implementation of the Buprenorphine Induction Initiative by paying the initial program startup costs for an EMS agency, thus eliminating a financial barrier to entry. Increasing the number of EMS agencies trained to administer buprenorphine medication throughout the County will provide individuals suffering from OUD access to critical resources designed to end their addiction and reduce opioid related overdose deaths in our region. The focus will be to support EMS agencies operating in regions with high opioid use and overdose rates and able to provide data that satisfies the grant requirements. Furthermore, de-identified buprenorphine patient data will be collected from all EMS agencies receiving PHI funding, which will provide vital data on buprenorphine's effectiveness to combat the overall opioid crisis.

Today's action requests the acceptance of \$375,000 in grant funds from the PHI, along with authorization by the Director of San Diego County Fire, or designee, to execute grant agreement documents with PHI and distribute grant funds to participating fire and EMS agencies in accordance with the County's Department of Purchasing and Contracting established guidelines, and PHI grant guidelines. To expedite implementation of the grant funds, the EMS Office will leverage existing agreements with public ambulance transportation operators to amend their contracts to provide additional resources to communities with the greatest needs. Funds allocated to EMS agencies will primarily be used to train EMS professionals on the administration of buprenorphine medication, purchase of the medication, and patient costs associated with navigation to services.

This is a cost reimbursement grant, and the period of performance is March 1, 2023, to April 15, 2024. PHI will allocate funding to the County EMS Office in four (4) phases. The first and second phase encompasses the administrative steps that the EMS Office staff have completed to qualify for the funding. The third and fourth phase of the funding encompasses the training and supply costs for EMS agencies awarded, along with the data collection and reporting requirements. The entirety of the grant must be expended by April 15, 2024.

**SUBJECT:** AUTHORIZE ACCEPTANCE OF A GRANT FROM THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSTITUTE BY THE SAN DIEGO COUNTY OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES TO TREAT OPIOID USE DISORDER; ESTABLISH APPROPRIATIONS; EXECUTE CONTRACTS RELATED TO THE GRANT, AND AUTHORIZE COMPETITIVE PROCUREMENTS FOR GRANT IMPLEMENTATION SERVICES (DISTRICTS: ALL)

**LINKAGE TO THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO STRATEGIC PLAN**

Today's proposed actions support the Community and Equity Strategic Initiatives of the County of San Diego's 2024-2029 Strategic Plan by addressing the provision of robust, equitable, and accessible emergency medical services throughout the region.

Respectfully submitted,



SARAH E. AGHASSI  
Interim Chief Administrative Officer

**ATTACHMENT(S)**

N/A



# COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

## BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

1600 PACIFIC HIGHWAY, ROOM 335, SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA 92101-2470

### AGENDA ITEM

**DATE:** February 6, 2024

**11**

**TO:** Board of Supervisors

**SUBJECT:**

**SUSTAINABLE PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE LONG-TERM, STATE AND  
FEDERALLY FUNDED MIGRANT TRANSFER SITE AND RESPITE SHELTERS FOR  
THE SAN DIEGO REGION TO ADDRESS STREET RELEASES (DISTRICTS: ALL)**

**OVERVIEW**

San Diego County has continuously welcomed asylum-seeking migrants and refugees fleeing persecution in their home countries. Over the past seven years, the U.S.–Mexico border has seen an increase in asylum seeking migrants from humanitarian crises around the globe. Federal law allows people from other countries to seek asylum in the United States if they fear persecution at home.

Over the years, San Diego has become a home to diverse communities, including significant populations of Somali, Iraqi, and Vietnamese refugees. Oftentimes, San Diego is simply a waypoint for migrants on a longer journey into the U.S. Recently, our region has been impacted by the humanitarian migrant crisis at our international border. As a County we have been at the forefront addressing the increase in street releases by U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), as well working together with local NGOs to ensure asylum seekers reach their final destination.

Our local community-based organizations have long been at the forefront of the critical work. Specifically, Catholic Charities Diocese of San Diego has acted for several years as the fiscal agent for the region's federal Shelter and Services Program (SSP) which comes from Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) standing up critical shelter services for the most vulnerable migrants in partnership with Jewish Family Services (JFS). In the past, the numbers of migrants crossing the border has ebbed and flowed, but now the numbers remain constant and are forecasted to increase. In addition to the people served by Catholic Charities and JFS, since September, the necessity to stand up additional services to avoid street releases in our communities has been urgent. This led to the Board of Supervisors funding a migrant transfer center currently run by SBCS in partnership with local NGOs. With the support of our Congressional Delegation, we have been in search for additional funding streams to support the work of the transfer site, including

**SUBJECT: SUSTAINABLE PLANNING FOR A LONG-TERM, STATE AND  
FEDERALLY FUNDED MIGRANT TRANSFER SITE AND RESPITE  
SHELTERS FOR THE SAN DIEGO REGION TO ADDRESS STREET  
RELEASES**

seeking federal funds. The funds approved by the Board on October 10, 2023, and December 5, 2023, will be exhausted by March.

To ensure a sustainable long-term strategy to address the humanitarian crisis that keeps deepening, and to secure the health and safety of our southern border, we recommend a two-part approach. The first is to address the immediate need to continue operations at the transfer site operated by SBCS in partnership with local NGOs. The second is a long-term approach to advocate for a federally and state funded permanent solution in San Diego that includes a transit site to address street releases.

**RECOMMENDATION(S)**

**CHAIRWOMAN NORA VARGAS AND SUPERVISOR JOEL ANDERSON**

1. Direct the Interim Chief Administrative Officer to work with the current fiscal agent of the region's federal Shelter and Services Program (SSP), as well as the federal government if needed, and return to the Board in 30 days with options to maximize the use of this funding stream to meet the needs of the region, including mitigating street releases.
2. Direct the Interim Chief Administrative Officer to develop a concept paper and advocacy plan to seek long-term, state and federally funded migrant transfer sites and respite shelters for the San Diego region to be run by our local community-based organizations. Included in this plan shall be the need for our community-based organizations to also be supplemented by philanthropic and other private sector funds and identification of viable properties to be used to support respite shelter operations. This plan should be included in the return to the Board in 30 days.

**EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

All San Diego residents deserve the opportunity to live in a dignified manner in communities that provide them a safe and supportive environment. The County and its partner organizations can assist in this effort by supporting the organizations on the ground that are helping asylum seeking migrants arriving in our region with supportive services that will meet the humanitarian and social needs of this population.

**SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

Through these collaborative efforts between the County of San Diego and the local nonprofit organizations that have the expertise and ability to assist asylum seeking migrants, and identifying funding opportunities, we can ensure our region has the necessary resources to assist this population during a humanitarian crisis. The recommended actions would allow the County to optimize resource utilization by streamlining the effectiveness of our response efforts, ensuring the continuous availability of critical services for affected communities. This approach will enhance our ability to efficiently allocate resources and maintain the sustainability of essential programs and support services.

**SUBJECT:** SUSTAINABLE PLANNING FOR A LONG-TERM, STATE AND  
FEDERALLY FUNDED MIGRANT TRANSFER SITE AND RESPITE  
SHELTERS FOR THE SAN DIEGO REGION TO ADDRESS STREET  
RELEASES

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

There is no fiscal impact associated with these recommendations. There may be future fiscal impacts based on recommendations from today's action and any such recommendations would return for consideration and approval by the Board. Upon return by staff, funding for future costs will need to be identified by the department and will proceed once identified. At this time, there will be no change in net General Fund cost and no additional staff years.

### **BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT**

N/A

### **ADVISORY BOARD STATEMENT**

N/A

### **BACKGROUND**

The County of San Diego has a longstanding history of welcoming refugees fleeing persecution, conflict, and other dangerous situations in their nations of origin and providing vital assistance to those seeking to resettle in our country.

San Diego County is a binational, multilingual, and multicultural region, and immigrants and refugees are an integral part of the fabric of our community. The immigrant and refugee community are a huge part of the economic engine that keeps the economy strong and brings rich cultural diversity to the region. Although immigration policy and enforcement are a responsibility of our federal government, the County, State, and partner agencies have continued to welcome an increasing number of asylum-seeking migrants into our region, a pattern that will continue given our location as a permanent border community.

In 2018, the San Diego Rapid Response Network (SDRRN), San Diego Immigrant Rights Consortium (SDIRC), and other organizations responded to a call that came through an emergency hotline regarding the humanitarian situation created by the federal administration's immigration policies which led to the release of hundreds of asylum-seeking migrant families onto San Diego's streets without warning and without following travel process protocols. In response, SDRRN in partnership with a network of community-based organizations established an emergency respite shelter to provide humanitarian aid for asylum seeking migrants. SDRRN stepped forward to create vital infrastructure in our region and continues to serve as a model of how to manage the various waves of migration. Organizations like Jewish Family Service of San Diego and Catholic Charities provide asylum seeking migrant shelter and transition services including critical case management, travel assistance, nutrition services, medical screenings, legal assistance, and financial support for asylum seeking migrants in need of respite shelter, creating a model for the County and the nation.

In September of 2023, street releases of migrants were occurring at transit stops in our communities as the capacity at the shelters had been reached. In our commitment to provide support during this humanitarian crisis, on October 10, 2023 (14), the Board of Supervisors (Board) approved reallocating \$3.0 million in General Purpose Revenue made possible by the recognition of lost

**SUBJECT: SUSTAINABLE PLANNING FOR A LONG-TERM, STATE AND  
FEDERALLY FUNDED MIGRANT TRANSFER SITE AND RESPITE  
SHELTERS FOR THE SAN DIEGO REGION TO ADDRESS STREET  
RELEASES**

revenue from the federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to make these funds available to support our local partners in their work with asylum seeking migrants and mitigate street releases. This action improved the ability to manage asylum seeking migrant relocations efficiently. These funds were designated to provide essential services to individuals processed by Customs and Border Protection (CBP), such as translation assistance, geographic information, transportation services, access to equipment and Wi-Fi to contact U.S. sponsors and other services to facilitate their onward travel to their destination in the U.S. This assistance enables asylum seeking migrants entering the United States to reunite with their U.S. sponsors. On December 5, 2023 (30) the Board approved an additional \$3.0 million. From September of 2023 through January of 2024, approximately 80,000 individuals were supported by these efforts, with the majority leaving San Diego to make their way to their final destination within the U.S.

***Approach:***

Short Term: The immediate need is for the operations at the migrant transfer site to continue, to avoid street releases into our community, and to assist asylum seekers reach their destination in a safe and supported way. The only current funding stream to support these efforts is the federal Shelter and Services Program (SSP) funded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Today's action directs the Interim CAO to work with local partners on how to maximize this funding stream, including matching with private or philanthropic dollars, and our available State funds and to return to the Board in 30 days.

Long Term: The long-term need is far greater. A state and federally funded respite shelter and transfer site is needed to be able to serve as one-stop-shop for those seeking asylum; combining both the shelter needs as well as the day center operations. We need a coordinated regional plan that includes advocacy options, and a plan to maximize resources by assisting our community partners with seeking additional sources of funding, such as philanthropy. Today's action directs the Interim Chief Administrative Officer, in coordination with Jewish Family Services and Catholic Charities, to craft the concept paper detailing the specific needs to create a Migrant Transfer Site, including the advocacy plan, and return to the Board with that plan in 30 days.

**LINKAGE TO THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO STRATEGIC PLAN**

Today's proposed actions support the Sustainability, Equity, and Community Strategic Initiatives in the County of San Diego's 2024–2029 Strategic Plan by seeking financially stable, ongoing resources to support programs that provide for our community's safety while ensuring asylum seekers passing through our region are supported and assisted in a fair and equitable manner.

Respectfully submitted,



Chairwoman Nora Vargas, First District



Supervisor Joel Anderson, Second District



**SUBJECT:** SUSTAINABLE PLANNING FOR A LONG-TERM, STATE AND  
FEDERALLY FUNDED MIGRANT TRANSFER SITE AND RESPITE  
SHELTERS FOR THE SAN DIEGO REGION TO ADDRESS STREET  
RELEASES

**ATTACHMENT(S)**

N/A



# COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

## AGENDA ITEM

### BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

NORA VARGAS  
First District

JOEL ANDERSON  
Second District

TERRA LAWSON-REMER  
Third District

MONICA MONTGOMERY STEPPE  
Fourth District

JIM DESMOND  
Fifth District

**DATE:** February 6, 2024

**14**

**TO:** Board of Supervisors

### **SUBJECT**

**GUN VIOLENCE REDUCTION COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT FINAL  
REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS (DISTRICTS: ALL)**

### **OVERVIEW**

On July 18, 2023 (12), the Board of Supervisors considered this item. The motion to adopt the recommendations failed due to a tie vote, and the Board did not continue the item. Pursuant to Rule 2(g) of the Board of Supervisors Rules of Procedure, the item was placed on the agenda for the next regular meeting on August 29, 2023. The Chief Administrative Officer withdrew the item from the August 29, 2023 agenda and continued the item at a future date.

On October 19, 2021 (1), the Board of Supervisors (Board) directed the Chief Administrative Officer to develop options for community-based gun violence reduction and disruption programs and to return to the Board within 180 days. On April 5, 2022 (16), staff returned to the Board with a recommendation to conduct a contractor-led, regional gun violence community needs assessment to better understand the scope, complexity, and impact of gun violence and to share key findings with the Board upon completion. The recommendation was approved by the full Board and the County issued a competitive solicitation and contracted with Health Assessment & Research for Communities, Inc. (HARC), a non-profit research and evaluation firm.

To complete the community needs assessment, HARC conducted extensive data analysis; issued and analyzed two community surveys; hosted a dozen listening sessions and community forums receiving broad stakeholder input; facilitated numerous meetings with a Gun Violence Reduction Advisory Group comprised of community stakeholders; and conducted a best practice review of local, state, and national programs and practices designed to reduce gun violence. HARC issued its analysis and findings in a Gun Violence Reduction Community Needs Assessment Final Report, which summarizes findings from secondary data analysis, community surveys and surveys of practitioners working in jobs that pertain to gun violence, and through virtual and in-person listening sessions. The final report includes recommendations to reduce gun violence in the county. Public Safety Group Executive Office staff have used those recommendations to prepare a Gun Violence Reduction Work Plan.

Today's recommendations are to receive the HARC report, the Gun Violence Reduction Work Plan, and a presentation; approve the addition of one (1.00) staff year to coordinate gun violence

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reduction activities; authorize the submission of grant applications and the procurement of contracted services that support violence prevention and intervention programs and services; provide an annual report on gun violence in San Diego County; and direct staff to return in early 2025 with an initial update on Work Plan actions.

**RECOMMENDATION(S)**

**INTERIM CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER**

1. Receive Health Assessment & Research for Communities, Inc. Final Report and recommendations.
2. Receive the Gun Violence Reduction Work Plan and approve Fiscal Year 2024-25 actions. Staff will begin preparing for FY 2024-25 Work Plan action implementation in Fiscal Year 2023-24.
3. Receive a presentation on the gun violence community needs assessment project.
4. Approve and authorize the Public Safety Group Executive Office to add one (1.00) staff year to lead and coordinate gun violence reduction activities and direct the Department of Human Resources to classify the position at the appropriate level.
5. In accordance with Section 401, Article XXIII of the County Administrative Code, authorize the Director, Department of Purchasing and Contracting, subject to available funding, to issue a competitive solicitation(s) for planning, outreach, and facilitation services related to community violence prevention and intervention programs and services, and/or to amend existing contracts for similar services serving similar populations, and, upon successful negotiations and determination of a fair and reasonable price, award contracts for a term of up to one (1) year, with up to four one-year option periods and up to an additional six months if needed, subject to the approval by the Deputy Chief Administrative Officer for the Public Safety Group or the Health and Human Services Agency and, for existing contracts, the designated authority from the lead department, and to amend such contracts as needed to reflect changes to services and funding.
6. Pursuant to Board Policy B-29, authorize the Deputy Chief Administrative Officers for the Public Safety Group and the Health and Human Services Agency, through June 30, 2029, to submit grant applications for grants that support violence prevention and intervention programs and services and execute all required grant documents, including any annual extensions, amendments and/or revisions thereto that do not materially impact or alter the services or funding level.
7. Waive Board Policy B-29 Fees, Grants, Revenue Contracts – Department Responsibility for Cost Recovery, which requires prior approval of applications for, acceptance of, and full cost recovery for grants.
8. Provide an annual report on gun violence in San Diego County.
9. Direct the Interim Chief Administrative Officer to return to the Board in early 2025 with an initial update on Work Plan actions.

**EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

According to the American Public Health Association, gun violence is a leading cause of premature death in the United States. In San Diego County, from 2017-2022, there were 1,310 deaths by firearm (70.9% were suicide and 28.9% were homicides). From 2016-2020, there were 699 firearm-related hospitalizations and 668 firearm-related emergency department visits.

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While gun violence impacts people of all ages, genders, and racial/ethnic backgrounds, it does not impact people equally. In San Diego County, the firearm-related homicide rate for Black residents is 11 times greater than the rate for Asian residents, who have the lowest rate. Black residents between the ages of 15-44 have the highest rate of firearm-related hospitalizations and emergency department visits in the county. Regional suicide data shows that White men over the age of 65 have the highest rates of firearm-related suicide in the county.

By focusing programs, services, and practices on the places and people experiencing the greatest burden of violence and underlying conditions that contribute to risk, the strategies are intended to have near-term impacts on preventing violence and to establish long-term solutions. With an emphasis on equity, the goals are to reduce disparities and disproportionality and enhance the health, safety, and well-being of residents through partnerships, innovation, and active community engagement, which is in alignment with the County of San Diego's Equity Strategic Initiative.

**SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

Today's proposed actions contribute to the County of San Diego's Sustainability Goals by seeking to meaningfully engage the community, provide just and equitable access to programs and services, and protect the health and well-being of residents. Ongoing efforts to reduce gun violence will impact the communities and populations historically burdened by gun violence by providing better long-term outcomes through investment in community-centered approaches. Extensive community engagement through listening sessions, surveys, forums, and the integration of an Advisory Group of individuals who actively work on gun violence related issues, was a major component of the project. By partnering with community members to identify challenges and opportunities to reduce gun violence, we hope to see long-term improvements in the health and well-being of neighborhoods and residents.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

If approved, funds of \$355,000 for year one of the Work Plan will be budgeted in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2024-25 Operational Plan in the Public Safety Group. Estimated ongoing costs and revenue of \$170,000 which includes the addition of one (1.00) staff year and one-time cost of \$185,000 for violence prevention and intervention. The funding source is Public Safety Realignment. There will be no change in net General Fund cost. There will be an addition of one (1.00) staff year.

In addition, if approved, funds of \$295,000 for year one of the Work Plan will be budgeted in FY 2024-25 Operational Plan in the Health and Human Services Agency for one-time costs related to suicide prevention. The funding source is Public Safety Realignment. There will be no change in net General Fund cost.

Fiscal impact related to future Work Plan recommendations will either be included in future Operational Plans for the Public Safety Group and/or Health and Human Services Agency if funding is identified, or staff will return to the board as needed for consideration and approval with identified or requested funding sources.

**BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT**

N/A

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**ADVISORY BOARD STATEMENT**

Health Assessment & Research for Communities, Inc. (HARC) convened a Gun Violence Reduction Advisory Group to review and provide input into its analysis, findings, and recommendations. The Advisory Group included 16 community members and County representatives with diverse perspectives, experiences, and expertise related to violence prevention, intervention, and aftercare (recovery), including those who specialize in suicide prevention, domestic/intimate partner violence prevention, community violence prevention and intervention as well as research and advocacy. The County and HARC have incorporated Advisory Group feedback to the extent possible in HARC's Final Report and in the Gun Violence Reduction Work Plan.

**BACKGROUND**

On July 18, 2023 (12), the Board of Supervisors considered this item. The motion to adopt the recommendations failed due to a tie vote, and the Board did not continue the item. Pursuant to Rule 2(g) of the Board of Supervisors Rules of Procedure, the item was placed on the agenda for the next regular meeting on August 29, 2023. The Chief Administrative Officer withdrew the item from the August 29, 2023 agenda and continued the item at a future date.

On October 19, 2021 (1), the Board of Supervisors (Board) directed the Chief Administrative Officer to develop options for community-based gun violence reduction and disruption programs and to return to the Board within 180 days. On April 5, 2022 (16), staff returned to the Board with a recommendation to conduct a contractor-led, regional gun violence community needs assessment to better understand the scope, complexity, and impact of gun violence in our communities, and to share key findings with the Board upon completion. The recommendation was approved by the full Board and the County issued a competitive solicitation and contracted with Health Assessment & Research for Communities, Inc. (HARC), a non-profit research and evaluation firm.

HARC conducted extensive data analysis; issued and analyzed two community surveys; hosted a dozen listening sessions and community presentations to receive broad stakeholder input, including numerous meetings with a 16-member Gun Violence Reduction Advisory Group; and conducted a best practice review of local, state, and national programs and practices designed to reduce gun violence. HARC pulled from a variety of data sources to describe the extent of gun violence across San Diego County. Sources included County of San Diego Medical Examiner's Office, Health and Human Services Agency, and Emergency Medical Services data related to firearm-related deaths and injuries as well as firearm-related crime data from the Automated Regional Justice Information System (ARJIS).

Community engagement was at the center of the needs assessment project. A Gun Violence Reduction Advisory Group was formed to provide input and feedback related to the development and implementation of the community needs assessment. HARC selected Advisory Group members who represent diverse backgrounds, experiences, and expertise after an open application period. In addition to collaborating with the Gun Violence Reduction Advisory Group, HARC hosted nine listening sessions and three community forums to allow residents to share their thoughts, experiences, and perspectives about gun violence as well as to provide feedback regarding preliminary findings from the assessment. Sessions and forums were held in Chula Vista,

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Escondido, El Cajon, San Diego, San Marcos, and virtually with two youth-specific listening sessions hosted with Aaron Price Fellows and the Live Well San Diego Youth Sector.

HARC issued its analysis and findings in a Gun Violence Reduction Community Needs Assessment Final Report, which summarizes findings from secondary data analysis, surveys, and listening sessions and includes recommendations to enhance gun violence reduction efforts in the county.

**HARC's Findings**

The Final Report provides an overview of gun violence in San Diego County and outlines possible solutions to prevent violence and mitigate impacts. The findings highlight that while gun violence impacts people of all ages, genders, and racial/ethnic backgrounds in all regions of the county, gun violence does not impact people equally. Results from the assessment indicate that everyone has a role to play in the prevention of gun violence; that addressing systemic and historic inequities is central to reducing gun violence; and that prevention and intervention strategies should be tailored to specific populations.

From 2017-2022, there have been 1,310 firearm-related deaths in San Diego County – 70.9% were suicide and 28.9% homicide. Local data shows that, during the five-year period from 2017-2021, the homicide rate by firearm in San Diego County increased 56.3%, while the suicide rate decreased 18.0%. The San Diego County firearm-related death rate of 6.6 per 100,000 residents remains below the State of California rate of 8.0. The San Diego County firearm-related homicide rate of 1.9 per 100,000 residents was half the State of California rate of 3.8. The San Diego County suicide rate of 4.7 per 100,000 residents was higher than the State of California rate of 4.0 per 100,000 residents.

Some populations are disproportionately impacted by firearm-related deaths.

- Males have a firearm-related death rate that is 15 times greater than that of females.
- The firearm-related homicide rate is highest among Black residents at 9.9 per 100,000 residents. This is 11.0 times greater than the rate for Asian residents (0.9 per 100,000 residents), which is the lowest rate.
- The firearm-related suicide rate is highest among White residents at 8.2 per 100,000 residents. This is 6.8 times greater than the rate for Asian residents (1.2 per 100,000 residents), which is the lowest rate.
- Firearm-related homicide rates are highest among people ages 25-44.
- Firearm-related suicide rates are highest among people ages 65 and older.

The most common manner of suicide death in San Diego County from 2017-2021 was by firearm, followed by asphyxia (hanging/suffocation), and drug – medication. Additionally, the most common manner of homicide in San Diego County from 2017-2021 was by firearm, followed by cutting/stabbing, and blunt force.

