



**BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD (BHAB)  
ACTION ITEM FEBRUARY 2, 2023**

**AUTHORIZE COMPETITIVE SOLICITATIONS TO EXPAND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES PROGRAMMING TO ENGAGE FATHERS AND CAREGIVERS**

Under the leadership of the San Diego County Board of Supervisors (Board), the County of San Diego (County) is making strategic investments to move the local behavioral health care delivery system from a model