From 2016-2020, there have been 1,367 firearm-related hospitalizations or emergency department visits. About half of firearm-related injuries were treated by hospitalization and half by emergency department visits. Data showed that, over time, the hospitalization rate for firearm-related injuries has increased 19.0% and emergency department visits have increased 4.5%. Demographic trends



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are similar for firearm-related injuries, with young Black and Hispanic males having the highest rates of hospitalization and emergency department visits. The age for hospitalization and emergency department visits also trends younger with rates highest among those ages 15-24.

The assessment also looked at alleged crimes involving firearms. From 2017-2021, the rate of firearm-related arrests (often for alleged assaults or robbery) increased 64.0% in San Diego County. Most arrests were for felonies (94.8%). The average firearm-related crime rates for suspects are highest among Black and male residents. The average firearm-related crime rates for victims are highest among male residents who identify as “other” race, followed by Black.

Data from available sources helped describe gun violence across San Diego County, but it is important to acknowledge limitations of these data. Some injury cases (e.g., for certain age groups) can be suppressed when there are fewer than 11 cases (in 2020). This suppression means that the precise number of cases for certain groups (e.g., age 65 and older) cannot always be determined. Crime data reflects arrests, rather than convictions, thus, demographic data is available for suspects, not those convicted of a crime. Federal healthcare data was not available for this assessment, so if an active-duty military member, veteran, retiree, or family member went to a military or Veteran’s Administration hospital with a firearm injury, that data was not available. Further, death data were limited to cases in which the firearm incident and the death occurred within San Diego County. Deaths were excluded from the analysis when the firearm incident occurred outside the county or when the place of death was unclear. Limitations are further described in the Final Report.

### **HARC’s Final Recommendations**

The Final Report contains recommendations outlining actions the County can take to reduce gun violence. HARC’s recommendations include opportunities to enhance or expand upon existing efforts in San Diego County as well as explore new areas of focus or investment. The recommendations are organized into four key strategic areas: Awareness & Advocacy, Community Engagement & Collaboration, Community Healing & Trauma-Informed Practice, and Planning & Evaluation. A summary of the recommendations is below.

#### ***Awareness and Advocacy***

Building public awareness of effective violence prevention strategies and efforts and connecting individuals to culturally tailored resources are key to reducing gun violence. Evidence shows that recognizing warning signs for risk factors related to violence, implementing strategies to keep individuals safe, and connecting people to support services can reduce violence. There are opportunities to offer universal prevention education as well as education and resources that are tailored towards high-risk populations and those who live, work, and interact with populations most at risk for violence. Recommendations in the report include:

1. Increase awareness of violence prevention strategies and resources for those at highest risk by developing and sharing educational content specific to suicide prevention and domestic/intimate partner violence and identifying opportunities to enhance street outreach programs designed to change community norms about gun violence through dialogue, education, and mediation.

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2. Partner with agencies to promote gun lock distribution programs that offer gun locks at no cost to the public.
3. Provide gun safety awareness training for County staff who perform home visits and conduct community outreach to share information on safe storage laws, navigating through unsafe scenarios, and educating clients on gun safety practices and prevention strategies.
4. Support programs that allow individuals experiencing a mental health crisis to temporarily and voluntarily transfer their firearm.
5. Promote implementation of a standardized, evidence-based suicide screening tool for use by healthcare providers to screen patients for suicide risk regardless of whether the patient is seeking care for psychiatric symptoms.

***Community Engagement and Collaboration***

Community engagement, collaboration, and stakeholder coordination must be at the heart of an effective strategy to reduce gun violence. Research shows that to facilitate engagement and collaboration, a multi-sector approach is needed to identify, develop, evaluate, and monitor meaningful strategies to reduce gun violence across the spectrum, from prevention and intervention to long-term recovery. Multi-sector collaboration would also support outcomes that no one sector can achieve alone and presents an opportunity for adopting the most strategic and efficient approach to achieving goals. Partners may include representatives from public health, healthcare, law enforcement, education, behavioral health, community and public leadership, businesses, community- and faith-based organizations, and advocacy groups. Recommendations in the report include:

1. Coordinate and support an ongoing Gun Violence Reduction Community Advisory Group to engage residents in gun violence reduction efforts, including participation of youth leaders.
2. Facilitate collaboration across agencies, organizations, and sectors to promote connection, build capacity, and share resources to include the coordination of networking events/roundtables for community organizations and the development of an online communication and collaboration platform for those working to reduce gun violence in San Diego County.

***Community Healing and Trauma-Informed Practice***

The prevalence of trauma in communities experiencing high rates of gun violence as well as the impacts of untreated trauma and re-traumatization must be acknowledged, and trauma-informed practices should be employed to build community capacity for self-healing. Best available evidence shows that risk for violence for young people can be reduced through involvement in activities that help young people grow strong connections to caring adults. Youth mentoring and afterschool programs are two such ways to expose youth to positive adult role models and to help youth learn acceptable and appropriate behaviors that are protective against involvement in violence. Hospital-community partnerships are also a promising practice that help violence survivors and their families connect to needed services, including counseling, mentoring, and follow-up assistance, to overcome trauma and stop violence from reoccurring. Evidence also indicates hospital-based programs can reduce revictimization and rates of entry or re-entry into the

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criminal justice system and thereby break interpersonal and intergenerational cycles of violence. Recommendations in the report include:

1. Explore opportunities to enhance and implement community-centered approaches to community gun violence prevention in neighborhoods facing high risk factors for gun violence, which includes coordinating with community stakeholders to enhance youth-focused programs and services.
2. Establish partnerships between trauma hospitals, law enforcement, and community-based organizations to connect firearm injury patients and their families to support services that may include mental health support, financial assistance, and other services to support their recovery.

***Planning and Evaluation***

Planning and evaluation are key components of any successful strategy to identify and demonstrate commitment to outcomes, show progress or need for course correction, and to ensure transparency. To facilitate planning and evaluation, many jurisdictions are centering gun violence reduction work in civilian-led Offices of Violence Prevention. Centralizing this work provides the infrastructure and resources to ensure interventions are sustainable and are elevated as integral elements of public safety practice. Another important factor in ensuring sustainability of efforts is long-term and adequate funding, especially for community-based organizations that are critical to providing and connecting people to services. Recommendations in the report include:

1. Plan for longevity, sustainability, and an enduring commitment to gun violence reduction by establishing and adequately resourcing a central office or unit within the County structure to lead and guide gun violence reduction efforts and work with local communities to develop strategic plans to address gun violence.
2. Identify and monitor meaningful metrics to ensure accountability which includes a monitoring and evaluation framework, sharing of local aggregate data with stakeholders, and the coordination of townhalls or listening sessions to receive feedback and evaluate residents' perception of success.
3. Develop a long-term strategy to address the funding of violence prevention and intervention efforts in the region, to include identifying, promoting, and applying for grants in support of programs and services in communities most impacted by gun violence.

While these recommendations are not exhaustive of all possible actions, they underscore the critical importance of targeting efforts that support and invest in populations and communities at greatest risk of experiencing gun violence. These recommendations are also not inclusive of all ongoing actions County departments are engaged in related to suicide prevention, domestic/intimate partner violence prevention, and community violence prevention and intervention. Implementation of these recommendations will require a commitment to multi-sector collaboration as well as financial investment.

Ahead of the release of the Final Report in late June 2023, HARC conducted three community presentations to share key findings and recommendations with the public. Presentations were held on June 6, 10, and 13, 2023. Some attendees were supportive of HARC's recommendations and the gun violence reduction project. Others noted concerns with the overall study and the focus on

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gun violence rather than a focus on all types of violence. Some community members shared their views that the recommendations should have included more strict criminal justice penalties for those involved in violent crimes. Many community members also called for analysis of areas outside the scope of this assessment, including conducting homicide case reviews to determine prevalence of the defensive use of firearms and studying the impacts of officer-involved shootings. Community members were encouraged to review and comment on the Final Report via the project's website.

An updated version of the Final Report was released in early January 2024. Updates to the Final Report included the addition of clarifying language related to Figures, geographic regions, and data; the addition of two new appendices (Appendix T and Appendix U); as well as grammatical adjustments.

**County Violence Reduction Work Plan**

Leveraging HARC's recommendations, the County developed a Gun Violence Reduction Work Plan. The Work Plan is a living document that sets goals for gun violence reduction work that are in alignment with guiding principles that were established when the community needs assessment was initially recommended. The Work Plan outlines actions to be initiated over the next two fiscal years. Fourteen actions are proposed to start in Fiscal Year (FY) 2024-25 and three additional actions are proposed to start in FY 2025-26.

Work Plan actions span the four key strategic areas outlined in HARC's recommendations (Awareness & Advocacy, Community Engagement & Collaboration, Community Healing & Trauma-Informed Practice, and Planning & Evaluation), focus on the types of gun violence included in the assessment (suicide, domestic/intimate partner violence, and community violence), and cover the spectrum of prevention strategies, from actions designed to stop violence before it starts (primary) to services that address immediate (secondary) and long-term (tertiary) responses to violence.

Recognizing the complex nature of gun violence and how a combination of factors and influences on behavior can result in violence, the Work Plan includes tailored prevention strategies designed to address the interplay of factors at both the population-level (community and society) and individual-level (intrapersonal and interpersonal). Within the social ecological model (SEM), a public health framework, these levels are referred to as: individual, relationship, community, and societal. At each level, both risk and protective factors exist that either put people at risk for or protect them from experiencing or perpetrating violence. The goal is to employ prevention strategies at multiple levels at the same time to reduce risk factors and increase protective factors amongst residents.

Recognizing that collective action from diverse sectors is needed to address violence in our communities, many Work Plan actions aim to compliment other regional violence reduction efforts. Below are some examples of how Work Plan actions tie in with other regional strategies and efforts.

- The Work Plan includes actions to increase the promotion of suicide prevention educational content, including safe storage of firearms, and an increase in suicide

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prevention trainings for individuals, caregivers, and service providers, which directly compliments the San Diego County Suicide Prevention Action Plan strategies of Media and Communication Campaigns, Means Reduction, and Frontline and Gatekeeper Trainings. In addition, the Work Plan's action of promoting enhanced suicide risk screening in primary care clinics in rural communities of San Diego County compliments the Suicide Prevention Action Plan's strategic direction of Healthcare Coordination and Capacity by improving care coordination of services for clients with elevated risk of suicide, and the strategic direction of Clinical Assessment and Treatment by enhancing the primary care capacity for assessment and treatment of clients at risk for suicide. The Suicide Prevention Action Plan was developed by the Suicide Prevention Council in partnership with local stakeholders to provide a blueprint for a comprehensive and collective approach to preventing suicide and its consequences in San Diego County.

- Several Work Plan actions are designed to directly address community violence, in partnership with community-based organization, through prevention and intervention activities. Working with stakeholders that actively operate street outreach, violence disruption, and youth-focused programs to develop and implement strategies to reduce violence aligns closely with measures other jurisdictions are taking to reduce violence in their communities, including those identified by the City of San Diego's Commission on Gang Prevention and Intervention.
- The Work Plan includes an action to develop educational content related to domestic/intimate partner violence to share information on relevant resources, including victim services resources and information on protective/restraining orders. On January 1, 2023, an amendment to California Penal Code § 13750 took effect, which now requires family justice centers to provide clients with educational materials relating to gun violence restraining orders, domestic violence restraining orders, and other legal avenues of protection for victims and their families, if appropriate.

The Work Plan includes the proposed approval for one (1.00) staff year who will lead and coordinate these gun violence reduction activities. The Public Safety Group has identified \$650,000 from Public Safety Realignment to support the implementation of Work Plan items in FY 2024-25. Staff will begin working on Work Plan actions in FY 2023-24 in preparation for full implementation in FY 2024-25.

**Work Plan Highlights**

Below are Work Plan highlights by Fiscal Year (FY). Work Plan actions include opportunities to enhance or expand upon existing efforts and explore new areas of focus or investment.

**FY 24-25**

Action	Prevention Strategy	SEM Level	Violence Type
Develop and disseminate suicide prevention educational content directed toward highest risk populations.	Primary	Individual Relationship Community	Suicide



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Action	Prevention Strategy	SEM Level	Violence Type
Develop and disseminate educational content related to domestic/intimate partner violence directed towards highest risk populations.	Primary	Individual Community	Domestic/ Intimate Partner Violence
Identify organizations that operate violence intervention programs, including street outreach and violence interruption and disruption programs, and coordinate with these stakeholders to strengthen community-based gun violence intervention programs in northern and southeastern San Diego County.	Primary Secondary	Relationship Community	Community Violence
Promote safe firearm storage by collaborating with community partners to educate the public on safe firearm storage practices and promoting gun lock distribution programs.	Primary	Individual Relationship Societal	All
Monitor state and federal actions to improve safe gun ownership and support gun violence reduction efforts in communities most impacted by violence.	Primary	Societal	All
Promote and encourage the use of a standard healthcare suicide screening tool for use by healthcare providers.	Primary	Community	Suicide
Establish and coordinate a Gun Violence Reduction Advisory Group to oversee implementation of the Work Plan and to propose future gun violence reduction activities.	Primary	Community	All
Create and host a digital platform to serve as a centralized communication and collaboration point for agencies and organizations working on gun violence prevention, intervention, and aftercare (recovery) in San Diego County.	Primary	Community	All
Establish partnerships between trauma hospitals and community-based organizations to strengthen support services for firearm injury patients and their families.	Secondary Tertiary	Community	All
Establish an ongoing structure for gun violence reduction work at the County.	Primary	Community	All
Establish a performance measurement and evaluation framework for efforts implemented to reduce gun violence.	Primary	Community Societal	All
Share local aggregate data on gun violence in the county with stakeholders and the general public.	Primary	Community Societal	All
Coordinate town hall/listening session to evaluate residents' perception of success.	Primary	Societal	All
Identify and apply for grant funds to support prevention and intervention programs and services in San Diego County.	Primary Secondary Tertiary	Community	All

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**FY 25-26**

Action	Prevention Strategy	SEM Level	Violence Type
Develop firearm safety awareness training for non-sworn County staff that perform home visits and conduct community outreach.	Primary	Individual Relationship	All
Coordinate networking events, roundtables, and other educational events for community stakeholders and government agencies working to reduce gun violence.	Primary	Relationship Community	All
Identify organizations that provide youth-focused violence prevention programs and services and coordinate with these stakeholders to strengthen youth-focused programs and services in northern and southeastern San Diego County.	Primary Secondary Tertiary	Relationship Community	Community Violence

The Public Safety Group will work with partners, such as the community Advisory Group, Health and Human Services Agency, the Office of Equity and Racial Justice, and Office of Evaluation, Performance, and Analytics, to monitor Work Plan actions and review and prioritize recommendations for future Board consideration and to establish a performance measurement and evaluation framework to evaluate the impact of County efforts to reduce gun violence. An annual report on gun violence in San Diego County will be provided to the Board that includes data on ghost gun seizures, firearm-related deaths and injuries, and other outcomes to be monitored and evaluated under the Work Plan.

To support the implementation, coordination, and oversight of this work, the Public Safety Group will be requesting one (1.00) staff year in the FY 2024-25 Operational Plan in the Public Safety Group. Today's action also includes a recommendation that will authorize County staff to issue competitive solicitations for planning, outreach, and facilitation services related to violence prevention and intervention programs and services. To address funding challenges for gun violence prevention and intervention efforts, today's action also includes a recommendation that will authorize County staff to apply for grants that support gun violence prevention and intervention efforts. A waiver of Board Policy B-29 is recommended as grant funds may not result in full cost recovery and violence prevention and intervention programs and services would be worthy expenditures of County resources if external funding is unavailable.

The Work Plan reflects an integrated approach that takes both individual and systemic issues into account to address the complex drivers of gun violence in our communities. Continuing engagement and collaboration among community stakeholders, non-governmental organizations, and public agencies is paramount to reducing gun violence in San Diego County.

**LINKAGE TO THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO STRATEGIC PLAN**

Today's proposed action supports the Community and Equity Strategic Initiatives in the County of San Diego's 2024-2029 Strategic Plan by encouraging civic engagement and meaningful conversations to reduce disparities and enhance the health, safety, and well-being of residents.

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Respectfully submitted,



SARAH E. AGHASSI  
Interim Chief Administrative Officer

**ATTACHMENT(S)**

Attachment A – Gun Violence Community Needs Assessment Final Report v2

Attachment B – Gun Violence Reduction Work Plan



# COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

## AGENDA ITEM

### BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

NORA VARGAS  
First District

JOEL ANDERSON  
Second District

TERRA LAWSON-REMER  
Third District

MONICA MONTGOMERY STEPPE  
Fourth District

JIM DESMOND  
Fifth District

**DATE:** February 6, 2024

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**TO:** Board of Supervisors

### **SUBJECT**

**ANNUAL REPORT ON GUN VIOLENCE (DISTRICTS: ALL)**

### **OVERVIEW**

On October 19, 2021 (1), the Board of Supervisors (Board), directed the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) to (1) draft an ordinance related non-serialized firearms, non-serialized unfinished firearm frames and receivers, and safe storage of firearms and (2) develop options for community-based gun violence reduction and disruption programs. To address the first action, staff returned to the Board on January 11, 2022 (13) with a draft ordinance. The Board approved the introduction of the ordinance and directed the Chief Administrative Officer to present an annual report on gun violence in San Diego County, with a section pertaining to ghost guns. On January 25, 2022 (4), the ordinance was adopted by the Board prohibiting the possession, purchasing, selling, offering to sell, transferring, offering to transfer, receiving and transporting non-serialized unfinished frames and receivers and non-serialized firearms, including those created by 3D printing, within San Diego County. The ordinance also requires safe storage of firearms within a residence or accessory structure, unless those firearms are within the immediate control of an authorized person.

To address the second action from October 19, 2021, staff returned to the Board on April 5, 2022 (16) with a recommendation to conduct a contractor-led, regional gun violence community needs assessment to better understand the scope, complexity, and impact of gun violence and to share key findings with the Board upon completion. On February 6, 2024, staff will be returning to the Board to share the Gun Violence Community Needs Assessment Final Report and recommendations included in a Gun Violence Reduction Work Plan. One of today's recommended actions is to combine the annual gun violence report directed by the Board on January 11, 2022 and the proposed annual report on Gun Violence Reduction Work Plan progress, if approved by the Board on February 6, 2024.

The annual gun violence report provided today includes information on the number of privately made, non-serialized firearms, commonly referred to as ghost guns, recovered by the San Diego Sheriff's Department as well as information on firearm deaths, including homicides and suicides, from the San Diego County Medical Examiner's Office. Additional information on gun violence in San Diego County can be found in the Gun Violence Community Needs Assessment Final Report which details the scope, complexity, and impact of gun violence in our communities. The

**SUBJECT: ANNUAL REPORT ON GUN VIOLENCE (DISTRICTS: ALL)**

Final Report is available online and will be presented to the Board of Supervisors on February 6, 2024.

Today's requested actions are for the Board to receive an annual report on gun violence in San Diego County and to combine the annual gun violence report directed by the Board on January 11, 2022 and the proposed annual report on Gun Violence Reduction Work Plan progress, if approved by the Board on February 6, 2024.

**RECOMMENDATION(S)**

**CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER**

1. Receive annual report on gun violence in San Diego County.
2. If the Gun Violence Reduction Work Plan is approved by the Board, combine the annual gun violence report directed by the Board on January 11, 2022 with the proposed annual report on Gun Violence Reduction Work Plan progress.

**EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

According to the American Public Health Association, gun violence is a leading cause of premature death in the United States, causing more than 38,000 deaths and 85,000 injuries annually. From 2019-2023, there were 1,095 firearm-related deaths in San Diego County, the majority were suicide (68%), whereas 32% were homicide. While gun violence impacts people of all ages, genders, and racial/ethnic backgrounds, it does not impact people equally. As identified in the Gun Violence Reduction Community Needs Assessment Final Report, which is a separate item on today's Board of Supervisor's agenda, regionally, firearm-related homicide rates are highest for Black male residents while suicide rates are highest among older White males.

By focusing programs, services, and practices on the places and people experiencing the greatest burden of violence and underlying conditions that contribute to risk, the strategies are intended to have both an immediate impact on preventing violence and to establish long-term solutions. With an emphasis on equity, the goals are to reduce disparities and disproportionality and enhance the health, safety, and well-being of residents through partnerships, innovation, and active community engagement, which is in alignment with the County of San Diego's Equity Strategic Initiative.

**SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

Today's report seeks to broaden and deepen understanding of how gun violence impacts our communities. This report, coupled with the recently released Gun Violence Community Needs Assessment Final Report, provides key information needed to develop and implement strategies to prevent gun violence in San Diego County, which contributes to the County of San Diego's Sustainability Goals by seeking to meaningfully engage the community, provide just and equitable access to programs and services, and protect the health and well-being of residents.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

There is no fiscal impact associated with the requested actions. There is no change to the net General Fund cost and no additional staff years.

**BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT**

N/A



**SUBJECT: ANNUAL REPORT ON GUN VIOLENCE (DISTRICTS: ALL)**

**BACKGROUND**

On October 19, 2021 (1), the Board of Supervisors (Board) directed the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO), in consultation with County Counsel, to draft an ordinance that, unless already preempted by State law, (1) updates definitions regarding firearms as appropriate including defining “ghost guns,” precursor parts for such guns and unserialized parts and guns, (2) prohibits the possession or distribution of unserialized parts used in the creation or possession of ghost guns, (3) creates safe firearm storage standards, and (4) prohibits 3D printing of unserialized firearms or precursor parts.

On January 11, 2022 (13), County staff proposed updates to the County’s Code of Regulatory Ordinances to implement the Board direction from October 19, 2021. The ordinance approved by the Board prohibits possessing, purchasing, selling, offering to sell, transferring, offering to transfer, receiving and transporting non-serialized unfinished frames and receivers and non-serialized firearms, including those created by 3D printing, within the County of San Diego. The ordinance also requires safe storage of firearms within a residence or accessory structure, unless those firearms are within the immediate control of an authorized person. On January 25, 2022 (4), the proposed updates to the ordinance were adopted by the Board.

According to the Sheriff’s Department, 878 privately made, non-serialized firearms, commonly referred to as ghost guns, have been recovered by the Sheriff’s Department over the last five years. From 2019 to 2021, there was a 278% increase in the number of ghost guns recovered, with a high of 265 ghost guns recovered in 2021. 2022 marked the first annual decrease in the number of ghost guns recovered over the last five years, with 207 ghost guns recovered, a 22% decrease from the previous year. In 2023, the number of ghost guns recovered increased by 1.4% with 210 ghost guns recovered. The 210 ghost guns recovered in 2023 made up 6.5% of the total firearms seized that year. The 207 ghost guns recovered in 2022 made up 6.5% of the total firearms seized that year which was down from 7.5% in 2021. In 2019, 2020, and 2021, ghost guns were 2.2%, 2.8%, and 7.5% of total yearly firearm seizures, respectively.

In 2023, the Sheriff’s Department brought 54 charges related to privately made firearms against individuals. 33 of these charges were for owning a firearm without a serial number and 21 of these charges were for the manufacture/sale/possession of an undetectable firearm. A grand total of 569 charges were brought against individuals in relation to the 210 privately made firearms seized in 2023.

**San Diego Sheriff’s Department  
Recovered Privately Made, Non-Serialized Firearms 2019-2023**

Area	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
4S Ranch	2	1	0	1	1
Alpine	1	7	11	7	2
Campo	0	3	12	5	1
Del Mar	0	0	0	1	0
Encinitas	0	4	2	3	3
Fallbrook	17	9	13	4	5

**SUBJECT: ANNUAL REPORT ON GUN VIOLENCE (DISTRICTS: ALL)**

Imperial Beach	3	3	17	13	7
Julian	0	0	8	1	0
Lakeside	2	15	23	31	15
Lemon Grove	1	8	5	13	7
North Coastal Unincorporated	0	0	2	1	6
Pine Valley	1	7	9	9	5
Poway	8	2	5	2	1
Ramona	2	5	2	2	7
Ranchita	0	0	0	1	1
Rancho San Diego	3	9	30	22	28
San Marcos	6	11	17	33	26
Santee	3	10	4	11	13
Solana Beach	0	0	2	0	0
Valley Center	7	3	9	4	2
Vista	8	14	35	22	67
Other*	6	15	59	21	13
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>265</b>	<b>207</b>	<b>210</b>

*\*Other includes non-County contract cities, out of county, unknown beat in county, and detention facilities*

To combat the proliferation of ghost guns in our communities, the San Diego Sheriff's Department and District Attorney's Office have taken a number of actions.

The Sheriff's Department participated in a California Grant, *Gun Violence Reduction Pilot Program for Disarming Prohibited Persons Team*, from 2019 to 2022 that focused on identifying and contacting individuals within San Diego County who were prohibited from owning or possessing firearms for a variety of reasons (felony conviction, mental health prohibition, restraining order, etc.) but were still shown in the California Department of Justice database as having the firearm registered to them. The grant funding ended on June 30, 2022; however, the Sheriff's Department continued to fund and conduct operations monthly, focusing on different areas throughout the county.

Additionally, the Sheriff's Department regularly conducts Gun Safety Events, more commonly known as gun buybacks, throughout the county to get firearms off the street. The department has continued its partnership with the San Diego County District Attorney's Office and various cities in San Diego County to hold these events. Individuals are given gift cards in exchange for guns under a "no questions asked" environment. The goal is to make the Gun Safety Events a community effort. There is purposeful dialogue to raise awareness on gun violence in the community and to encourage residents to act to address gun violence. These events have included participation by local businesses where they have provided goods to individuals seeking to turn in firearms. From 2021 to 2023 the Sheriff's Department participated in and conducted 10 Gun Safety Events and collected a total of 2,108 firearms.

The District Attorney's Office prosecutes the possession of ghost guns as misdemeanors, or felonies in certain circumstances, including but not limited to when individuals are legally

**SUBJECT: ANNUAL REPORT ON GUN VIOLENCE (DISTRICTS: ALL)**

prohibited from possessing firearms because of prior convictions or restraining orders. In 2023, the District Attorney's Office prosecuted over 200 cases involving ghost guns, including violent crimes where ghost guns were used including murder, attempted murder, and assault.

From 2019-2023, there were 1,095 firearm-related deaths in San Diego County, the majority were suicide (68%), whereas 32% were homicide. In 2023, there were 149 firearm-related suicide deaths, a 5.6% increase from the previous year and a 10.2% decrease from the five-year high in 2019. Firearm-related homicides reached a five-year low in 2023, decreasing 22.9% from the previous year and 32.1% from the five-year high in 2021. Not all 2023 cases have been finalized due to ongoing investigations where cause of death has yet to be finalized, so 2023 counts are subject to change.

**San Diego County Medical Examiner  
Firearm Related Deaths\* 2019-2023**

<b>Manner of Death</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023**</b>
Accident	0	0	0	0	0
Homicide	59	76	84	74	57
Suicide	166	149	137	141	149
Undetermined	0	0	2	0	0
<b>Grand Total All Manners</b>	<b>225</b>	<b>225</b>	<b>224</b>	<b>215</b>	<b>206</b>
Mid-Year Grand Total	109	108	109	106	105

*\*These counts represent firearm-related deaths where the incident causing death occurred within San Diego County; cases involving individuals where the incident leading to death occurred outside of San Diego County have not been included. \*\*Counts as of 12/31/2023; For 2023, in addition to the year not being complete, there are still cases in a pending investigation status; once a manner of death determination has been made on all 2023 cases, this count may increase.*

Additional information, including a detailed analysis of firearm-related deaths, injuries, and crimes in San Diego County by various demographic factors, can be found in the Gun Violence Community Needs Assessment Final Report which provides an overview of gun violence in San Diego County and outlines possible solutions to prevent violence and mitigate impacts. To inform the report, a gun violence community needs assessment was conducted, which included extensive data analysis; broad stakeholder engagement via surveys, listening sessions, and community forums; numerous meetings with a Gun Violence Reduction Advisory Group; and best practice review of local, state, and national programs and practices designed to reduce gun violence. The Final Report is available online at <https://engage.sandiegocounty.gov/gvrp> and will be presented to the Board of Supervisors on February 6, 2024.

The requirement to provide the Board an annual report on gun violence preceded the Gun Violence Community Needs Assessment and the development of a Gun Violence Reduction Work Plan, which includes an evaluation framework to measure and evaluate efforts to reduce gun violence. To streamline reporting on gun violence-related activities, staff recommends replacing the annual gun violence report requirement with a report that includes both Gun Violence Reduction Work Plan progress, if approved by the Board, and the ghost gun data included in this Board Letter. This will combine the two annual reports to the Board related to gun violence and gun seizures in San

**SUBJECT:** ANNUAL REPORT ON GUN VIOLENCE (DISTRICTS: ALL)

Diego County. The current annual gun violence report includes data on ghost guns seizures and firearm-related deaths. The proposed annual report would be expanded to include data on ghost guns seizures, firearm-related deaths and injuries, and other outcomes to be monitored and evaluated under the Work Plan.

**LINKAGE TO THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO STRATEGIC PLAN**

Today's proposed action to receive an annual report on gun violence in San Diego County supports the Community Strategic Initiative in the County of San Diego's 2024-2029 Strategic Plan by encouraging civic engagement and meaningful conversations to enhance safety and quality of life in our communities.

Respectfully submitted,



SARAH E. AGHASSI  
Interim Chief Administrative Officer

**ATTACHMENT(S)**

N/A

[Link to the full document](#)

San Diego County  
Gun Violence Reduction  
Community Needs Assessment

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Comprehensive Report



Prepared by  
 **HARC**  
HEALTH ASSESSMENT AND RESEARCH FOR COMMUNITIES

2023 (v2)



# Gun Violence Reduction Community Needs Assessment Final Report & Annual Gun Violence Report

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February 6, 2024

ITEMS #14 & #15

**HOLLY PORTER**

PUBLIC SAFETY GROUP  
DEPUTY CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

**DANIEL POLK**

HARC, INC.  
RESEARCH & EVALUATION ASSOCIATE

**JULIE JEAKLE**

PUBLIC SAFETY GROUP  
GROUP PROGRAM MANAGER



# Community Engagement and Input



Community and Professional  
Surveys



Community Listening Sessions  
and Forums



Advisory Group



Online Feedback



Regular Project Updates

# Project Overview



**Define the Problem**  
*(who, where, when)*



**Community Input**  
*(gather perspectives,  
experiences, thoughts  
and opinions)*



**Solutions**  
*(best practice  
identification and  
recommendations)*





## **Define the Problem**

*(who, where, when)*



## **Community Input**

*(gather perspectives, experiences, thoughts and opinions)*

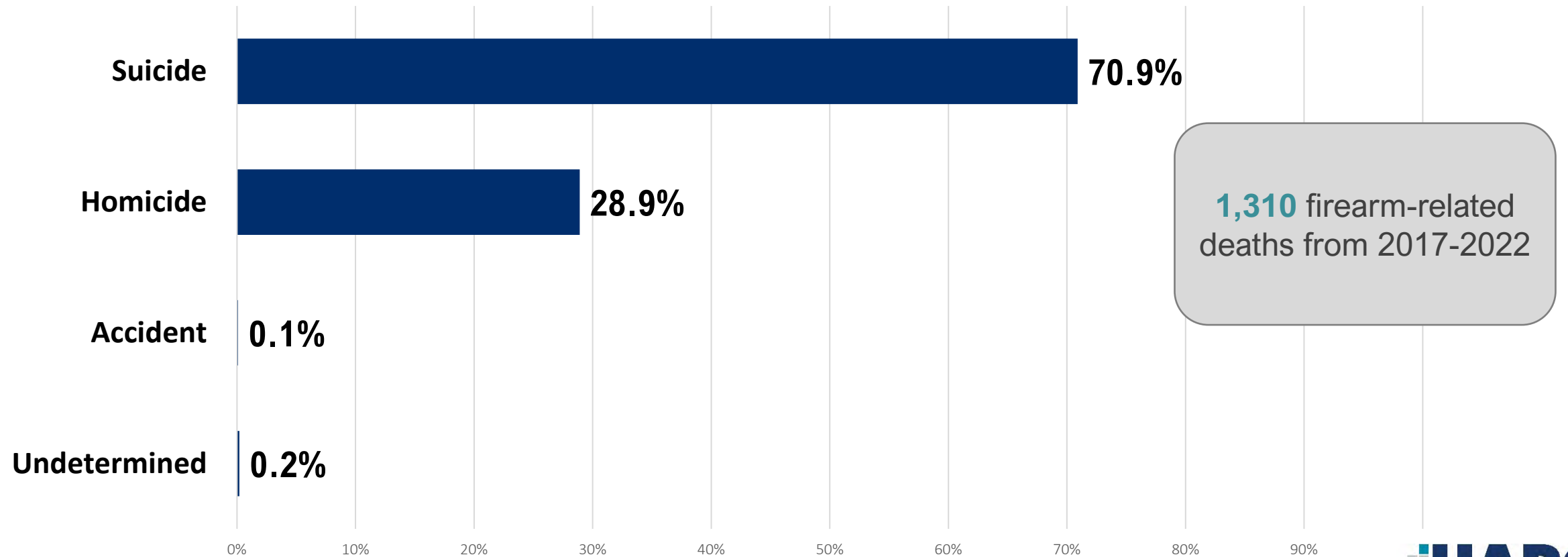


## **Solutions**

*(best practice identification and recommendations)*

# Firearm-Related Deaths

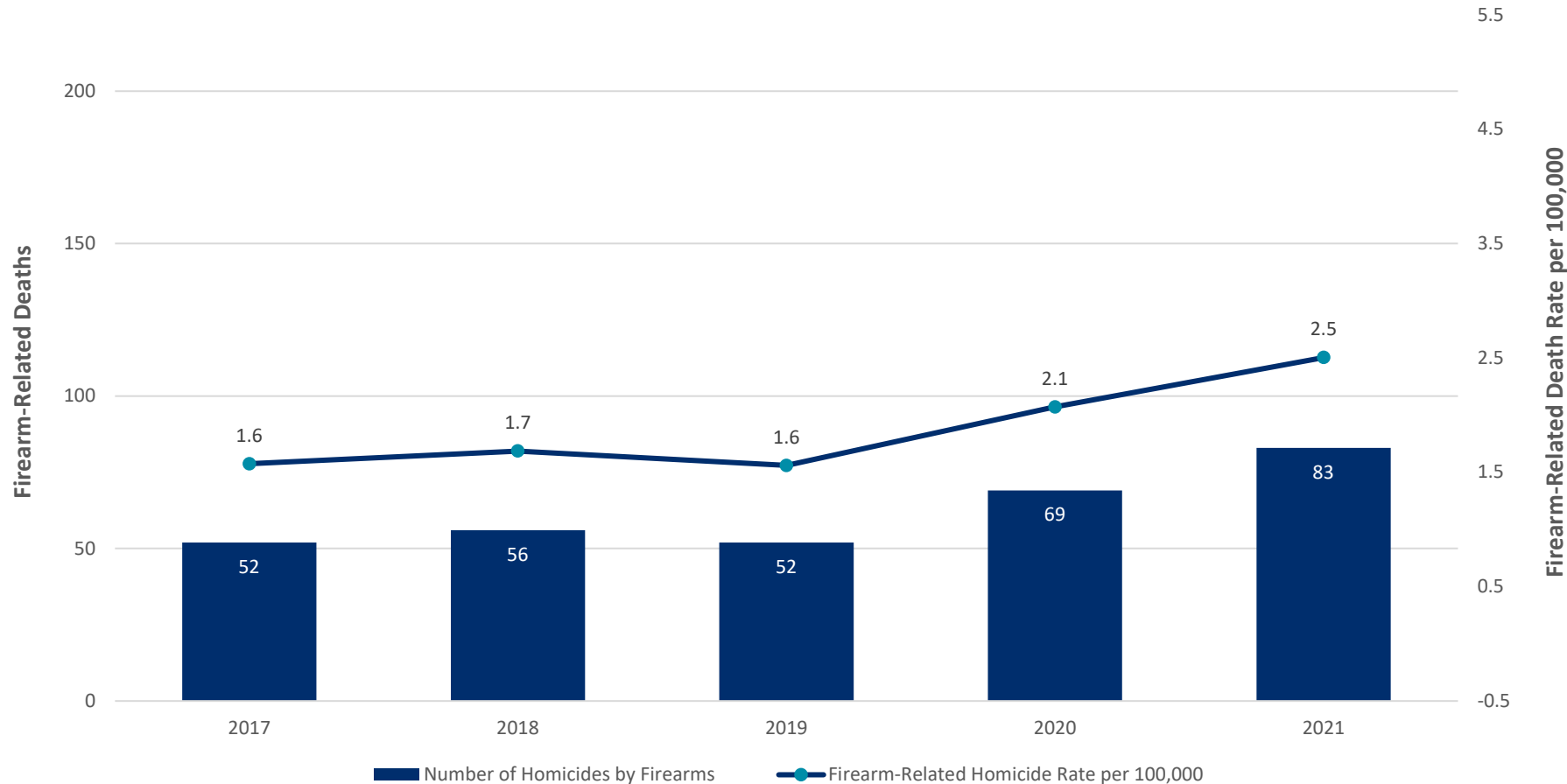
Manner of Death by Firearms in San Diego county – 2017 to 2022





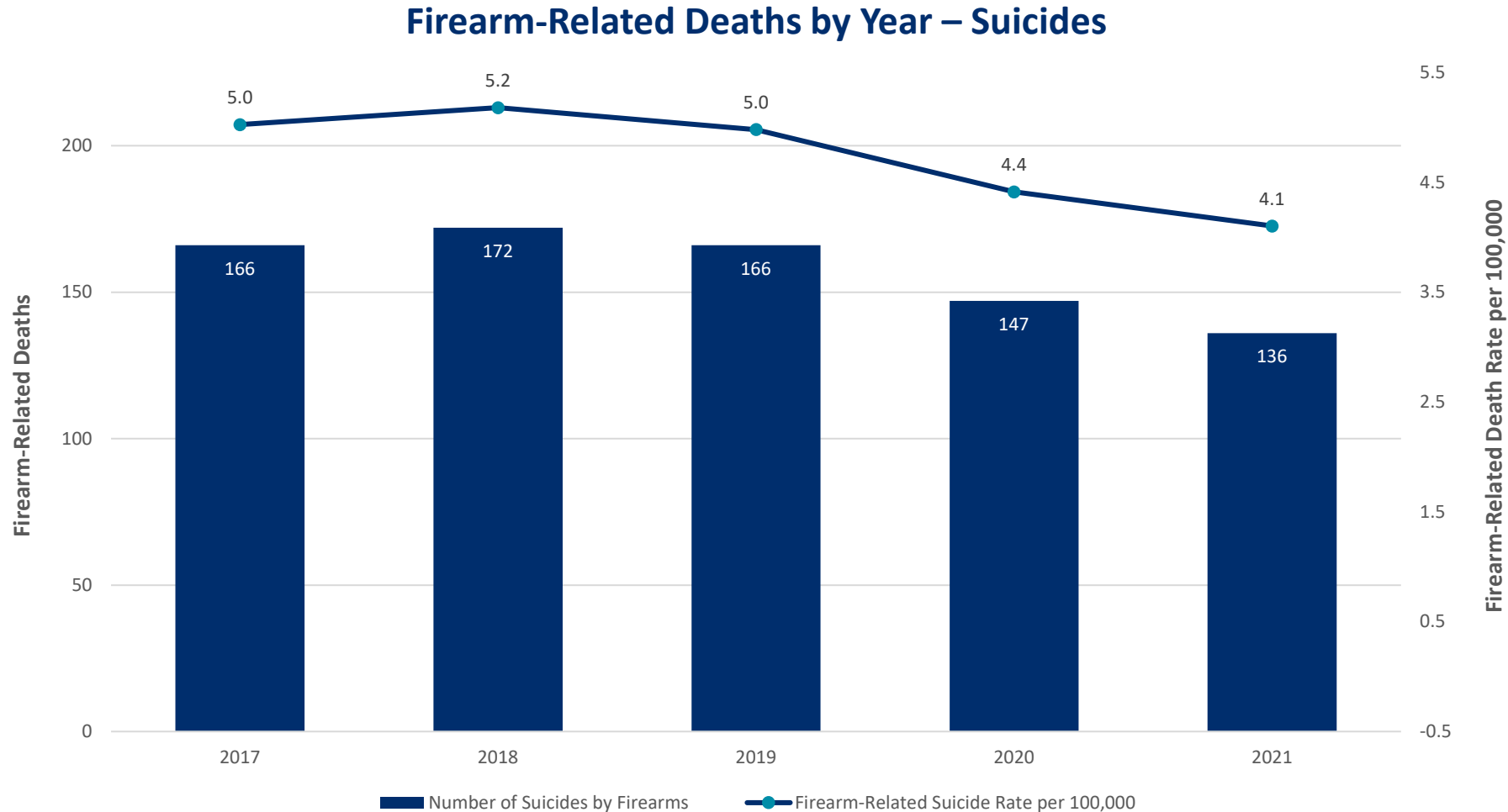
# Firearm-Related Homicides

Firearm-Related Deaths by Year – Homicides



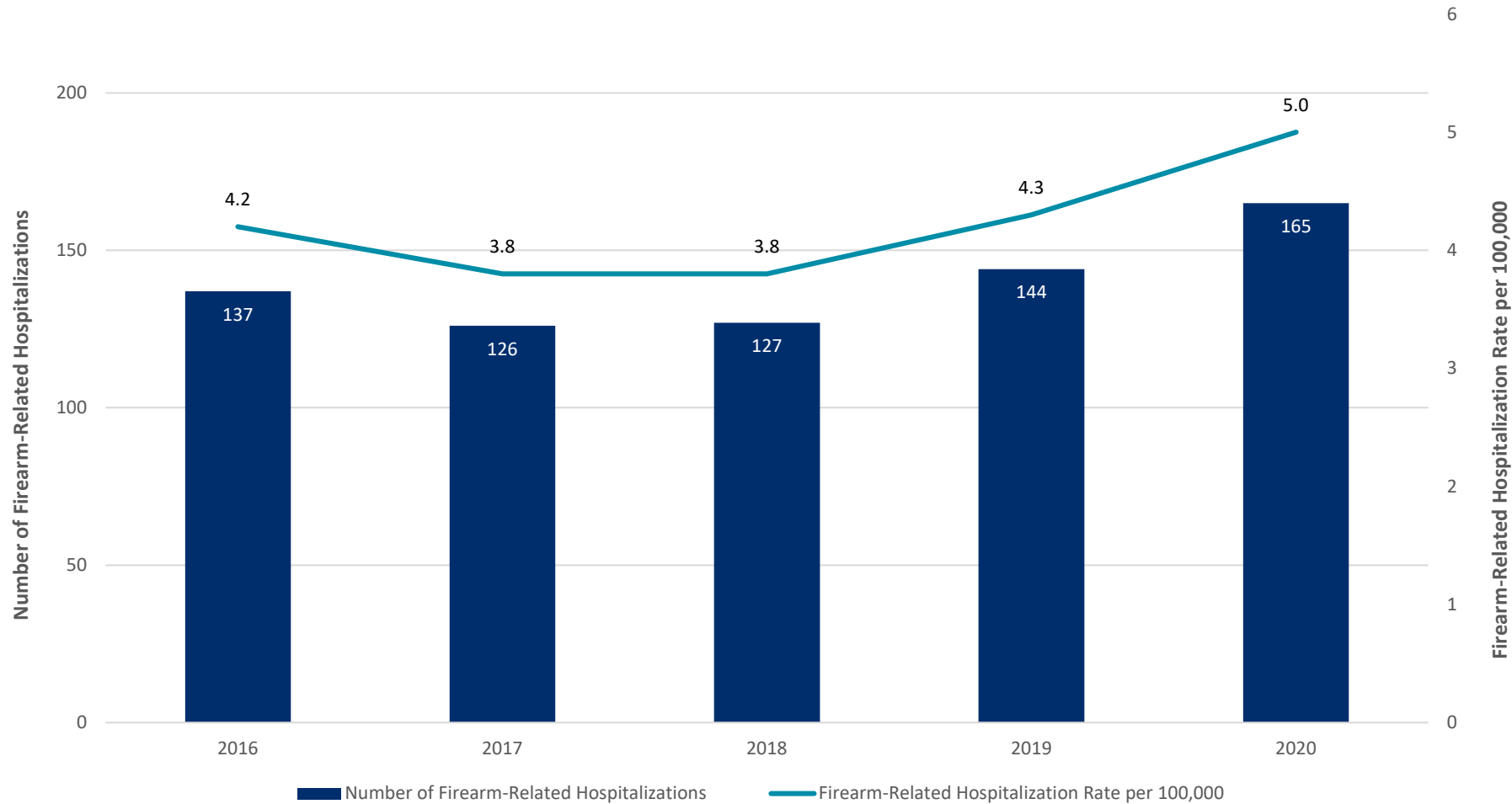
Firearm-related  
homicide rate  
**increased by 56.3%**

# Firearm-Related Suicides



Firearm-related suicide rate **decreased** by **18.0%**

# Firearm-Related Hospitalizations



Firearm-related injury hospitalization rate **increased by 19.0%**

# Death & Injury Rates: Key Findings

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Firearm most common manner of suicide and homicide death in the county

Firearm-related suicide rate for White residents (*highest rate*) is **6.8X greater** than for Asian residents (*lowest rate*)

Firearm-related homicide rate for Black residents (*highest rate*) is **11X greater** than for Asian residents (*lowest rate*)

**1 in 5** firearm-related deaths were veterans, the great majority (93.3%) died by suicide

Firearm-related hospitalization rate increased **19.0%** from 2016-2020

Black males between the ages of 15-24 had highest rates of firearm-related hospitalization

Firearm-related emergency department visits for Black residents **6.8X greater** than for White residents



## Define the Problem

*(who, where, when)*



## Community Input

*(gather perspectives,  
experiences, thoughts  
and opinions)*



## Solutions

*(best practice  
identification and  
recommendations)*

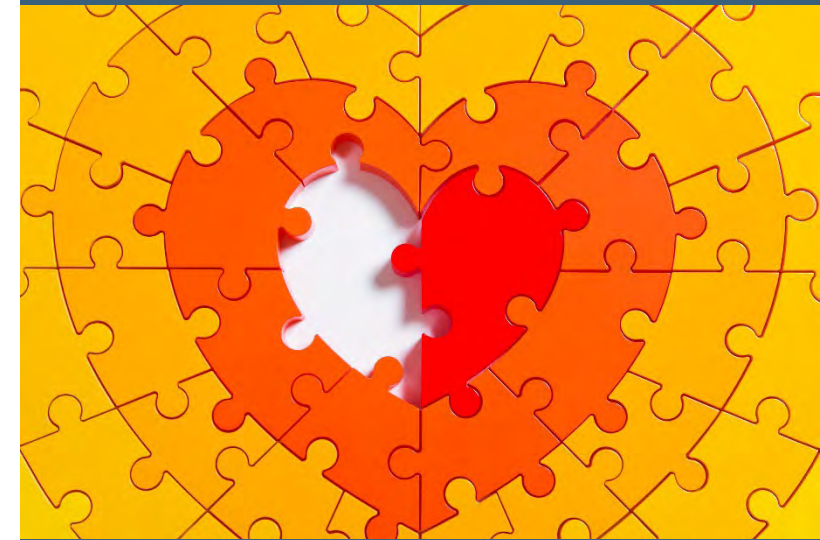


# Community Input: Trends

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## Suggested Solutions to Gun Violence

- Mental Health Care
- Youth Mentorship Programs
- Strict Enforcement/Penalties for Crimes
- Support for Firearm Regulation/Background Checks
- Funding for Community-Based Organizations





## Define the Problem

*(who, where, when)*



## Community Input

*(gather perspectives,  
experiences, thoughts  
and opinions)*



## Solutions

*(best practice  
identification and  
recommendations)*

# Recommendations

---

## **Best Practice Literature Review**

## **Strategic Areas of Focus**

Advocacy & Awareness, Community Engagement & Collaboration, Community Health & Trauma-Informed Practice, Planning & Evaluation

## **Public Health Approach**

Primary, Secondary, Tertiary Prevention

## **Spectrum of Gun Violence Types**

Suicide, Domestic/Intimate Partner Violence, Community Violence

# Recommendations

## COMMUNITY HEALING & TRAUMA-INFORMED PRACTICE

Youth-Focused Programs  
and Services in  
Communities at Highest  
Risk

Partnership Between  
Trauma Hospitals and  
Community-Based  
Organizations

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & COLLABORATION

Gun Violence Reduction  
Advisory Group

Networking Events &  
Roundtables

Online Collaboration  
Platform

## ADVOCACY & AWARENESS

Prevention Resources  
Related to Suicide  
and Domestic Violence

Street Outreach  
Programs in Communities  
at Highest Risk

No-Cost Gun Lock  
Distribution

Firearm Safety Awareness  
Training

Temporary and Voluntary  
Firearm Transfers

Suicide Risk Screening

## PLANNING & EVALUATION

County Office or Unit to  
Lead Gun Violence  
Reduction Efforts

Strategic Plans to Address  
Gun Violence in  
Communities at Highest  
Risk

Monitoring and Evaluation  
Framework

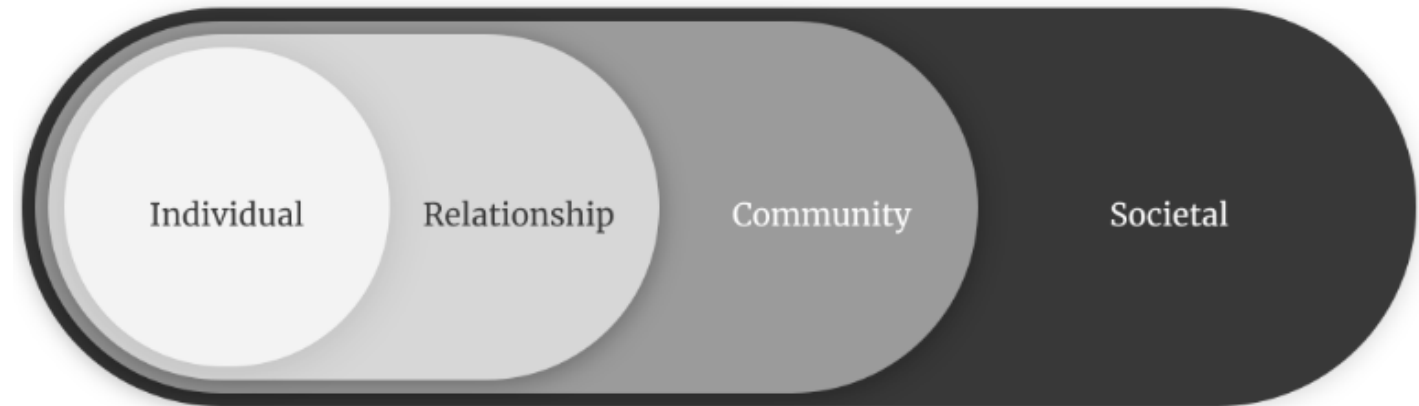
Share Local Data with  
Stakeholders

Townhall/Listening  
Session to Share Progress

Fund Violence Prevention  
and Intervention Efforts

# Gun Violence Reduction Work Plan

- 17 actions informed by HARC analysis and broad input
- Reflect guiding principles:
  - » Community-Led
  - » Solution-Focused
  - » Person-Centered
  - » Equity-Oriented
- Social-Ecological Framework



*CDC: Social Ecological Model*



# Gun Violence Reduction Work Plan

New County Efforts – FY 24-25
Strengthen <b>Violence Intervention</b> Programs in Communities at Highest Risk
Strengthen <b>Support Services</b> for Firearm Injury Patients (pilot program)
Coordinate <b>Townhalls/Listening Sessions</b>
Develop <b>Online Collaboration Platform</b>
Establish <b>County Structure</b> to Lead Gun Violence Reduction Efforts
Establish a <b>Performance Measurement &amp; Evaluation Framework</b>
Share <b>Local Data</b> on Gun Violence – New Report
Identify & Apply for <b>Grant Funds</b>

Enhanced County Efforts – FY 24-25
Develop & Distribute Age/Population Specific <b>Suicide Prevention</b> Materials & Trainings
Develop & Distribute <b>Domestic/Intimate Partner Violence Awareness</b> Content
Coordinate & Promote <b>Gun Lock Distribution Programs</b>
Monitor State and Federal Actions to Improve <b>Safe Gun Ownership</b> & Support Gun Violence Reduction Efforts in Communities
Promote <b>Suicide Risk Screening</b> in Rural Communities
Establish & Coordinate a <b>Gun Violence Reduction Advisory Group</b>

# Gun Violence Reduction Work Plan

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## Enhanced County Efforts – FY 25-26

Strengthen **Youth-Focused Programs & Services**

Coordinate **Networking Events, Roundtables & Educational Events**

Develop **Firearm Safety Awareness Training** for Non-Sworn County Staff

- Anticipate additional recommendations for Board consideration as priorities and next steps are identified as part of FY 24-25 actions.
- Recommendation to add 1 FTE to lead and coordinate County gun violence reduction activities.

# Annual Gun Violence Reporting

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- **Existing:** Annual Gun Violence Report directed by the Board on January 11, 2022, to include information on ghost gun seizures (Item #15).
- **Proposed:** Annual Gun Violence Report recommended under Item #14 to include information on ghost gun seizures, firearm-related deaths and injuries and other outcomes to be monitored and evaluated under the Gun Violence Reduction Work Plan.
- **Recommendation:** If the Gun Violence Reduction Work Plan is approved by the Board, combine the annual gun violence report directed by the Board on January 11, 2022 with the proposed annual report on Gun Violence Reduction Work Plan progress.

# Privately-Made, Unserialized Firearms Recovered by the San Diego Sheriff's Department

Year	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Total	70	126	265	207	210

- **878** privately-made, non-serialized firearms recovered from 2019-2023
- **278%** increase in ghost guns recovered from 2019 to 2021
- **1.4%** increase in ghost guns recovered from 2022 to 2023

# Recommendations – Item #14

- Receive Gun Violence Community Needs Assessment Final Report and recommendations.
- Receive Gun Violence Reduction Work Plan and approve FY 2024-25 actions.
- Approve and authorize Public Safety Group to add one (1.00) staff year to lead and coordinate gun violence reduction activities.
- Authorize competitive solicitation(s) for planning, outreach, and facilitation services related to community violence intervention programs and services.
- Authorize the County to submit grant applications and accept grant funding to support violence prevention and intervention programs and services.
- Provide an annual report on gun violence in San Diego County.
- Return to the Board in early 2025 with an initial update on Work Plan actions.



# Recommendations – Item #15

- Receive annual report on gun violence in San Diego County.
- If the Gun Violence Reduction Work Plan is approved by the Board, combine the annual gun violence report directed by the Board on January 11, 2022 with the proposed annual report on Gun Violence Reduction Work Plan progress.

# Gun Violence Reduction Community Needs Assessment Final Report & Annual Gun Violence Report

---

February 6, 2024

ITEMS #14 & #15

**HOLLY PORTER**

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PUBLIC SAFETY GROUP  
GROUP PROGRAM MANAGER



[Link to the full document](#)



## January 2024 Update

Progress & Updates

February 1, 2024

In our January 2024 Update, we highlight the release of the CYBHI's 2023 "Implementing the Vision" annual report and spotlight the launches of three major CYBHI programs: DHCS's new Virtual Behavioral Health Service Platforms, the Multi-Payer Fee Schedule that expands access to behavioral health services near schools, and OSG's upcoming ACEs and Toxic Stress Healing-Centered Public Awareness Campaign. We also talk to new CYBHI Director Dr. Sohil Sud about what led him to CYBHI, his hopes for its future and what it will take to make the initiative sustainable over the long term.





[Link to the full document](#)



## Behavioral Health Virtual Services Platform Launch

### Promotional Toolkit

#### Purpose

On January 16, 2024, the California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) launched two free online behavioral health services platforms that are available to all California families with children, youth, and young adults, and their caregivers, regardless of insurance coverage or immigration status. These web- and app-based platforms offer free one-on-one support with live coaches, a library of multimedia resources, wellness exercises, and peer communities moderated by trained behavioral health professionals. As part of this incredible milestone, this digital toolkit was created to help spread the word about these valuable behavioral health resources.

**Link to platforms:** [www.CalHOPE.org](http://www.CalHOPE.org)

#### Contents

[Additional Resources and Videos](#)

[Email Blurbs](#)

[Newsletter Blurb](#)

[Toolkit Promotion for Partners Email Blurb](#)

[Social Media Copy and Graphics](#)

[Messaging Materials](#)

[Core Messaging Slides](#)

[Basic Talking Points](#)

#### Additional Resources and Videos

- [Behavioral Health Platform Introduction \(YouTube\)](#): 5-minute explainer video.
- BrightLife Kids (Ages 0-12 app, and also for parents/caregivers):
  - [Promotional Toolkit](#)
  - [Demo Video](#)
- Soluna (Ages 13-25 app):
  - [Promotional Toolkit](#)
  - [Demo Video](#)



# Behavioral Health Virtual Services Platform Launch Promotional Toolkit

## Email Blurbs

### Newsletter Blurb

On January 16, 2024, the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) launched the [Behavioral Health Virtual Services Platform](#) – two free behavioral health services applications for all families with children, teens, and young adults. The platform is a cornerstone of Governor Gavin Newsom's [Master Plan for Kids' Mental Health](#) and the [Children and Youth Behavioral Health Initiative \(CYBHI\)](#).

[BrightLife Kids](#) is designed for parents or caregivers and kids 0-12 years old, and [Soluna](#) is for teens and young adults ages 13-25. Available regardless of insurance coverage or immigration status, the two web- and app-based platforms offer free one-on-one support with live coaches, a library of multimedia resources, wellness exercises, and peer communities moderated by trained behavioral health professionals.

Designed with input from more than 1,000 young people, caregivers, and professionals in the field, these platforms will complement existing services offered by health plans, counties, and schools by providing additional care options and resources for parents and caregivers, children, youth, and young adults in California. Both apps have strict privacy and confidentiality requirements and take robust steps to ensure user safety. Trained professionals monitor app usage to identify potential risks, licensed behavioral health professionals are on standby to intervene if clinically appropriate, and the apps can connect users to crisis or emergency services when needed.

Learn more about BrightLife Kids and Soluna at [CalHOPE.org](https://CalHOPE.org).

To help us spread the word about these valuable resources, we've prepared a digital toolkit with social media posts and graphics, sample slides, videos, and talking points. [Download the toolkit](#) today!

### Toolkit Promotion for Partners Email Blurb

Dear Colleagues,

The California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) recently launched two free online behavioral health services platforms that are available for all California children, youth, and young adults, regardless of insurance coverage or immigration status. The platforms, part of the [CalHOPE](#) program, offer free one-on-one support with live coaches, a library of multimedia resources, wellness exercises, and peer communities moderated by trained behavioral health professionals.

## Behavioral Health Virtual Services Platform Launch Promotional Toolkit

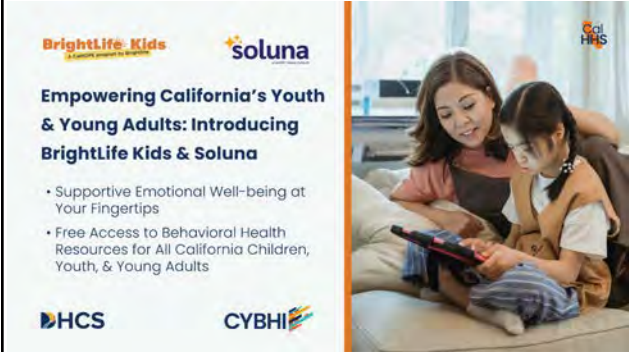
DHCS' Behavioral Health Virtual Services Platform meets the distinct needs of kids and young adults by age group using two different web- and app-based platforms: [BrightLife Kids](#), developed by Brightline, is for parents or caregivers and kids 0-12 years old. [Soluna](#), developed by Kooth, is for teens and young adults ages 13-25. Families with multiple children whose ages span 0-25 can use both platforms to meet their unique needs.

This is an incredible milestone, and we encourage you to help us spread the word so children, youth, and young adults across the state can access vital behavioral health care through these valuable resources. Attached and [linked below](#), you'll find a digital toolkit with social media posts, graphics, videos, talking points, and slides you can share with your networks.



Thank you for your support and partnership in sharing this information.

# Behavioral Health Virtual Services Platform Launch Promotional Toolkit

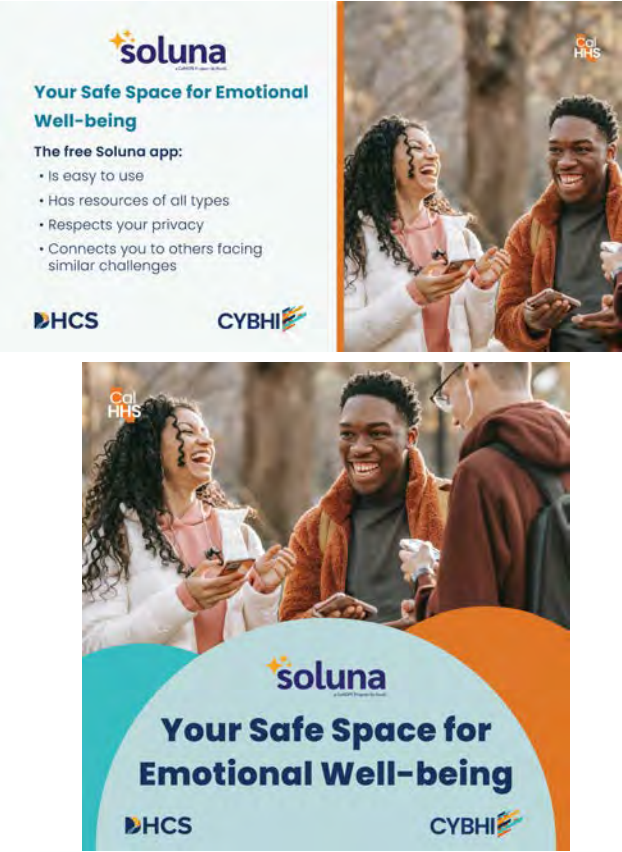
## Social Media Copy and Graphics

Post Topic	Short-Form	Long-Form	Graphic
Highlighting the announcement of the platforms.	<p><b><u>Tweet 1 of 2</u></b></p> <p>☀️ Exciting News! @DHCS_CA launched the Behavioral Health Virtual Services Platform featuring two free apps: BrightLife Kids &amp; Soluna.</p> <p>Designed for California's children, youth &amp; young adults, the apps provide equitable, appropriate &amp; timely services.</p> <p>Learn more! <a href="#">↓</a></p> <p><b><u>Tweet 2 of 2</u></b></p> <p>Explore these free digital tools &amp; resources to support your family's well-being. Download today on iOS and Android (Android coming mid-2024 for BrightLife Kids), or visit CalHOPE.org.</p> <p>Learn more:  <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rqbY1iXvYDs">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rqbY1iXvYDs</a></p>	<p>🚀 Launch Announcement: We're pleased to share that the California Department of Health Care Services recently launched the Behavioral Health Virtual Services Platform. The platform is a cornerstone of Governor Newsom's Master Plan for Kids' Mental Health and the Children and Youth Behavioral Health Initiative.</p> <p>The platform includes two new apps - BrightLife Kids for children ages 0-12, and Soluna for youth and young adults ages 13-25, offering a range of digital tools, resources, and virtual services.</p> <p>These apps provide equitable and timely behavioral health support to all families in California, free of charge.</p> <p>Learn more about how these apps can support the emotional health and well-being of your family at <a href="http://www.calhope.org">www.calhope.org</a>.</p>	 <p><a href="#">You can view and download the graphic here.</a></p>

## Behavioral Health Virtual Services Platform Launch Promotional Toolkit


<p><b>Encouraging organizations to drive youth and families to the apps.</b></p>	<p><b><u>Tweet 1 of 1</u></b></p> <p>📢 Join us in sharing the new BrightLife Kids &amp; Soluna apps to support the mental health of California's youth and young adults.</p> <p>Designed for children, youth &amp; young adults, the apps provide free, safe, &amp; confidential mental health support.</p> <p>Here's how you can help 📌</p> <p><a href="https://cybhi.chhs.ca.gov/resource/bhpromokit/">https://cybhi.chhs.ca.gov/resource/bhpromokit/</a></p>	<p>Help us spread the word. 📢</p> <p>Join us in sharing the new BrightLife Kids &amp; Soluna apps to support the mental health of California's youth and young adults.</p> <p>Designed for children, youth &amp; young adults, the apps provide free, safe, &amp; confidential mental health support.</p> <p>By sharing these free resources, you can play a crucial role in helping families access the care they need.</p> <p>Join us in making a positive impact on our communities.</p> <p><a href="https://cybhi.chhs.ca.gov/resource/bhpromokit/">https://cybhi.chhs.ca.gov/resource/bhpromokit/</a></p>	<div data-bbox="1381 185 1652 285"> <p>Help spread the word:</p> <p><b>New apps available for youth and young adult mental health</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage friends and family to check out the apps</li> <li>• If you work with youth or young adults, offer these apps as resources</li> <li>• Share them on your social media channels</li> </ul> <p>Learn more: <a href="https://CalHOPE.org">CalHOPE.org</a></p> <p><b>HCS</b> <b>CYBHI</b></p> </div>   <p><a href="#">You can view and download the graphics here.</a></p>
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## Behavioral Health Virtual Services Platform Launch Promotional Toolkit

<p><b>Driving teens and young adults to the Soluna app (ages 13-25.)</b></p>	<p><b><u>Tweet 1 of 1</u></b></p> <p>Attention California Teens &amp; Young Adults: 🌟 Check out Soluna, your new go-to app for mental health support and well-being.</p> <p>Free, easy to use, confidential, and made just for you.</p> <p>Learn more: <a href="http://www.calhope.org">www.calhope.org</a></p>	<p>Attention California Teens and Young Adults: 🌟 We're pleased to introduce Soluna – an app designed specifically for your mental health and well-being needs.</p> <p>Soluna offers a safe space for you to explore and manage your well-being through resources, forums, and more. It's free, easy to use, and confidential.</p> <p>Start your mental health journey today.</p> <p>Download Soluna on iOS or Android and discover a world of support.</p> <p>Learn more: <a href="http://www.calhope.org">www.calhope.org</a></p>	 <p><a href="#">You can view and download the graphics here.</a></p>
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## Behavioral Health Virtual Services Platform Launch Promotional Toolkit

<p><b>Driving parents or caregivers and kids to the BrightLife Kids app (ages 0-12).</b></p>	<p><b><u>Tweet 1 of 1</u></b></p> <p>Attention Parents &amp; Caregivers: BrightLife Kids is here to support your child's emotional growth.</p> <p>♥ BrightLife Kids is an engaging app meant for kids ages 0-12, offering free mental health tools &amp; resources.</p> <p>Learn more at <a href="http://www.calhope.org">www.calhope.org</a>.</p>	<p>♥ Introducing BrightLife Kids, a new way for parents and caregivers to support the mental health and emotional development of their children.</p> <p>Designed for kids ages 0-12, this free app offers a range of engaging tools and resources to support your family's mental health journey.</p> <p>Whether it's through interactive exercises or educational content, BrightLife Kids can help you every step of the way.</p> <p>Download it today on iOS (Android coming mid-2024), and start exploring the possibilities.</p> <p>Learn more at <a href="http://www.calhope.org">www.calhope.org</a>.</p>	 <p><a href="#">You can view and download the graphics here.</a></p>
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# Behavioral Health Virtual Services Platform Launch Promotional Toolkit

## Messaging Materials

### Core Messaging Slides

You can use these sample slides for presentations.

- Follow [this link](#) to access the slides.

### Basic Talking Points

- On January 16, 2024, the California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) launched two free online [behavioral health services platforms](#) that are available to all California children, youth, and young adults, regardless of insurance coverage or immigration status.
- These web- and app-based platforms offer free one-on-one support with live coaches, a library of multimedia resources, wellness exercises, and peer communities moderated by trained behavioral health professionals.
- These platforms are a cornerstone of Governor Gavin Newsom's [Master Plan for Kids' Mental Health](#) and the [Children and Youth Behavioral Health Initiative \(CYBHI\)](#).
- Launched as part of the state's [CalHOPE program](#), the platforms were designed with extensive input from more than 1,000 children, youth, families/caregivers, behavioral health professionals, and subject-matter experts.
- The two platforms are:
  - [BrightLife Kids](#) is designed for parents or caregivers and kids ages 0-12.
  - [Soluna](#) for teens and young adults ages 13-25.
- Both platforms offer:
  - Live one-on-one sessions with qualified behavioral health coaches in English and Spanish.
  - Telephone coaching in all 19 [Medi-Cal threshold languages](#).
  - Age-tailored educational resources like articles, videos, podcasts, and stories.
  - Stress-management tools and clinically validated assessments to understand and monitor behavioral health over time.

## Behavioral Health Virtual Services Platform Launch Promotional Toolkit

- A searchable directory and live care navigation support to connect people to their local behavioral health resources, including their health plan, school-based services, or community-based organizations.
  - Peer communities moderated by trained behavioral health professionals.
  - Crisis and emergency safety resources for people experiencing a mental health crisis or who require immediate assistance.
- These platforms complement existing services offered by health plans, counties, and schools by providing additional care options and resources for parents and caregivers, children, youth, and young adults.
- These apps are accessible, secure, and compliant with state privacy and safety regulations.
- The apps follow robust safety and risk escalation protocols. Trained behavioral health professionals monitor app usage to identify potential risks, licensed behavioral health professionals are on standby to intervene if clinically appropriate, and they connect users to crisis or emergency services when needed.
- [BrightLife Kids](#) is available for download on IOS devices in the Apple App Store and will be available for Android devices in mid-2024; [Soluna](#) is available in both the Apple App Store and Google Play Store. Both are available on the web at [CalHOPE.org](https://CalHOPE.org).



# LOVE HEART

## February 14-29, 2024

**“Join the Heart Health Movement”  
with a free blood pressure screening  
at sites across San Diego County and Mexico,  
celebrating thirteen years of Love Your Heart**

**visit [LOVEYOURHEARTSD.ORG](https://LOVEYOURHEARTSD.ORG) to learn more**



**LIVE WELL  
SAN DIEGO**



# GET INVOLVED WITH LOVE YOUR HEART

## We Need Host Sites and Medical Volunteers!

Love Your Heart is an annual event in which organizations from across the U.S. and Mexico join together to provide **free blood pressure screenings** to the public. Love Your Heart annually helps tens of thousands of people get to know their blood pressure numbers and take charge of their own heart health.

### Apply to host a blood pressure screening site!

Organizations from every sector - business, healthcare, education, non-profit, faith-based – are needed to host screening sites and help promote the event. Your organization can offer free blood pressure screenings to the public or your clients and employees.

### Submit an interest form to be a Medical Volunteer!

We are looking for certified medical workers, such as doctors, pharmacists, dentists, nurses, firefighters, paramedics, or other credentialed individuals who are trained in taking blood pressure readings manually.

As a Medical Volunteer, you will be assigned to support a Love Your Heart screening site within San Diego County by conducting blood pressure screenings. Most sites are active between 8am-5pm, though shorter shifts may be assigned.



Please visit **LOVEYOURHEARTSD.org** for more information on how to get involved.

If you have any questions please email: **loveyourheartsd@sdcounty.ca.gov**.







# County of San Diego

ERIC C. MCDONALD, MD, MPH, FACEP  
INTERIM AGENCY DIRECTOR

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY  
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES  
3255 CAMINO DEL RIO SOUTH, MAIL STOP P-531  
SAN DIEGO, CA 92108-3806  
(619) 563-2700 • FAX (619) 563-2705

LUKE BERGMANN, Ph.D.  
DIRECTOR, BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES

January 25, 2024

TO: Behavioral Health Advisory Board (BHAB)

FROM: Luke Bergmann, Ph.D., Director, Behavioral Health Services

## BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES (BHS) DIRECTOR'S REPORT – FEBRUARY 2024

### BHS Workforce Education and Training Updates

#### **Behavioral Health Workforce Shortage Report**

On October 11, 2022, the Board of Supervisors (Board) received the report titled "*Addressing San Diego's Behavioral Health Workforce Shortage*" and directed the County Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) to support legislation that would address behavioral health worker recruitment; training and retention; improve behavioral health workforce licensing and credentialing; supervision and training; higher education; and parity. Additionally, the CAO was directed to report back to the Board regularly on strategies and efforts made to address recruitment and retention. The report outlined five recommendations to address San Diego's workforce shortage: 1) Invest in competitive compensation; 2) Pursue administrative relief; 3) Build regional workforce training fund; 4) Establish regional training centers of excellence; and 5) Continue listening to workers. The following are updates on BHS' progress on addressing these recommendations.

- Behavioral health professionals identified the need to assess administrative burdens with the desire to further streamline documentation requirements. BHS was directed to explore opportunities to remove administrative barriers for those providing behavioral health services, and ultimately higher quality and more timely care provision. In order to streamline administrative requirements for the behavioral health system of care, BHS partnered with the Department of Purchasing and Contracting and issued a procurement in the form of a Request for Quotation (RFQ), for a consultant to conduct a comprehensive review and analysis of required behavioral health services documentation and contract monitoring practices. The RFQ was posted on March 1, 2023 with a closing date of March 29, 2023. The RFQ did not result in an award and was updated based on feedback received from key stakeholders, including behavioral health services providers and County subject matter experts. Following this process, the RFQ was re-issued on August 1, 2023 with a closing date of August 22, 2023. The re-issued RFQ did not result in an award.
- As an alternative strategy, BHS will be partnering with the California Mental Health Services Authority (CalMHSA) to access technical assistance to review the County's behavioral health care documentation and contract monitoring practices and identify opportunities for administrative relief. CalMHSA is a Joint Powers of Authority formed in 2009 by counties throughout the state to work on collaborative projects that improve behavioral health care for all Californians. This includes partnering with counties to support implementation of California Advancing and

Innovating Medi-Cal (CalAIM) documentation and payment reform. To date, BHS has moved forward with several key phases of CalAIM payment and documentation reform in alignment with State-required timelines, including conversion of contracts from cost-reimbursement structures to a fee-for-service structure. The additional and focused technical assistance that will result from partnership with CalMHSA will help ensure the County's continued local implementation of CalAIM behavioral health reform maximizes opportunities for administrative relief. This partnership with CalMHSA is anticipated to begin in early 2024.

- In May 2023, the Board approved the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Innovation Public Health Workforce Development and Retention Program proposal that was submitted to and subsequently approved by the California Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission (MHSOAC). This proposal seeks to explore and implement strategies and incentives to address unmet needs within the region by recruiting, training, and retaining a diverse public behavioral health workforce. This new program will be operated by a contractor after a competitive procurement process. The provider will distribute and monitor the use of funding to support individuals seeking a variety of training, tuition support, upskilling and incentive opportunities designed to attract and retain workers in the public behavioral health field. The Request for Proposal (RFP) will be posted on BuyNet in early 2024. BuyNet can be accessed at the following link: <https://buynet.sdcounty.ca.gov/>.
- As noted, the fourth recommendation in the report addressed the need to establish regional training Centers of Excellence (COE). In November 2023, at the direction of the Board, BHS contracted with Interfaith Community Services to invest up to \$1 million over five years to administer the Behavioral Health Workforce COE program. The goals of the COE are training, education, and licensure of behavioral health workforce staff, enabling them to advance in their careers and fill hard-to-recruit clinical positions in our region. This County investment will allow Interfaith to continue to educate and upskill professionals in our region, while they simultaneously identify funding streams to ensure the program continues to be sustainable in the long-term.

### **Programs Supporting Recruitment and Interest in Public Behavioral Health Careers**

- BHS has participated in events to highlight career opportunities in public behavioral health. On December 7, 2023, BHS participated in San Diego Unified School District's Health Career and College Symposium along with the Child and Family Well-Being and Homeless Solutions and Equitable Communities departments. More than 300 students were selected from the district's Career Technical Education – Health Pathways Program, representing 23 schools at the event held at the University of California San Diego's Park and Market facility downtown. In partnership with these Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA) departments, staff from each program discussed behavioral health career opportunities within each of their respective departments.
- The San Diego Community College District (SDCCD) provides a Public Mental Health Academy (PMHA) to facilitate workforce development and career pathways in public behavioral health by offering coursework leading to a PMHA Certificate. There are currently 527 students enrolled in the program, with 75% reporting they have lived mental health experience. In school year 2022-2023, 28 students graduated from the program with most graduates continuing their education to earn their Associates of Arts (AA) degree, transferring to a university, working, or looking for work within public behavioral health.
- In partnership with the Southern Counties Regional Partnership (SCRIP), a graduate student stipend opportunity continued to be provided to students doing their school year internships/practicums in a County or County-contract behavioral health program. In 2023, 30 students were awarded this stipend. It is anticipated that 30 students will be awarded this stipend in 2024.

- The UCSD Community Psychiatry Program (CPP) trains psychiatry residents/fellows and psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner trainees to advance the concepts of Community Psychiatry and promote work in community-based settings. The program also places psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner (PMHNP) trainees side-by-side with psychiatry residents throughout the entire program. As of December 2023, the program has thirteen (13) psychiatry residents and six (6) PMHNPs. The program has graduated nineteen (19) psychiatry residents and fifty-two (52) PMHNPs. Of those that graduated, seventeen (17) psychiatrists and forty-seven (47) PMHNPs continue to work in public behavioral health settings.
- In July 2023, SDSU shared that the California Social Work Education Center (CalSWEC) had launched the statewide Public Behavioral Health (PBH) Master of Social Work (MSW) Training Program to address California's public behavioral health workforce development needs, with funding provided by the California Office of Health Care Access and Information (HCAI). The goal of this program is to increase employment and retention of MSWs in publicly funded behavioral health programs and services by providing selected MSW students with specialized training and stipend support. Nine students are currently in the first cohort, receiving \$25,000 per school year to utilize towards school related expenses including tuition. BHS has partnered with SDSU to develop learning opportunities for the students selected for this program.
- HHSA's Live Well Center for Innovation and Leadership People Subcommittee is also committed to support the recruitment of individuals to work in public service. In partnership with HHSA representatives from HHSA Human Resources, Office of Strategy and Innovation, Child & Family Well-Being, and Aging & Independence Services, the subcommittee has been mapping the current practices for workforce pipeline, recruitment, and retention of critical positions, as well as identifying strategies for future workforce pipeline, recruitment, and retention efforts. The first event for this combined partnership will occur at SDSU's annual agency fair for social work interns that will be held in February 2024.

### **Programs Supporting Retention of Staff Working Within Public Behavioral Health**

Efforts have also been made to retain staff within public behavioral health. In partnership with the SCRP, a loan repayment program opportunity was offered for staff that work in "hard to fill" positions in both County and County-contracted behavioral health programs. In 2023, this program was managed by the California Mental Health Services Authority (CalMHSA). The program awarded 38 staff from San Diego County and County-contracted behavioral health programs with \$8,000 after 12-months of consecutive employment in their current County and County contracted BH programs. The application period for 2023/2024 closed in late November 2023.

### **Programs Supporting Continued Education and Training of BHS Staff and Contracted Staff**

- In partnership with HHSA Human Resources, BHS, Child and Family Well-Being and Aging and Independent Services continued to be engaged in support of the clinical supervision program that provides both individual supervision and group supervision to County staff to support their goal to obtain their clinical license. This program is currently providing supervision hours for 10 County BHS staff.
- In partnership with SCRP, conferences were held to support behavioral health staff from County and County contracted programs. The intent of these conferences is to network, learn, and engage with colleagues from the southern county regions. In March 2023, 15 staff attended a two-day conference focused on Strategies for Addressing Trauma. In October 2023, 40 staff were provided the opportunity to attend a two-day conference for clinical supervisors with the goal of reviewing clinical supervision practices.
- The Cultural Responsiveness Academy (CRA), a program under the Academy of Professional Excellence with San Diego State Research Foundation, was awarded a contract on July 1, 2023. This academy is responsible for the provision of trainings that allows participants to explore cultural differences, recognize potential individual and organizational biases, and practice

culturally responsive behaviors through facilitated discussions. It is designed to create a space for self-assessment, the development of skills and strategies to identify and manage bias, and the opportunity to contribute to a project that will improve cultural responsiveness within the organization. This academy is available to BHS and BHS contracted staff.

- To align with the County of San Diego's core principles of Equity and Belonging, all BHS department staff undertook a three-part training series in January 2024 called *The Neuroscience of Decision-Making in Public Health: Excellence, Accuracy and Equity*. This series was presented by Kimberly Papillion, a renowned lecturer on implicit bias and a researcher in the field of neuroscience and the law. The training enlightened staff to potential instances of bias based on unconscious processes in the brain and provided tools to think critically about opportunities to interrupt these practices and ensure impartiality in decision-making.

## **BHS 2024 SPECIAL EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **Critical Issues in Child and Adolescent Mental Health (CICAMH) Conference – April 26, 2024**

Save the Date for the hybrid 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Critical Issues in Child and Adolescent Mental Health (CICAMH) Conference: Breaking Barriers: Innovative Approaches to Youth and Family Mental Well-Being, scheduled for Friday, April 26, 2024. Event details will be available soon and would be found at the following link: <https://cicamh.com/>.

### **Contract Awarded for Intensive Outpatient Program**

The contract for the new Intensive Outpatient (IOP) program was awarded to San Diego Center for Children, effective January 9, 2024. IOP offers outpatient specialty mental health services to children and youth up to age 21 who would benefit from time limited programming in an intensive outpatient setting. Average length of stay for services is typically six to eight weeks with a cohort of similar age youth and condition. Program services are typically offered three to five times a week after school hours where youth attend Day Intensive Half (DIH) programming consisting of an evidenced-based group curriculum to addresses specific treatment issues. Additionally, the local model offers weekly caregiver groups and multi-family group once a month. The design includes a full range of ancillary services offered outside of the day treatment program hours. Ancillary services may include a full range of short-term outpatient Specialty Mental Health Services (SMHS) including assessment, evaluation, plan development, collateral, individual/group/family therapy, rehabilitation, Intensive Care Coordination (ICC), Intensive Home-Based Services (IHBS), crisis intervention, and case management services. Referrals to IOP typically come through an outpatient service provider and/or emergency screening/crisis stabilization unit when it is determined that intensive services are needed or as a step-down service from an acute setting.

### **30-Day Mental Wellness Challenge**

BHS is excited to announce that the department's first ever 30-Day Mental Wellness Challenge will launch in February 2024. The Mental Wellness Challenge will be a fun, free, and accessible way for the community to engage in daily self-care activities that support mental wellness. Challenge materials and additional information will be available on BHS' Managing Your Mental Wellness webpage at the following link:

[https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/hhsa/programs/bhs/mental\\_health\\_resources.html](https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/hhsa/programs/bhs/mental_health_resources.html).

### **California Department of Healthcare Services (DHCS) Bulletin, Medi-Cal Provider Enrollment**

As of January 1, 2024, the state is accepting applications from Community Based Organizations (CBOs) that employ and perform community health worker (CHW) delivered services to become reimbursable providers for services to Medi-Cal beneficiaries. DHCS, the administration and oversight entity for the state's Medi-Cal program, is establishing specific application and enrollment requirements for CBOs and Local Health Jurisdictions (LHJs) interested in becoming Medi-Cal providers.

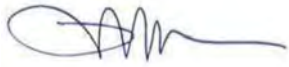
CBOs and LHJs brought on as Medi-Cal Providers will be able to either 1) bill DHCS -or- 2) bill a managed care plan contracted with DHCS, for the CHW services they provide to individuals insured by Medi-Cal (BHS is not involved in the billing process at this time).

More information can be found at the following link: <https://mcweb.apps.prd.cammis.medi-cal.ca.gov/page/community-based-organizations-and-local-health-jurisdictions-enrollment>.

**Public Messaging Outreach and Education Services Contract Procurements**

BHS is actively preparing for several imminent contract procurements related to public messaging outreach and education services. We encourage interested parties to participate in the planning and procurement process. Please reach out to us at [engage.bhs@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:engage.bhs@sdcounty.ca.gov) to share your insights and contribute to this important initiative. For more information on these contracts, #559599 and #561649, visit the County of San Diego BuyNet procurement website at the following link: <https://buynet.sdcounty.ca.gov/>.

Respectfully submitted,



LUKE BERGMANN, Ph.D., Director  
Behavioral Health Services

c: Eric C. McDonald M.D., Interim Agency Director  
Aurora Kiviat Nudd, Assistant Director and Chief Operations Officer  
Cecily Thornton-Stearns, Assistant Director and Chief Program Officer  
Nadia Privara Brahms, Assistant Director, Chief Strategy and Finance Officer





**Morning Keynote**  
**Dr. Thema Bryant**



**Afternoon Keynote**  
**Dr. Jeff Duncan-Andrade**



*Birth of Brilliance*  
**Don't Just Think...Feel**

**Virtual Conference 2.29.24 | In-person Cultural Fair 3.1.24**

\*\*\*\*\* **Registration is OPEN!!!** \*\*\*\*\*

Our 2023 opening keynote, Dr. Shawn Ginwright reminded us that in order to create true healing and achieve social justice, equity, sustainable systemic change & liberation in the face of racism and other inequities, we are challenged not just to think our way through, but to feel our way through - and the words reverberated through our bodies. A few weeks later, on her social media, another beloved keynote, Dr. Barbara Stroud, shared out, "Do not let your knowledge destroy your humanity," and we said...there it is again.

In all our efforts to create change in these top-down systems, we must not forget the power of healing relationship and the beauty and simplicity of connection that we can sometimes school and think ourselves away from. And we must do this work from a place of our own personal and collective healing, grounded in our own diverse bodies.

How do we maintain? Create sustainability? Grow community around these ways of being, that continue to nurture the "how" of how we show up for one another and the communities we serve? How do we use research and knowledge to create sustainable and community driven pathways for change? In whatever way this theme resonates for you, you are welcome to lean in.

**Register NOW!! @ [www.birhofbrilliance.com](http://www.birhofbrilliance.com)**

General Registration .....	\$115
Registration with CE's.....	\$130
General Registration with In-person Cultural Fair.....	\$135
Registration with CE's and In-person Cultural Fair.....	\$150
In-person Cultural Fair ONLY (\$25 at the door) .....	\$20

Sponsorship levels above 1500\$ include discounted agency/member registration. Reach out if interested!



QR Code: BoB 2021-2023 Memories | [www.birhofbrilliance.com](http://www.birhofbrilliance.com) | [birhofbrilliance@gmail.com](mailto:birhofbrilliance@gmail.com)



# Birth of Brilliance

## Cultural Fair 2024

LOCAL  
VENDORS



PERFORMANCES



Food



@ the BRICK San Diego | 4-7pm 3.1.24

2863 Historic Decatur Rd, San Diego, CA 92106

**\$20 NOW | \$25 at the DOOR**

Virtual Conference 2.29.24 | In-person Cultural Fair 3.1.24

Register **NOW** at [www.BirthofBrilliance.com](http://www.BirthofBrilliance.com)



QR Code: BoB 2021-2023 Memories

[www.birhofbrilliance.com](http://www.birhofbrilliance.com) | [birhofbrilliance@gmail.com](mailto:birhofbrilliance@gmail.com)



Office of Equity  
& Racial Justice



# BREAKING BARRIERS

INNOVATIVE APPROACHES  
TO YOUTH AND  
FAMILY MENTAL WELLBEING

APRIL 26

CICAMH  
— 2024 —

EARLY BIRD  
REGISTRATION  
ENDS  
APRIL 1

## Critical Issues in Child and Adolescent Mental Health Conference

### WHO SHOULD ATTEND:

Mental Health Professionals, Psychologists, Therapists, Social Workers, Counselors, Psychiatrists, Pediatricians, Nurses, Education, Students, Probation Officers, Child Welfare Workers, Case Managers, Advocates and Parents will find this meeting of importance and value in enhancing their effectiveness in serving children in need

### REGISTRATION:

VIRTUAL	Student	Professional
	Early Bird \$50	Early Bird \$75
IN PERSON	Regular \$75	Regular \$100
	Student \$100	Student \$125
	Early Bird \$125	Early Bird \$150
	Regular \$125	Regular \$150

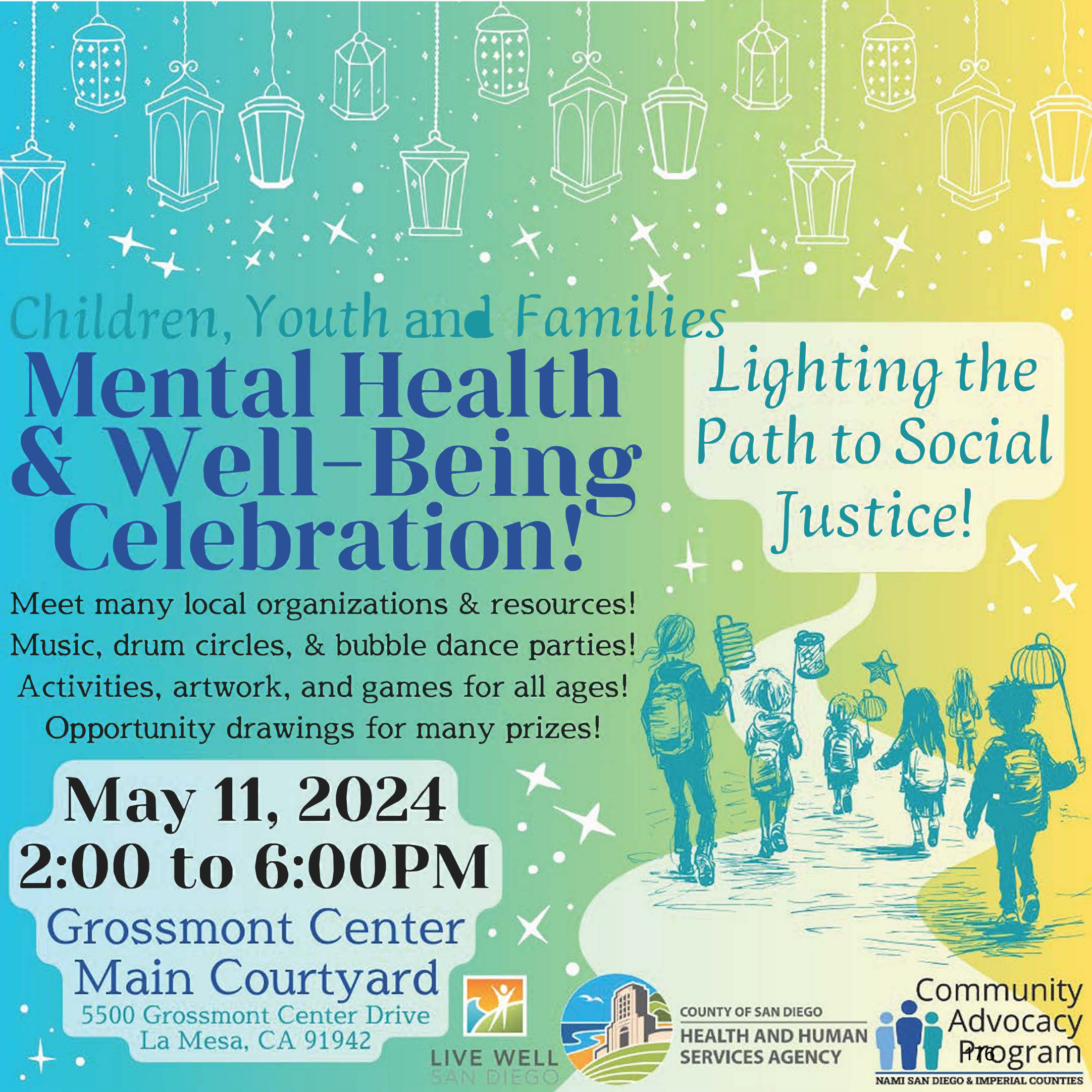
### REGISTER



APP.CE-GO.COM/CICAMH2024







# Children, Youth and Families Mental Health & Well-Being Celebration!

*Lighting the  
Path to Social  
Justice!*

Meet many local organizations & resources!  
Music, drum circles, & bubble dance parties!  
Activities, artwork, and games for all ages!  
Opportunity drawings for many prizes!



**May 11, 2024  
2:00 to 6:00PM**

**Grossmont Center  
Main Courtyard**

5500 Grossmont Center Drive  
La Mesa, CA 91942



LIVE WELL  
SAN DIEGO



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO  
HEALTH AND HUMAN  
SERVICES AGENCY



Community  
Advocacy  
Program

NAMI SAN DIEGO & IMPERIAL COUNTIES





# Community Based Organizations Wanted for Resource Fair!

Interested?  
Click this  
[Application Link!](#)

- Share information about your organization to high number of attendees!
- Network with other local organizations!
- Run a table with fun activity for all ages!
- Arrive early for set up!
- Stay after for take down!

**May 11, 2024**  
**2:00 to 6:00PM**

**Grossmont Center**  
**Main Courtyard**

5500 Grossmont Center Drive  
La Mesa, CA 91942



LIVE WELL  
SAN DIEGO



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO  
HEALTH AND HUMAN  
SERVICES AGENCY



Community  
Advocacy  
Program

NAMI SAN DIEGO & IMPERIAL COUNTIES

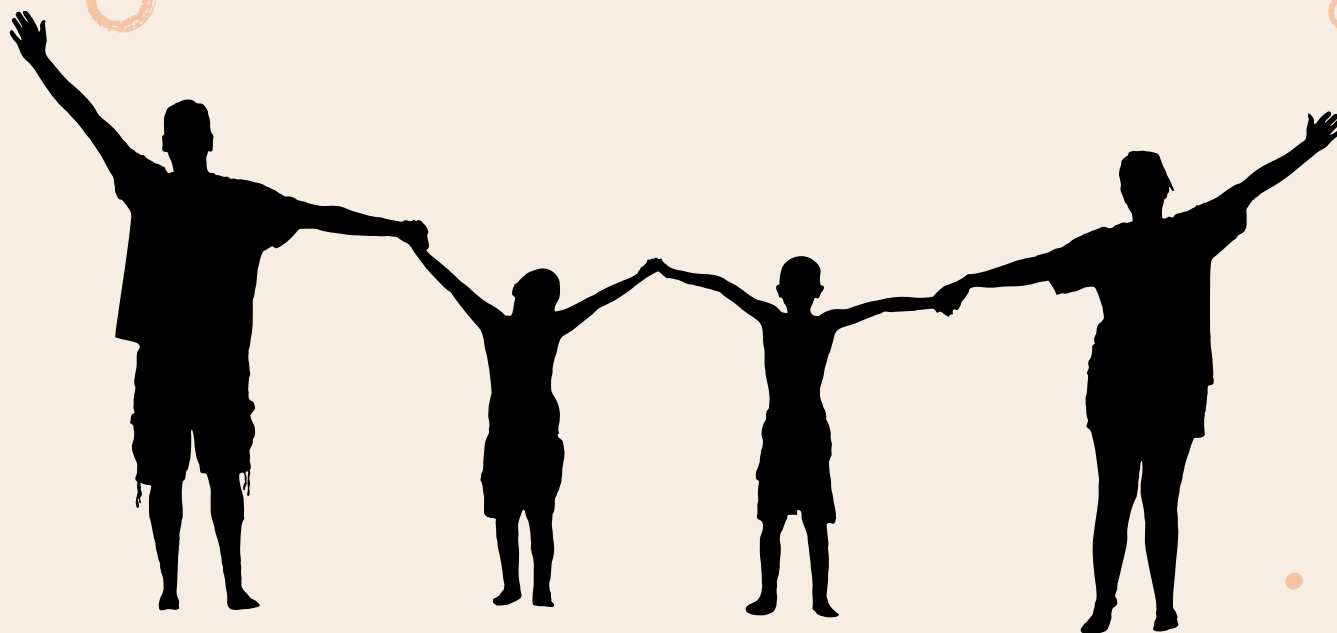




# *Family Sector committee*

*Thursday, February 15, 2024*

*Time: 2:30 PM - 3:30 PM*



*RSVP With Zoom Link below*

*Zoom Link*



**LIVE WELL**  
SAN DIEGO

# Conrad Prebys Clinical Supervision Program



## INFORMATION

The **San Diego State University School of Social Work** is pleased to have the opportunity to provide supervision to registered Associate Clinical Social Workers (ASWs) in San Diego County working towards licensure with **free supervision** from a Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW). This effort aims to promote capacity building in organizations that have difficulty providing sufficient onsite clinical supervision to their ASW's, and promote employee retention during the licensure process and beyond. It is our hope that recipients of this support go on to obtain licensure and provide supervision for their respective organizations.

Associate Clinical Social workers may benefit from this opportunity if:

- Their employer does not currently have the capacity to provide clinical supervision onsite.
- Their employer does not currently have enough LCSWs onsite to support the BBS required 1700 hours supervised under a LCSW.

Priority consideration will be given to:

- Individuals with an interest in working in youth behavioral health.
- Individuals with language and cultural competencies that can address behavioral health needs in underserved communities in the greater San Diego County region.

Due to state regulations, we are not able to provide supervision to those working in private practice or professional corporation settings.

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## CONTACT

Associates can request supervision at: <https://forms.gle/kiEvW96tLJCVCbME9>

For more information on this opportunity, please contact Student Success Coordinator Desiree Lopez at [dlopez11@sdsu.edu](mailto:dlopez11@sdsu.edu)

# Children, Youth & Families Council

February 12, 2024 CYF Council Meeting  
Constituencies Updates


Managed Care Plans – Healthy San Diego  
James Trout

# Areas of Focus

July to December 2023

Highlights from  
constituency  
which is not  
meant to be all  
inclusive

- Children and Youth population of focus go live 7/1/2023
  - Specific IPP focus on serving this population in round 2 of IPP funding.
- California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) for Medi-Cal Managed Care Plans procurement:
  - New Contract Implementation started 1/1/24
  - HealthNet and Aetna have officially exited
  - Remaining Health Plans are:
    - Blue Shield Promise
    - Community Health Group
    - Kaiser
    - Molina
- Continuity of Care of transitioning members from exiting plans is proceeding according to plan.



# Looking Ahead to 2024

- New CalAim ECM Justice involved population of focus goes live on January 1, 2024:
  - Adults and Youth transitioning from incarceration.
  - Post release went live as of 1/1/24
  - 90 day pre-release go live slated for no earlier than 10/2024.
  - Justice involved workgroups underway in all counties with the county/correctional/MCP organizations.
  - Definition – Children and youth transitioning from a youth correctional facility or transitioned from being in a youth correctional facility within the past 12 months.
  - Different criteria for Youth vs Adults.
- New CalAim population of focus went live for birth equity.
- CalAim rebranding to Medi-Cal Transformation
- Birth Equity Population of Focus Go live 1/1/24



2024 marks the year of transformation for the health plans. We've gone from seven health plans down to four in San Diego. The remaining plans will truly miss these important members of our team moving forward, and thank them for their partnership, comradery, and all of the important work they contributed in this CalAim Journey!



## Fun Fact About Managed Care Plans

# Ways to get involved with Constituency

- San Diego Collaborative Planning and Implementation Group  
[PATH | TPA \(ca-path.com\)](https://ca-path.com)
  - San Diego's PATH Collaborative Planning and Implementation (CPI) Initiative consists of a diverse set of stakeholders from across the system of care
  - The CPI Collaborative works to identify and address specific implementation issues related to the implementation of Enhanced Care Management (ECM) and Community Supports (CS) as a part of CalAIM
  - Initial areas of focus of the San Diego Collaborative may be homelessness, severe mental health / substance use disorder, justice involved, (SMI/SUD) and other chronic conditions / comorbidities
  - Second In person meeting of the collaborative is scheduled for April 2024!

# Children, Youth & Families Council Fiscal Year 2023-24 Mid -Year Highlights

## Child and Family Well-Being (CFWB)

Laura Krzywicki, Deputy Director

February 12, 2024



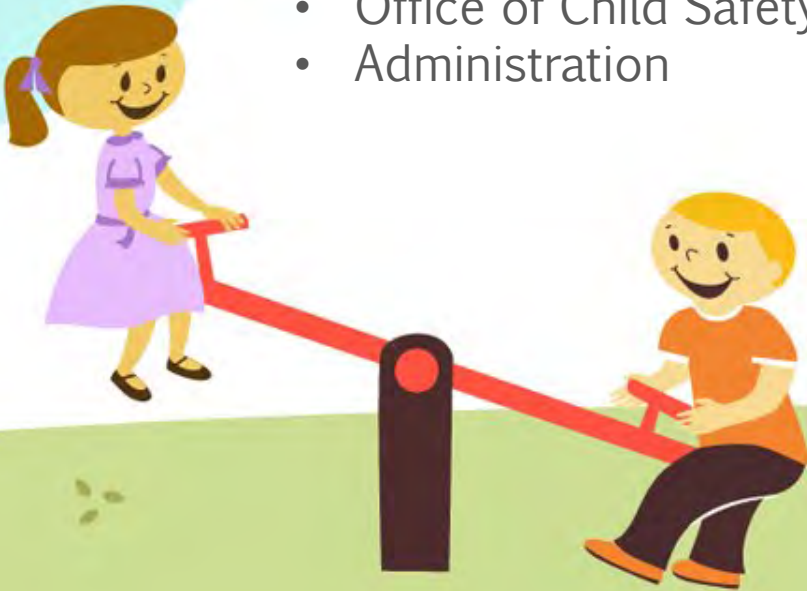
# Area of Focus

## Annual Statistics: Fiscal Year 2022-2023

- As of July 1, 2023, there were 2,563 children and youth in open CFWB cases
- 12.1% fewer children in care from previous fiscal year

## Child and Family Well Being Department

- Office of Child and Family Strengthening
- Office of Child Safety
- Administration



# Highlights & Key Issues

## Department of Child and Family Well-Being

- Office of Child and Family Strengthening

## Faith In Motion

- Collaboration with faith-based organizations focusing on recruitment and support of relative caregivers and foster/adoptive parents
- FIM hosted self-care trainings for various CFWB regions
- 5 holiday events hosted for resource families throughout the County of San Diego in 2023
- Increase engagement of African American churches by conducting monthly meetings with identified organizations

## Community Response Guide

- Help communities develop accurate and equitable reporting practices to the Child Abuse Hotline
- Reporters have clear support for their decisions
- Prevention providers understand their responsibility for supporting children and families





# Highlights & Key Issues

## **The Mandated Reporter Application**

- Online Reporting system went live starting June 27th, 2023 in a pilot phase.
- The following community agencies are part of the pilot phase: Escondido Union School District, Escondido High School District, South Bay Community Services, San Diego Center for Children, San Diego Regional Center, San Diego Unified School District.
- More community agencies will be onboarded with the goal of opening it to all mandated reporters by the end of 2024.

## **Fostering Academic Success in Education (FASE) FY 22-23**

- 2 School Districts (Sweetwater Union High School and Escondido Union High School)
- 17 participating schools (12 schools were added)
- 50 Participants (48 participants in middle and high schools, 2 community college students)
- 86% of participants experienced no placement change, which helped with stabilization of placement and education success.



# Ways to get involved with Constituency

[Child Welfare Services](#) or call the KidsLine at 877-792-KIDS (5437)

[Child and Family Well-Being](#) (CFWB)

CFWB One Pager ([English](#), [Spanish](#))

[Request a presentation](#)





# Children, Youth & Families Council

Education Ad-Hoc Committee

Mid year Highlights

2023-24

Heather Nemour

February 12, 2024

# CYF Education Representation

**SPC K-12 Education  
Subcommittee**

**HT Education Subcommittee**

**CYF Education  
Subcommittee**

**Mental Health in Schools  
Collaborative**

**COPES Initiative**

# Brief Overview of Education Subcommittee

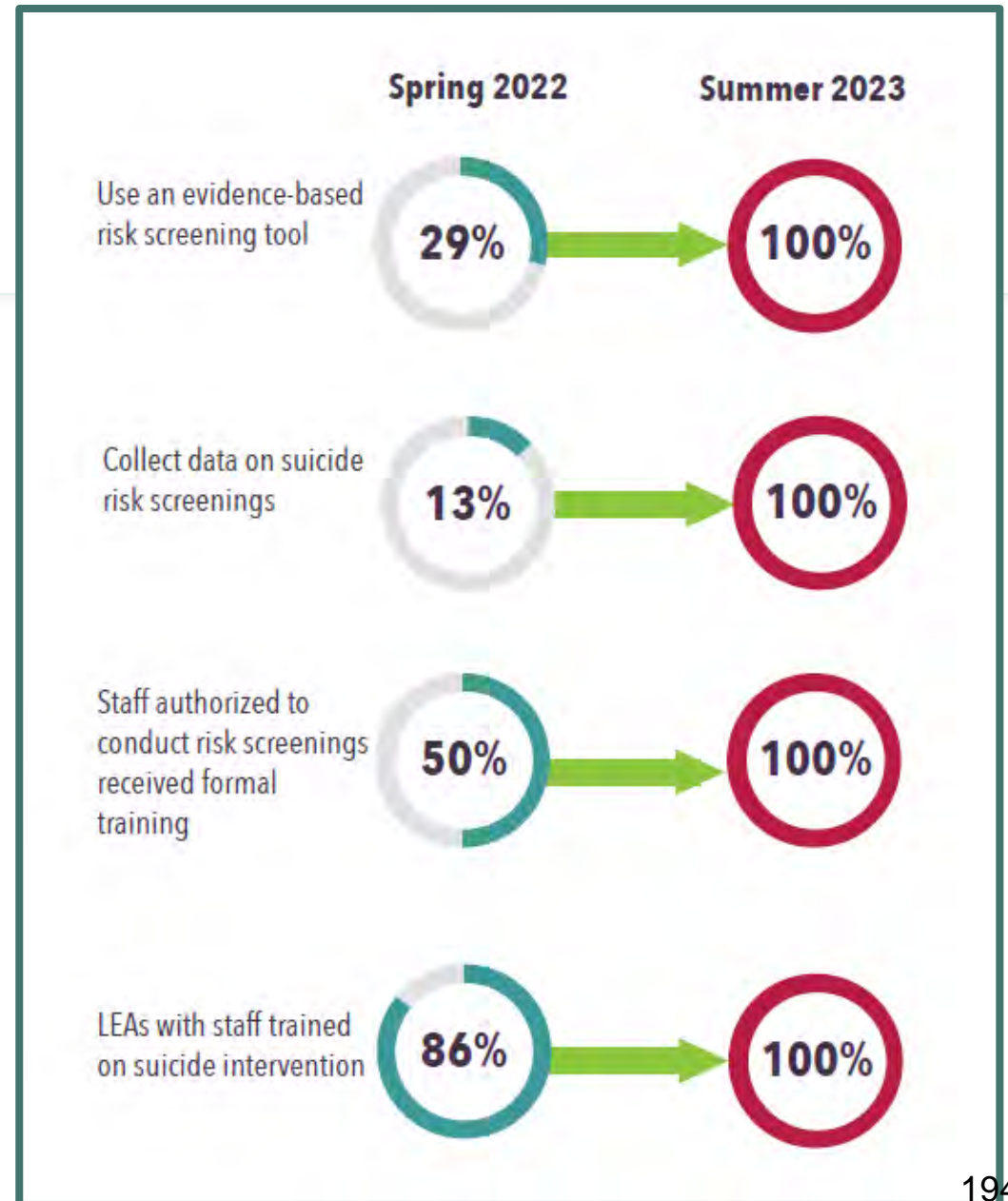
The purpose of the Education Committee is to build and/or enhance relationships between mental health providers and education resulting in resource development, needs identification, relationship building, and partnerships with stakeholders in efforts that promote youth mental health, positive school climates, and trauma informed delivery of school-based services/activities.



# Update on the COPES Initiative

- Mental Health Student Services Act (MHSSA)
- The San Diego County Behavioral Health Department and San Diego County Office of Education were awarded a four-year \$7 million grant from January 2022 to December 2026
- SDCOE is the lead and has partnered with 31 LEAs to build their capacity to become suicide prevention subject matter experts and mental health champions

# Expanding Suicide Intervention Policies & Practices



# Calming Corners in 430 Schools

Of a sampling of schools surveyed...

**96%** agreed calming corners support student use of coping and self-regulation strategies

**87%** reported decreased student levels of distress

**82%** said calming corners promote students overall well-being



Through capacity building efforts **COPES LEAs** provided:

**675** mental health and suicide prevention trainings and events in their school communities that engaged over...

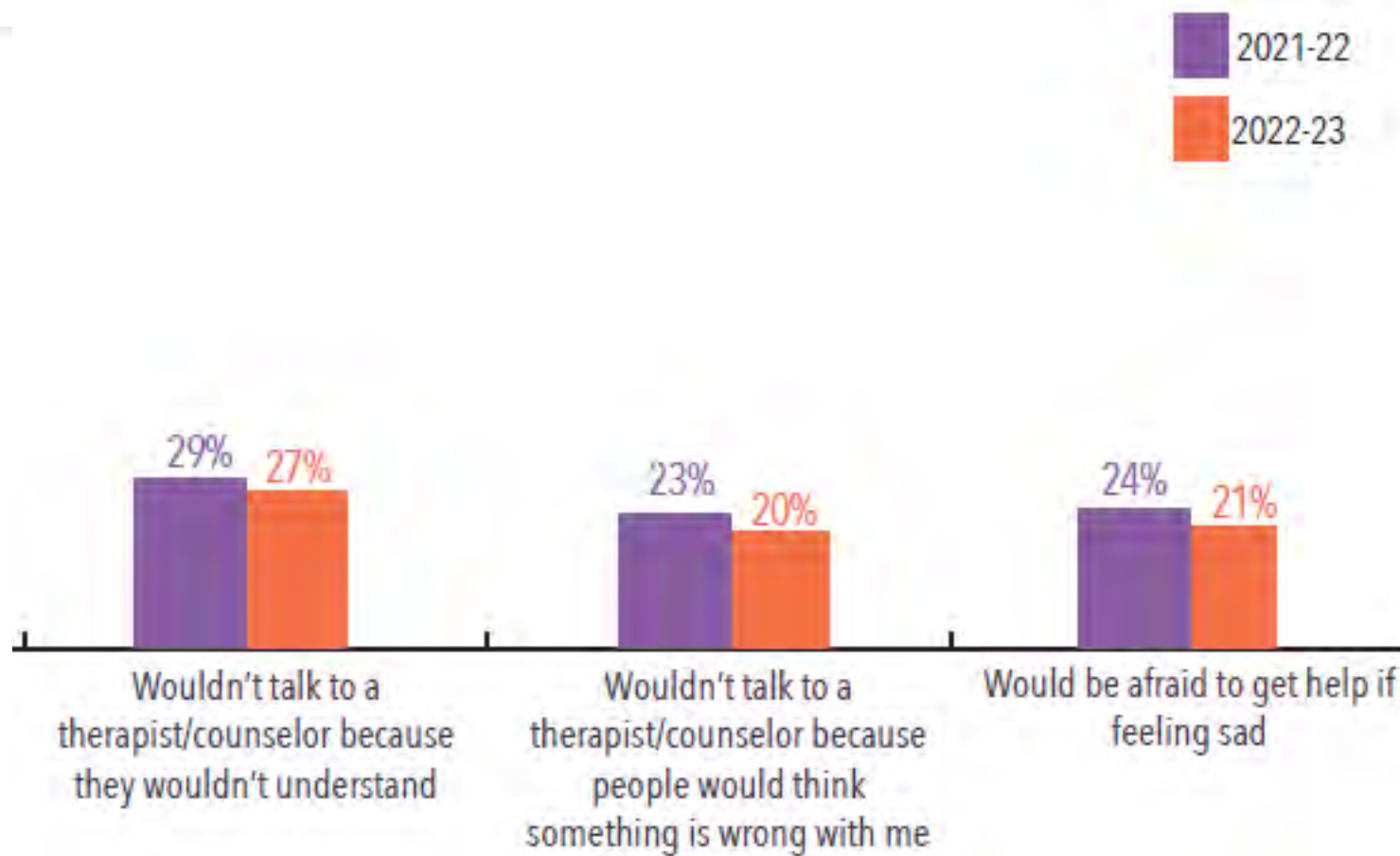
**60,000** students

**8,500** staff

**3,000** parents/caregivers



# Stigma Reduction in Secondary Schools







# Policy to Practice: Suicide Intervention Toolkit

The aim of this toolkit is to share protocols, templates and resources that align with best practices in suicide intervention.

CREATED BY THE SDCOE STUDENT WELLNESS AND SCHOOL CULTURE DEPARTMENT



## Moving the Needle on Suicide Intervention in Schools

- Recipient of the 2023 CSBA Golden Bell Award for innovation and excellence in school safety and climate
- Toolkit was implemented in 31 COPES LEAs and is being used across the state
- Partnerships with AAP resulted in the creation of a student re-entry roadmap after hospitalization or crisis care

# Now Open to School Partners!



## Mental Health in Schools Collaborative

The Student Wellness and School Culture Department facilitates this gathering to support the mental health and well-being of school communities as they relate to the general education population.

Benefits of attending the bi-monthly meetings:

- **Receive current resources** in response to school mental health trends
- Learn mental health and suicide prevention **legislative updates** and implementation tips
- Hear timely and relevant **presentations that reflect** current school needs
- Participate in **peer sharing and learning** to identify best practices and resources

### 2023-24 VIRTUAL MEETING DATES 9-10 AM

- **Register for Sep. 15**
- **Register for Nov. 17**
- **Register for Jan. 12**
- **Register for Mar. 1**
- **Register for May 31**

Materials will be emailed to attendees after each meeting.

Question? Email [swsc@sdcoe.net](mailto:swsc@sdcoe.net)



# Questions



# Creating Opportunities in Preventing and Eliminating Suicide (COPES)

Year Two Highlights  
July 2022 - June 2023

**COPES** is a capacity-building initiative led by the San Diego County Office of Education (SDCOE) in partnership with County of San Diego Behavioral Health Services and 31 local education agencies (LEAs), funded by the State of California Mental Health Student Services Act (2021-2025).

## Participating LEAs Represent

**430**

**Schools**

**274,639**

**Students**



### Districts

- Bonsall
- Chula Vista Elementary
- Fallbrook
- SDCOE Juvenile Court and Community Schools
- Lakeside
- La Mesa-Spring Valley
- Lemon Grove
- Mountain Empire
- National City
- Poway
- San Marcos
- San Diego Unified
- Santee
- Spencer Valley
- Sweetwater

### Charters

- Altus Schools (Audeo)
- City Heights Preparatory
- Compass
- Empower
- Feaster
- Helix
- High Tech High
- Learning Choice Academy
- Mueller-Bayfront
- San Diego Global Vision Academy
- San Diego Virtual School
- Scholarship Prep Oceanside
- School for Entrepreneurship and Technology
- SIA Tech
- Urban Discovery

## Training and Technical Assistance

SDCOE provided **30 trainings**

Over **2,000** **&** Over **400**  
COPES school/district staff parents/caregivers

received training on youth mental health challenges and support strategies



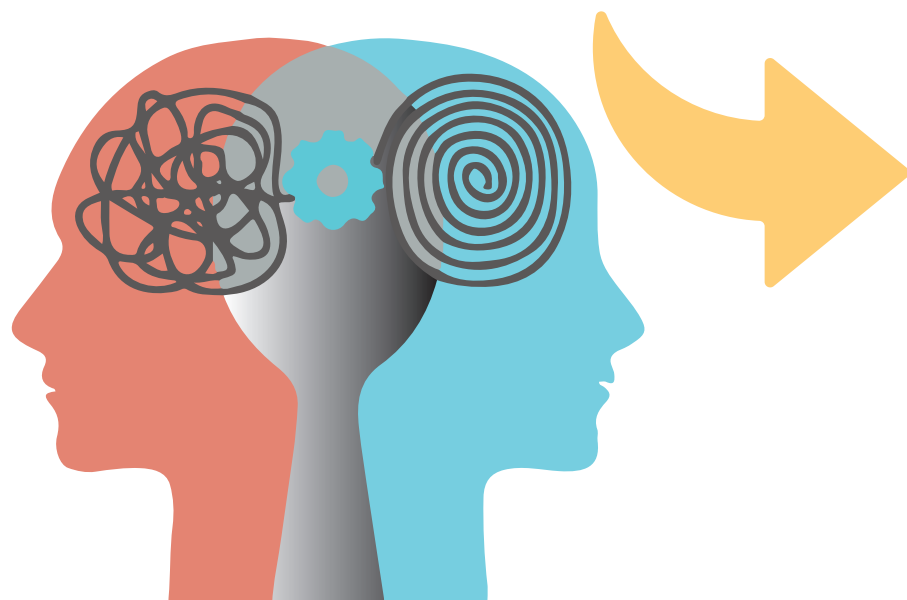
Through capacity building efforts **COPES LEAs** provided:

**675** mental health and suicide prevention trainings and events in their school communities that engaged over...

**60,000** students

**8,500** staff

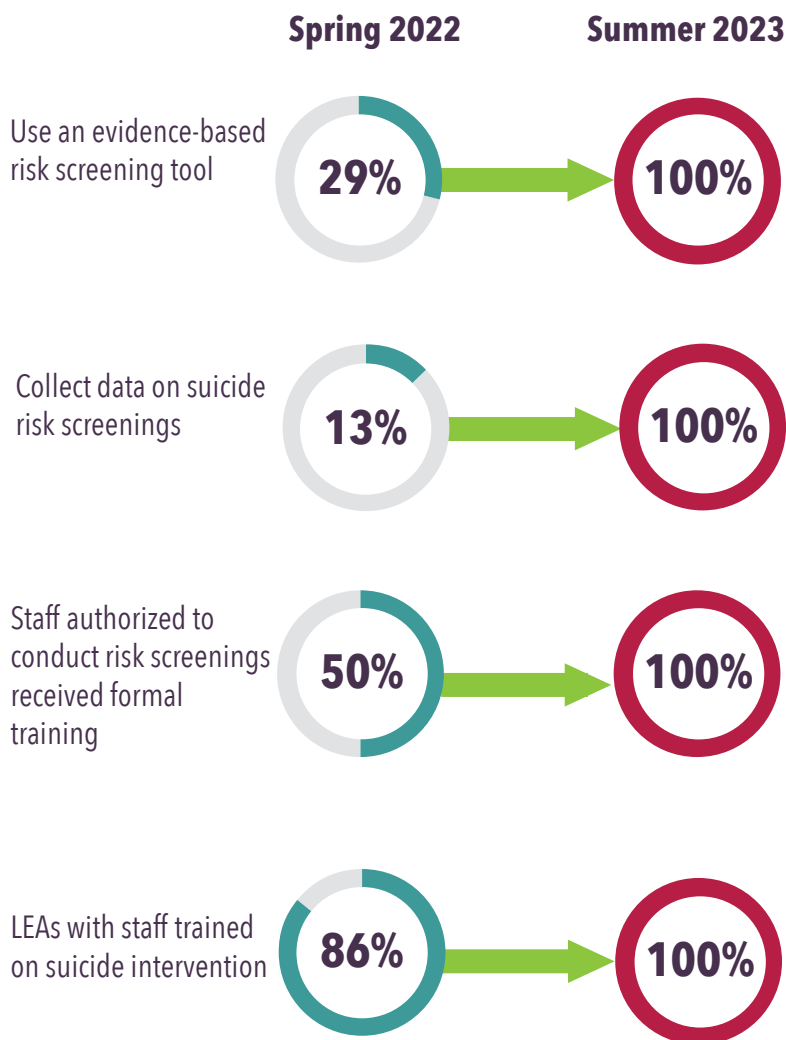
**3,000** parents/caregivers



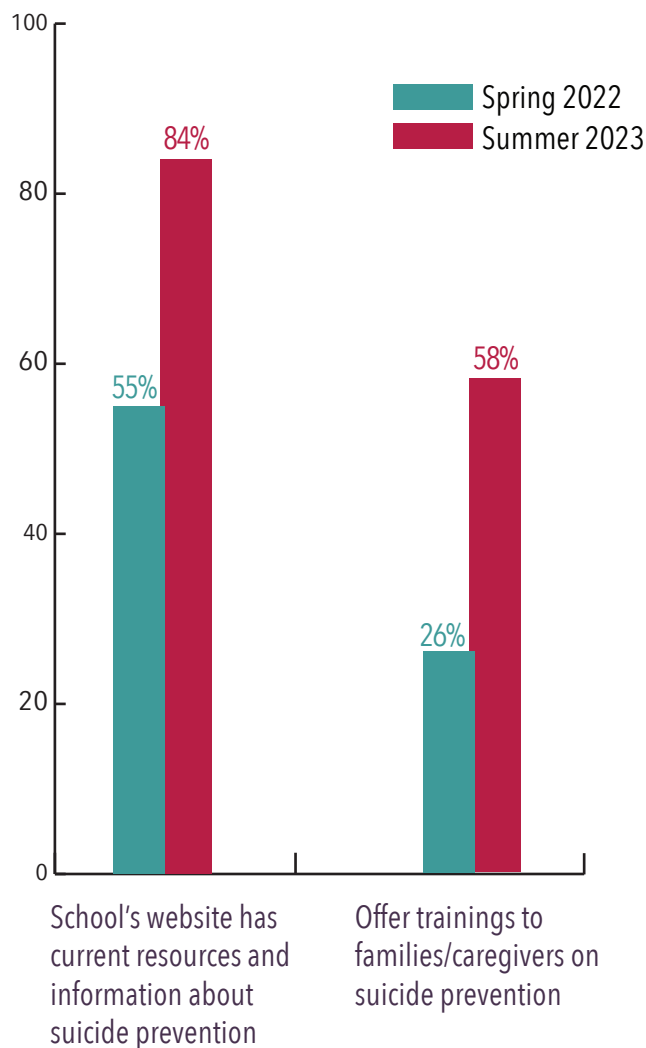


# Suicide Prevention and Intervention

COPES LEAs have expanded suicide prevention policies and practices.



## Suicide Prevention Awareness



**From July 2022 to June 2023,  
31 COPES LEAs conducted**

**3,387** suicide risk screenings

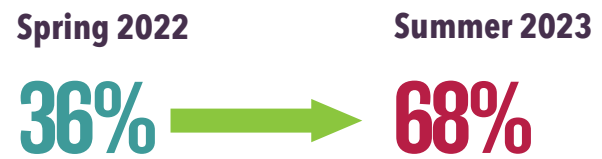


# Improving Mental Wellness

COPES LEAs conduct an annual needs assessment to evaluate their strengths and challenges in promoting mental wellness.

## Enhancing Staff Wellness

Staff are given the opportunity learn about personal wellness & how to respond to stress in a healthy way.



Staff know how to access mental health services for themselves.



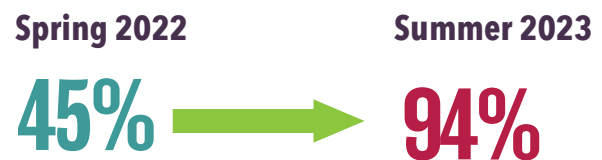
Practices are in place to support staff wellness.



Percent who responded "Mostly" or "Definitely"

## Bolstering Crisis Support

When a mental health emergency arises, a professional is available.



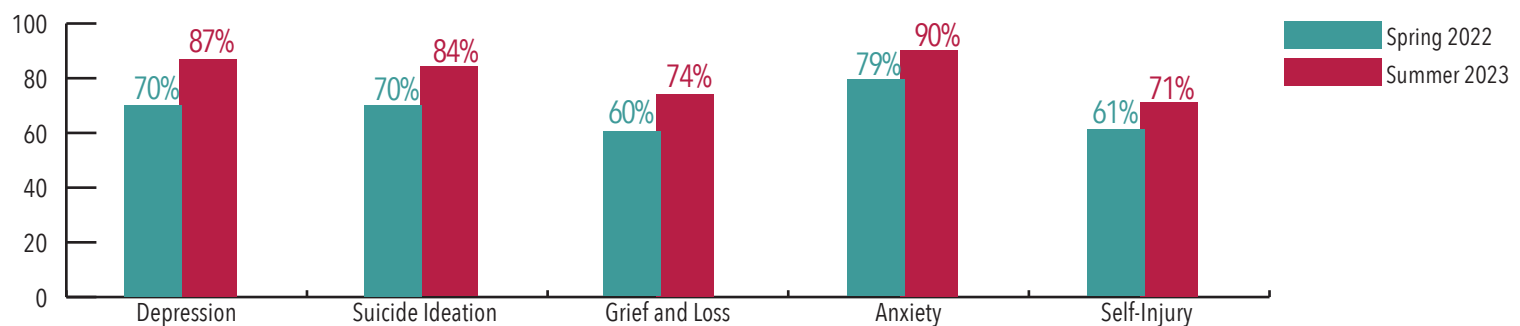
Follow-up services are provided for students who experience mental health emergencies.



Percent who responded "Mostly" or "Definitely"

## Improving Tier 1 Mental Health Supports & Resources

COPES LEAs have increased Tier 1 mental health supports for the most common challenges faced by youth.

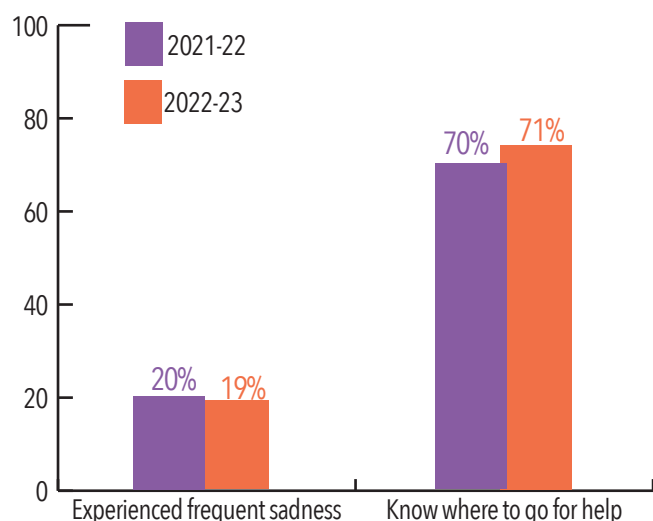


Percentage of LEAs reporting that Tier I supports for the following mental health topics were "mostly" or "definitely" in place

# Student Mental Health

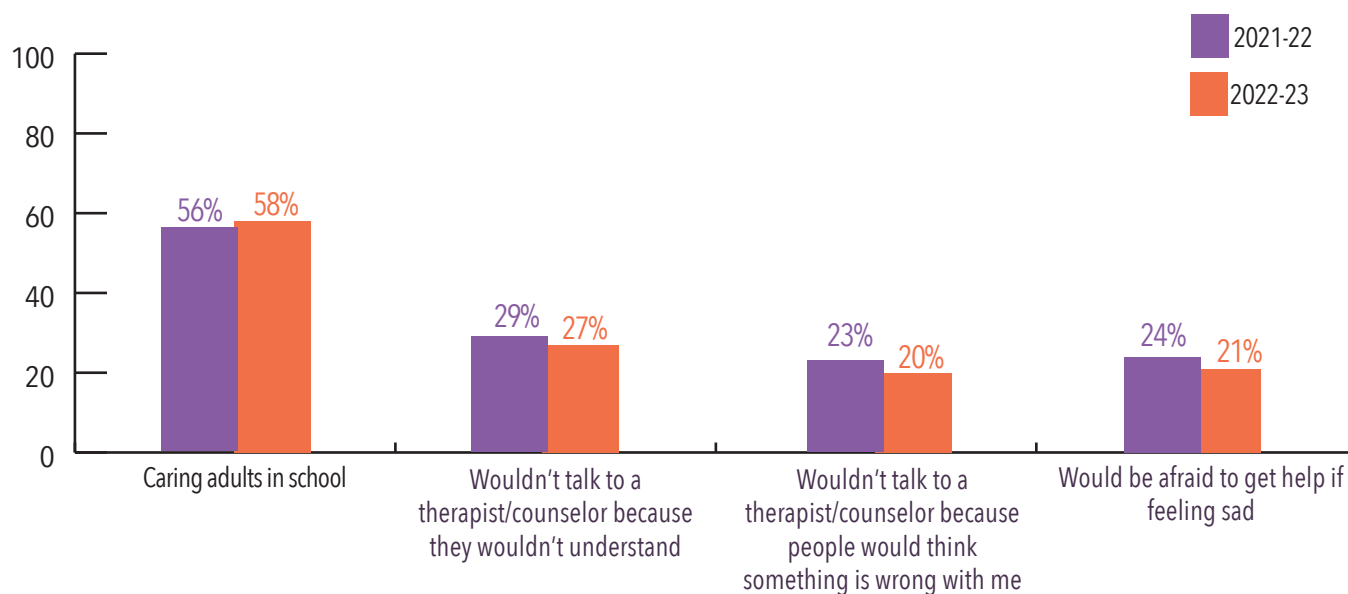
The SDCOE COPES team tracks specific school climate and student mental health indicators from the annual California Healthy Kids Survey<sup>1</sup> based on research demonstrating a negative association between student perceptions of school climate and suicide ideation.<sup>2</sup> Select areas of improvement from the 2021-22 to the 2022-23 academic years are highlighted below.

## Elementary School Indicators



*Note: Sample includes 5th grade students from elementary schools participating in COPES that administered the CHKS survey for 2021-22 and/or 2022-23. Sample sizes ranged from 4,712 - 8,770 students for each indicator.*

## Secondary School Indicators



*Note: Sample includes 7th, 9th, and 11th grade students from secondary schools participating in COPES that administered the CHKS survey for 2021-22 and/or 2022-23. Sample sizes ranged from 21,590 - 35,151 students for each indicator.*

<sup>1</sup>California Healthy Kids Survey (CHKS). <https://calschls.org/>.

<sup>2</sup>Benbenishty R, Astor RA, Roziner I. A School-Based Multilevel Study of Adolescent Suicide Ideation in California High Schools. J Pediatr. 2018 May;196:251-257.

# COPES RESOURCES

## Calming Corners

All 430 COPES schools received calming corner kits for each school campus to allow students opportunities to decompress and practice self-regulation and coping skills.

Of a sampling of schools surveyed...

**96%** agreed calming corners support student use of coping and self-regulation strategies

**87%** reported decreased student levels of distress

**82%** said calming corners promote students overall well-being



## Policy to Practice: Suicide Intervention Toolkit

The aim of this toolkit is to share protocols, templates and resources that align with best practices in suicide intervention.

CREATED BY THE SDCOE STUDENT WELLNESS AND SCHOOL CULTURE DEPARTMENT



## Policy to Practice Toolkit

SDCOE's [Policy to Practice: Suicide Intervention Toolkit](#) was created to equip districts and charter schools with an evidence-based screening tool and comprehensive suicide intervention protocols to ensure action is taken to save student lives. It recently received the [2023 CSBA Golden Bell Award](#) for innovation and excellence in school safety and climate.

*"It provides a strong procedural way to work through crisis response that is consistent across all campuses in our district. All district counselors are acting in the same procedural way and adjusting for age-appropriateness."*  
- COPES school counselor

*"Implementing the toolkit has created consistency across all of our eight schools. The protocol was simple to follow and all who used it were easily trained. It was one of the best initiatives we've done this year."*  
- COPES assistant superintendent

# Children, Youth & Families Council Fiscal Year 2023-24 Mid Year Highlights

Outcomes Committee

Eileen Quinn-O'Malley

Emily Trask

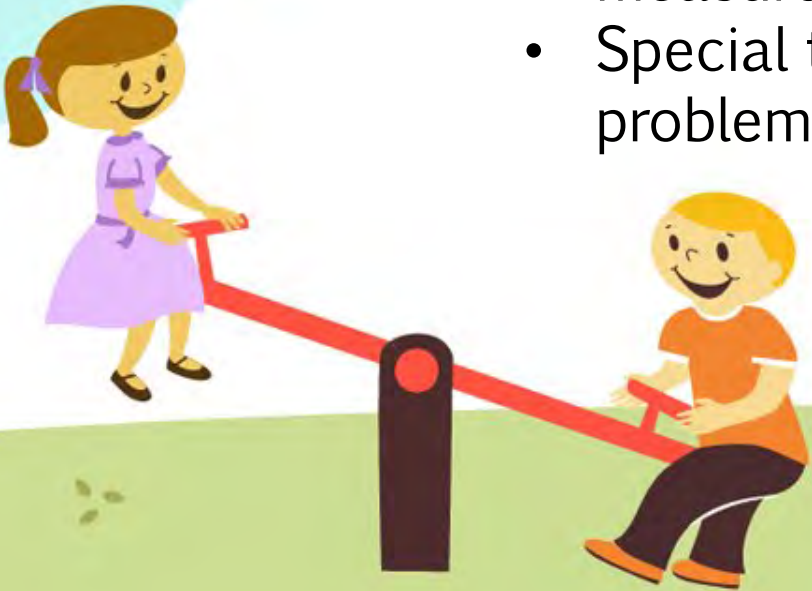
January 8<sup>th</sup> & February 12<sup>th</sup>  
2024





The Outcomes Committee is a multi-stakeholder workgroup focused on how to use CYF outcomes most efficiently and effectively in San Diego County. This includes a focus on:

- Selection of Standardized Outcome Measures
- Developing clinical change thresholds for outcome measures
- Special topic reviews of data that show potentially problematic trends



The Outcomes Committee review of group therapy data uncovered very low rates of group therapy usage as well as long wait-times for services in CYFBHS. This led to the development of a PIP project aiming to:

- Increase the usage of group therapy in the CYF system of care
- Improve clinician comfort with providing group therapy
- Provide psychoeducation to families and providers about the benefits of group therapy



## What can council participants do to help advance the mission of the group?

- Program managers can provide input during the Outcome Committee meeting on overcoming common obstacles to using group therapy
- Council members can bring forward concerning trends with underserved populations, services and outcomes of clients for the Outcomes Committee to review.



Next Meeting is January 9<sup>th</sup>, 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.  
via Teams

Contact Eileen Quinn-O'Malley for meeting link if  
you are interested in joining the discussion:  
[eileen.quinn-omalley@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:eileen.quinn-omalley@sdcounty.ca.gov)





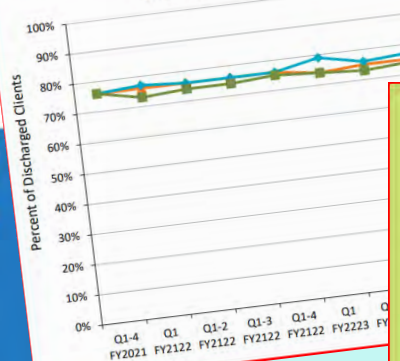
# System of Care Evaluation (SOCE)

## CYF mHOMS Outcomes Report July 2022—July 2023

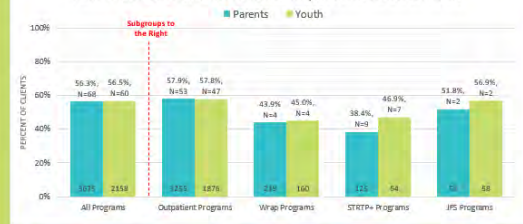
Children, Youth & Families Behavioral Health Services



### Intake to Discharge Progress—CANS



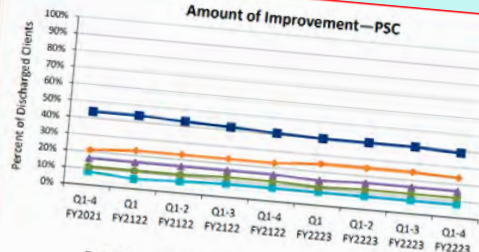
### Percent of Clients with Reliable Improvement on the PSC



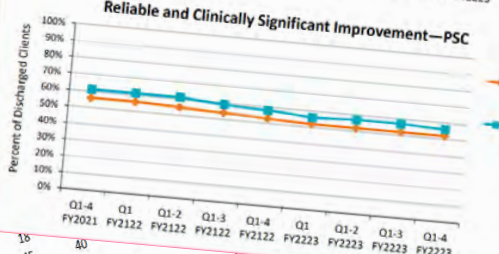
### Reliable Improvement on the PSC in FY 2020-2021

County Standard: Percent of clients within the program that achieved Reliable Improvement		70%	65%	60%	55%	50%	45%	40%
Youth PSC	% of All Programs that Would Have Met the Goal	14.8%	19.7%	26.2%	44.3%	57.4%	77%	78.7%
	% of OP and JFS Programs that Would Have Met the Goal	14.3%	20.4%	30.6%	46.9%	63.3%	79.6%	81.6%
Parent PSC	% of All Programs that Would Have Met the Goal	11.6%	23.2%	29%	42%	55.1%	65.2%	78.9%
	% of OP and JFS Programs that Would Have Met the Goal	12.7%	23.6%	30.9%	45.5%	60%	70.9%	78.2%

### Amount of Improvement—PSC



### Reliable and Clinically Significant Improvement—PSC



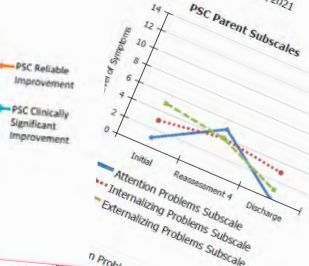
### Client: Trask, Emily - 9001 SYSTEM OF CARE EVALUATION Active Clients - Parent PSC Summary (Administered to caregivers of youth ages 3 - 18 only)

Client ID	Name	Age <sup>a</sup>	Age <sup>b</sup>	CCBH Intake Date	Initial PSC Total Score	Above CO at
900000014	Ganger, Bill	1	16	9/26/2019	Y	42
900000015	Chadwick, Amy	1	17	8/8/2019	N	39
900000016	Nunez, Antonia	1	16	1/8/2020	Y	26
900000017	Quinn, Eileen	1	9	5/15/2020	Y	11
900000018	Villarin, Shellane	1	15	11/1/2019	N	14
900000019	Miles, Elizabeth	1	8	8/1/2019	Y	32
900000020	Koenig, Yael	1	11	2/21/2020	Y	29
900000021	Ramirez, Ezra	1	14	9/24/2019	Y	42
900000022	Lagare, Tiffany	1	15			
900000023	Choi, Kyle	1				

Client ID: 00000001  
Client Name: Test, Client  
CCBH Intake Date: 10/11/2021

### PSC Parent

Unit: 0000  
Subunit: 0001



### PSC Parent Total Scale



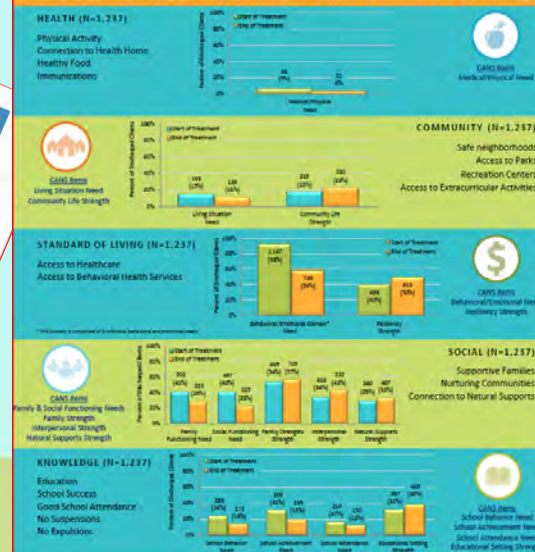
Attention Problems Subscore (0-10)<sup>a</sup>  
Internalizing Problems Subscore (0-10)<sup>b</sup>  
Externalizing Problems Subscore (0-14)<sup>c</sup>  
Total Score (0-70)<sup>d</sup>

Reassessment 4  
Discharge

29 (IMPAIRED)

### LIVE WELL SAN DIEGO AREAS OF INFLUENCE: Q1 FY 2023-24

Progress on the LWSD Areas of Influence was measured by youth who discharged from services between July 2022 and September 2023. The Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) assessment was chosen to represent San Diego's Areas of Influence because it broadly measures a child's functioning.





# **Children, Youth & Families Council Fiscal Year 2023-24 Mid-Year Highlights**

## **CADRE CYF Committee**

Co-Chairs

Marisa Varond & Julie McPherson

January 8<sup>th</sup> & February 12<sup>th</sup>  
2024

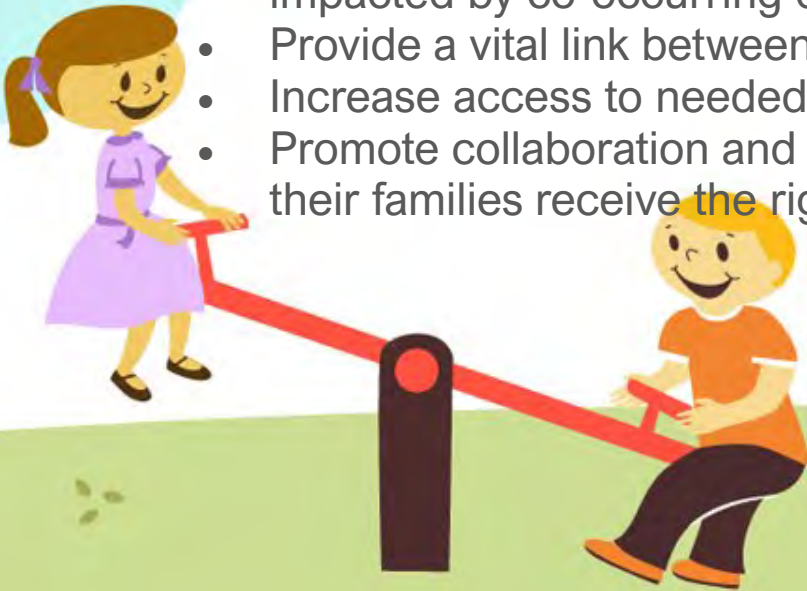


## CADRE CYF Committee

The purpose of the Change Agents Developing Recovery Excellence (CADRE) CYF committee is to strengthen the Comprehensive, Continuous, Integrated System of Care (CCISC) initiative in its vision to deliver wide-ranging services for children, adolescents, and families. We serve as a forum for service providers to enhance treatment for children and adolescents experiencing or impacted by co-occurring disorders to promote health and resiliency within our youth.

The committee aims to:

- Develop integrated co-occurring training and technical assistance in accordance with the CCISC and Co-occurring Center for Excellence standards
- Support the implementation of evidence-based practices to support effective interventions for youth impacted by co-occurring disorders
- Provide a vital link between systems, consumers, and families
- Increase access to needed behavioral health services
- Promote collaboration and develop meaningful relationships between providers to ensure that youth and their families receive the right services at the right time in the right setting.



# CADRE CYF Committee Highlights

**Presentations this fiscal year:**

**July 11, 2023:**

**Julie Leyva and Navy Damalong presented on UPAC's "A New Start" Medically Assisted Treatment (MAT) program**

**Serving:**

- Youth and Transitional Aged Youth (TAY) ages 12 to 25
- Who have an Opioid Use Disorder
- Who have Medi-Cal or are uninsured
- With a focus on East African Communities and unhoused TAY

**Services Provided:**

- MAT: Buprenorphine, Naltrexone, etc.
- Outreach, psychoeducation and engagement
- Case management and resource support
- MAT screening and referrals
- Narcan kit distribution



# **CADRE CYF Committee Highlights (Continued)**

**October 12, 2023:**

Kristin Garrett Montgomery who is the Advocacy Manager for the Strategic Behavioral Health Initiative (SBHI), a collaborative effort led by the American Academy of Pediatrics CA-3, presented regarding the purpose of the SBHI:

- SBHI aims to assess current behavioral health resources and needs for children and youth and develop a roadmap to a comprehensive continuum of care that meets the needs of all children and youth in San Diego.
- Discussed system gaps, school needs, universal screenings, special populations, continuum of care and how to get involved as an SBHI community partner

**UPCOMING January 11, 2024:**

**Joe Eberstein, CCPS, Program Manager for Center for Community Research, San Diego County Marijuana Prevention Initiative and SAMHSA Region 9 Pacific Southwest Prevention Technology Transfer Center (PTTC) Advisory Board Member, will be giving a presentation regarding marijuana trends, prevention, intervention, and much more.**



## CADRE CYF Committee Ongoing Efforts:

- Continue dialogue within the sectors to address changes to the system and impacts, both positive and negative, related to CalAIM
- Continue to enhance ease of cross-referrals and access to services for children, youth, and families who are impacted by complex needs
- Maximize on-site SchoolLink behavioral health services as permitted
- Keep providers up to date regarding specialized MAT services for youth in San Diego County
- Engagement and participation in prevention, education and early intervention in SUD groups for youth and caregivers
- Identifying and addressing racial/ethnic and sex/gender disparities as it relates to increased co-occurring disorders and access to treatment





# **CADRE CYF Committee**

The CADRE CYF Committee is open to all CADRE graduates!

We meet quarterly on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month  
from 1:30 to 3 PM via Zoom

Please email Rhonda Crowder to receive an invite:

[Rhonda.crowder@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:Rhonda.crowder@sdcounty.ca.gov)



## **8 Principles of Comprehensive, Continuous, Integrated Systems of Care (CCISC)**

1. Co-occurring issues and conditions are an expectation, not an exception
2. The foundation of a recovery partnership is an empathetic, hopeful, integrated, strength-based relationship
3. All people with co-occurring conditions are not the same, so different parts of the system have responsibility to provide co-occurring-capable services for different populations
4. When co-occurring issues and conditions are present, each issue or condition is considered to be primary
5. Recovery involves moving through stages of change and phases of recovery for each co-occurring condition or issue
6. Progress occurs through adequately supported, adequately rewarded skill-based learning for each co-occurring condition or issue
7. Recovery plans, interventions, and outcomes must be individualized. Consequently, there is no one correct dual-diagnosis program or interventions for everyone
8. CCISC is designed so that all policies, procedures, practices, programs, and clinicians become welcoming, recovery-oriented, and co-occurring-capable

# Children, Youth & Families Council Fiscal Year 2023-24 Mid Year Highlights

## Early Childhood Mental Health (ECMH) Committee

Committee Co-chairs  
Stephanie Gioia-Beckman  
Jennifer Kennedy

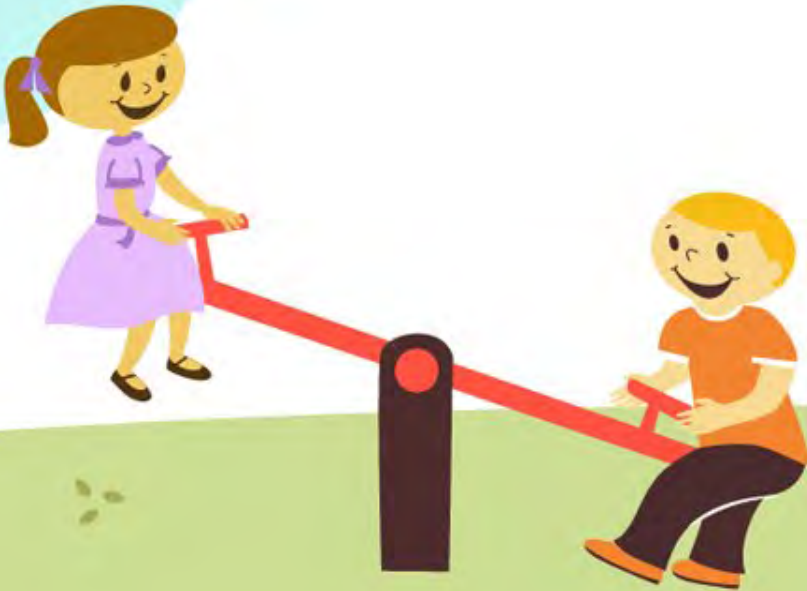
February 12, 2024



# Early Childhood Mental Health Committee Purpose

The ECMH committee works to advance *practices, services, and resources* for the early childhood population (prenatal – 5 years old) through the following strategies:

- **Education:** Disseminate information to improve system-wide understanding of early childhood mental health and integrate information throughout the system of care;
- **Advocacy:** Address key issues impacting young children and their families; and
- **Systems Change:** Increase system of care's understanding of services currently available and supporting culturally relevant and trauma informed system improvements.



**To make progress on the strategies,  
we formed small working groups within the ECMH Committee,  
each with its own focus.**

### Education

Focus:  
Developing a  
Reflective  
Practice/Reflective  
Supervision  
resource

### Advocacy

Focus:  
Mapping Services  
and Resources  
for 0 - 5

### Systems Change

Focus:  
Updating the  
Behavioral Health  
Assessment 0 –  
5 (BHA 0 - 5).



# But first!

Please bring to mind an **adult client or adult you might know with behavioral health concerns.**

Now, imagine working with them as a **young adult.**

Can you imagine back to when they were a **teen?**

Now, go back further, to their **elementary school age selves.**

Now, imagine your client as a very **young child.**

Picture your client as a **baby, being held by their caregiver.**

**Strategy:** Systems Change

**Focus:** Behavioral Health Assessment 0 – 5

The purpose of the workgroup is to review the strengths and limitations of the existing BHA 0-5 specifically looking at the use of language to promote inclusivity.

## Why take this effort on?

- Age-specific assessments for our youngest and most vulnerable children are key to adequately identifying needs and strengths.
- Children who are aged birth through 5 years old have unique needs and attributes – this is especially true for infants and children under 3 years old.

## What's unique about this population?

- The early years matter most.
- Quality and responsive treatment early can avoid costlier interventions later.
- Children grow and learn in the context of relationships and the quality of those of earliest relationships impact social-emotional and brain development.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>See <https://www.zerotothree.org/why-0-3/>

## What's unique about this population?

- Assessing a young child is different than assessing a school-age child or youth.
  - For example, there is a specific assessment of the relationship between the child and caregiver that is needed to strongly inform diagnostic formulation and treatment planning.



## What's unique about this population?

- Trauma symptoms look different in a younger versus older child.
  - For example, trauma can sometimes present as concerns in feeding, sleeping, eliminating, as well as developmental delays and sensory sensitivities.

# What did we find? What would we recommend?

Highlight child and family strengths

Elevate importance of assessing child and caregiver relationship

Include assessment of the context of the caregiving relationship

Support understanding of different family structures

Use inclusionary terms

Utilize DC: 0 – 5 Diagnostic Manual<sup>1</sup>

Include important age-specific and developmentally appropriate details

Provide inclusive language for gender and gender identity

<sup>1</sup>For more information about the Diagnostic Classification of Mental Health and Developmental Disorders of Infancy and Early Childhood (DC: 0-5), see <https://www.zerotothree.org/our-work/learn-professional-development/dc0-5-manual-and-training/>

## Next Steps for the Behavioral Health Assessment 0-5

- Share recommendations with Behavioral Health Services for feedback and suggestions
- If Smart Care Assessment Tool is not customizable, an addendum is recommended for any provider completing 0 – 5 assessments to promote best practices and ensure quality care when working with this specialty population.
- Promote training in early childhood mental health



## CALL TO ACTION

- When assessing strengths and needs of our 0 – 5 population, it is imperative to consider their unique needs and attributes using best practice guidelines and assessment tools.
- Expand services and resources for our youngest children. This is the optimal time when we can make the greatest impact to their lifelong health, development, and well-being.
- Promote training in early childhood mental health.



We meet virtually monthly on **the second Monday** of the month, following the System of Care Council Meeting.

**10:45 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.**

To receive a link to join or be included on the email distribution list, **please contact:**

- **Stephanie Gioia-Beckman** at [sgioiabeckman@rchsd.org](mailto:sgioiabeckman@rchsd.org) or
- **Jennifer Kennedy** at [jkennedy@aapca3.org](mailto:jkennedy@aapca3.org)

**We would love  
more family and  
early education  
representation!**





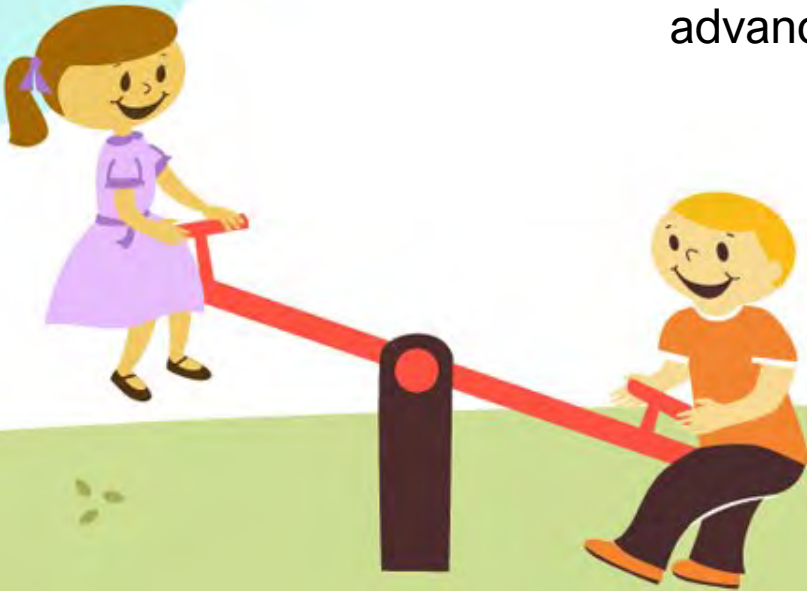
# **Children, Youth & Families Council Fiscal Year 2023-24 Mid-Year Highlights**

**Transitional Age Youth (TAY) Council  
Victor Esquivel**

January 8 & February 12, 2024



The Transitional Age Youth Behavioral Health Services Council (also known as TAYBHSOC) provides feedback and recommendations regarding Transitional Age Youth (TAY-ages 16 to 25) services in the Children, Youth and Families (CYF) and the Adult and Older Adult (AOA) systems of care. Additionally, TAYBHSOC provides community representation and input for the integrity of all TAY services and advancement of all TAY related aspects of the systems of care.



# Transitional Age Youth (TAY) Council

- The TAY Council is continuing to gather data related to the mental health and well-being of transitional age youth. This updated information is critical in the ongoing process of improvement of the behavioral health services system of care in our region.
- The TAY Council is working on updated resource mapping to explore what resources are available for TAY. This mapping includes a particular emphasis on education and employment as well as connecting that information to a survey being proposed for implementation to better understand the unique health needs of transitional age youth in San Diego County.



**Do you or someone you know have an  
interest in advocating for the interests of  
Transitional Age Youth in our County?**

**Become a member of the TAY Council  
and/or refer a friend.**



TAY Council Meeting

MEETING DATE: Fourth Wednesday of the month

LOCATION: Via TEAMS

TIME: 3:00 PM to 4:00 PM

Contact person:

Asheka Huey [Asheka.Huey@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:Asheka.Huey@sdcounty.ca.gov)

Aprille Pena [Aprille.Pena@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:Aprille.Pena@sdcounty.ca.gov)





# **CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES COUNCIL FISCAL YEAR 2023-24 MID-YEAR HIGHLIGHTS**

**COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO  
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY  
MEDICAL CARE SERVICES**

**Heather Summers, EdD, MSW, Deputy Director**

**February 12, 2024**



**LIVE WELL  
SAN DIEGO**

# MEDICAL CARE SERVICES (MCS)

- **DIRECTOR:** Jamie Beam
- **ASSISTANT CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER:** Dr. Jennifer Tuteur
- **ADOPTED BUDGET:** \$51.3 million
- **EMPLOYEES:** 215.0
- **MISSION:** Medical Care Services (MCS) strives to ensure that San Diego County is home to America's premier local wellness delivery system with an emphasis on quality, equity, sustainability, and transparency. MCS uses a collaborative approach to identify and work on shared goals and actions with other County of San Diego business groups and the community.



# MCS PRIORITIES



**Support Quality Assurance and Improvement Efforts for HHSA's Medical Services**



**Provide Expertise to Support Programs that Improve Medical, Dental and Social Care, and Other Clinical Services**



**Workforce Recruitment, Retention, and Engagement**



**Support Access to Evidence-Based Care Through a Variety of Programs**



# CHILD HEALTH

## Current areas of focus

- **Future Generations Council**

- Developing goals within the four workgroups
  - Primary Prevention
  - Family Strengthening
  - Services, Treatment, & Resources
  - Healthy Development
- Optimizing current efforts with the various departments of HHSA
- Analyzing dashboard to identify gaps and needs

- **Intergenerational Alignment**

- Grandparents Raising Grandchildren efforts
- Collaboration with Chief Geriatric Officer

- **Communications with Pediatric Clinicians and Pediatric Oriented CBOs**

- Involvement with [American Academy of Pediatrics local chapter](#)
- [Telebriefings](#) to healthcare professionals and area educational agencies
- Involvement with other local efforts around immunization rates, childhood obesity, etc.

...“if everything we do in our cities is great for an 8 year old and an 80 year old, then it will be better for all people.”...  
[www.880cities.org](http://www.880cities.org)

# OLDER ADULT HEALTH

## Current areas of focus

- **Age Friendly Public Health Systems (AFPHS)**
  - Co-Chairing **Healthy San Diego Sub-workgroup for LTSS/Duals** to improve transitions of care
- **Age Friendly Clinical Health Systems (AFCHS)**
  - Co-Chairing **San Diego County Medical Director collaboration** to improve Post-Acute and Long-Term Care
  - Supporting Dementia and **Age-Friendly Care** for SD County's Alzheimer's Project and Geriatric Workforce Enhancement Program
- **Age Friendly Communities (AFC)**
  - Co-developing **San Diego County Aging dashboard** to assess older adults needs in terms of the 5 goals of California's Master Plan on Aging

## Plans for 2024

- **Age-Friendly Public Health Systems:** Create a decision tree (**personal care process map**) for hospital discharge planners re: coverage of personal care for low-income older adults
- **Age-Friendly Clinical Health Systems:** **Age-Friendly walk throughs** at county clinical sites serving older adults
- **Age-Friendly Communities:** launch **public-facing website** of San Diego County Aging Dashboard

## Websites/resources/meetings that stakeholders can join to learn or become involved:

- **Age Friendly Public Health Systems** (aka the "**6Cs**" through the Trust for America's Health)
- **Age-Friendly Clinical Health Systems** (aka the "**4Ms**" through the Institute for Healthcare Improvement)
- **Age-Friendly Communities** (aka the "**8Ds**" through the American Association of Retired Persons/AARP)
- **California Master Plan on Aging** (aka the 5 bold goals to improve Housing, Healthcare, Social Participation and Equity, Caregiver support, and Affordable Aging)



# MEDI-CAL TRANSFORMATION

- San Diego Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal (SDAIM) is the County's dedicated unit that supports implementation of the Medi-Cal Transformation initiative.
- The goal of this unit is to establish a cross-sector, collaborative approach to improve the county's wellness delivery system that ensures coordinated and equitable access to quality health and social care for Medi-Cal members
- SDAIM partners and collaborates with County departments, managed care plans, health and social care providers, community organizations, consumers, and advocates.

**Enhanced Care Management (ECM)** is a Medi-Cal managed care benefit that addresses clinical and social needs through care management and coordination for specified Populations of Focus.

**Children & Youth Populations of Focus** became eligible for ECM in **July 2023** including:

- Homeless Families or Unaccompanied Children/Youth Experiencing Homelessness
- Children and Youth At Risk for Avoidable Hospital or ED Utilization
- Children and Youth with Serious Mental Health and/or SUD Needs
- Children and Youth Enrolled in CCS or CCS Whole Child Model with Additional Needs Beyond the CCS Condition
- Children and Youth Involved in Child Welfare

**Additional Populations of Focus** became eligible for ECM in **January 2024** including:

- Pregnant or postpartum individuals subject to racial and ethnic disparities
- Children and Youth Transitioning from Incarceration

# SDAIM OBJECTIVES



# JUSTICE-INVOLVED HEALTH

## Current areas of focus

- Supporting Medi-Cal Transformation implementation, including new Enhanced Care Management benefit for justice-involved (JI) individuals as well as efforts with youth/young adults in juvenile detention facilities and behavioral health linkages
- Supporting Alternatives to Incarceration (ATI), including workplan items MCS or HHSA is lead on such as Transition Clinic Network (TCN) pilots
- Supporting data-related efforts to improve care coordination for JI individuals

## Plans for 2024

- Report to BOS about ATI and JI data efforts
- Support Medi-Cal Transformation JI efforts
- Launch TCN pilot

## Websites/resources/meetings that stakeholders can join to learn or become involved:

- [Justice Involved Health \(sandiegocounty.gov\)](https://sandiegocounty.gov)

# OFFICE OF NURSING EXCELLENCE

## Current Areas of Focus

- Maternal – Child Nurse Home Visiting

## Plans for 2024

- Implement Healthy Families of America (HFA) Home Visiting Model to promote child well – being and prevent the abuse and neglect of children in our community through family – focused and empathic support.

## Websites/resources/meetings that stakeholders can join to learn or become involved:

- [American Academy of Pediatrics – California Chapter 3 \(aapca3.org\)](https://aapca3.org)
- [Healthy Families America](https://www.hfa.org)



# ORAL HEALTH

## Current Areas of Focus

- Intergenerational collaboration with Chief Geriatrics Officer and Chief Pediatric Officer to address oral health on a family level
- Working closely with our Public Health Service/Local Oral Health Program partners to continue to expand access to dental services for school age children

## Plans for 2024

- Incorporating oral health into Home Visiting Programs
- Supporting Legislative Programs aimed at increasing access to operating room services in our county
- Continuing to provide oral health updates to community healthcare workers through the Health Professionals Telebriefing
- Working with our PHNs and Child and Family Wellbeing to link children to dental services

## Websites/resources/meetings that stakeholders can join to learn or become involved:

- [SmileCalifornia](#): includes “Find a Dentist” and other resources including educational flyers and videos
- San Diego Oral Health Coalition Childrens Workgroup: Always looking for members who want to join to increase access of dental care for children. Contact [myleen.abuan@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:myleen.abuan@sdcounty.ca.gov) for more information



# MCS PHARMACY - MOBILE PHARMACY

- The Mobile Pharmacy is a vehicle that currently provides prescription medications to the underserved communities of San Diego County – piloted in August 2023 at STI clinics
- In 2024 we hope to expand our pharmacist led services and provide to a wider patient population within our county.
- Collaborate with other County departments, community stakeholders to increase access and services – including education to support healthy communities
- Live Well on Wheels (Live Wow) [website](#)



# MCS PLANS FOR 2024

- Academic Detailing to reach clinicians with the greatest needs
- Continued efforts in collaboration with Chief Geriatric Officer to maximize the mutual benefits of intergenerational activities
- Assist Chief Nursing Officer with implementation of new nurse home visiting program



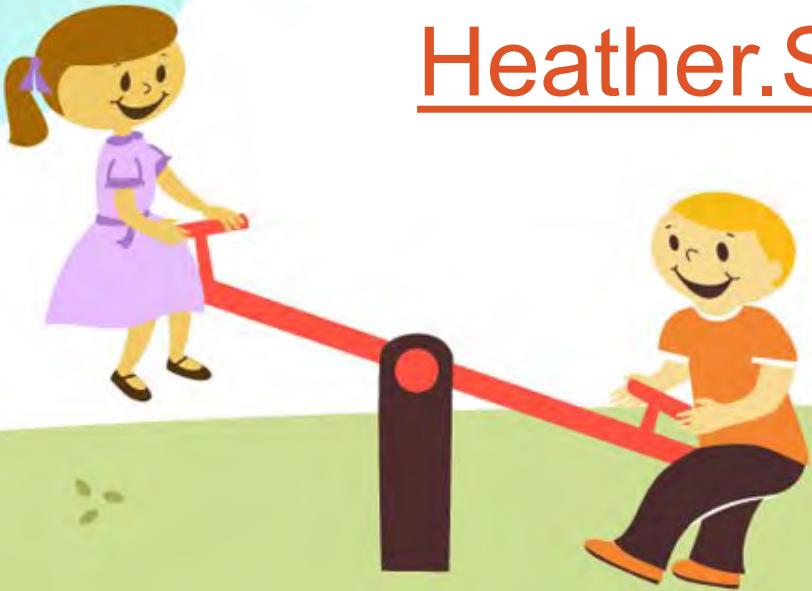
# MAJOR BOARD INITIATIVES & TIMELINES FOR RETURN/REPORT BACK

- Supporting Care Coordination for Justice Involved Individuals Through Funding and Integrated Data Infrastructure (Early 2024)
- Rural Health Discharge Pilot Program (Early 2024)
- Drug Disposal Bag Pilot Program (Late 2024)



Heather Summers, EdD, MSW,  
Deputy Director, Medical Care Services

[Heather.Summers@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:Heather.Summers@sdcounty.ca.gov)



# Children, Youth and Families Council Fiscal Year 2023-24 Mid- Year Highlights

Dr. Laura Vleugels

February 12, 2024



LIVE WELL  
SAN DIEGO





# Highlights

- New Levels of Care
- Group Therapy
- Access Time
- DHCS Fee Schedule

# New Levels of Care: IOP & PHP

- Time-limited, intensive programs
- San Diego Center for Children Intensive Outpatient Program (IOP)
  - Age: Up to 21 years old; primary focus on youth between ages 13-18
  - Approximately 3 days per week for 6 weeks after school hours
  - Individual, group, and family treatment
  - Referrals through OP programs, Community Screening Unit, Inpatient hospital
- San Diego Center for Children Partial Hospitalization Program (PHP)
  - Age: Up to 21 years old; primary focus on youth between ages 13-18
  - Approximately 5 days per week for 2 weeks, for full day
  - Individual, group and family treatment; educational instruction
  - Referrals through Community Screening Unit, Inpatient hospital, Intensive Outpatient Program

# Group Therapy & Access Time

Two Areas of focus that have a connection

Group Therapy is an effective treatment modality for addressing behavioral health challenges of children and youth.

Goals of Group Therapy PIP:

- Expand access and utilization of group therapy
- Reduce wait times through accessing effective treatment to more than one youth in each session
- Working collaboratively with CASRC to implement Group Therapy Toolkit

BHS continue to focus on creative solutions to improving access time in the system of care

# DHCS CYBHI Fee Schedule

## Goals:

- To expand access to school-linked behavioral health services through the statewide multi-payer school-linked fee schedule; for outpatient mental health and substance use disorder services provided to students ages 25 years or younger provided at or near the school site
- To leverage the CYBHI fee schedule as a sustainable funding source for school-linked behavioral health services that:
  - Increases access to school-linked behavioral health services for children and youth;
  - Creates a more approachable billing model for schools and local educational agencies (LEAs);
  - Eases burdens related to contracting, rate negotiation, and navigation across delivery systems; and,
  - Reduces uncertainty around students' coverage

SDUSD and Santee School District were selected by DHCS in Cohort 1, launched January 2024

[Fee-Schedule \(ca.gov\)](https://www.ca.gov/fee-schedule)

# Call To Action

- Social connections with family, peers, and community have a critical effect on development.
- In professional and personal life, as you interface with children and youth, find a way to encourage social connections.
- Example 1: Personal  
Invite your child and a friend to take a hike in nature and take a technology break
- Example 2: Professional  
As a therapist- give a homework assignment to increase connectedness; such as connecting with a neighbor through running an errand or just saying hello or writing a letter to a friend or relative





# Resources



[Behavioral Health Services \(sandiegocounty.gov\)](https://sandiegocounty.gov)

[Children, Youth and Families System of Care \(sandiegocounty.gov\)](https://sandiegocounty.gov)

[Schools \(sandiegocounty.gov\)](https://sandiegocounty.gov)

[Medi-Cal Transformation](#)

[Fee-Schedule \(ca.gov\)](https://ca.gov)

[BHS Workforce Trainings \(sandiegocounty.gov\)](https://sandiegocounty.gov)

Every 11 minutes,  
someone loses their life to suicide.  
A mental health crisis  
deserves a mental health response.



Local Crisis Hotlines  
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Mobile Crisis  
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Crisis Stabilization  
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## COMMUNITY ADVOCACY TRAINING: REIMAGINING CRISIS RESPONSE

This training covers 988, mobile crisis response teams, PERT, local resources, and more! Virtual on Zoom!

### Upcoming Trainings:

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Thursday, 2/29

2:00 PM - 3:30 PM



2/16/24



2/29/24



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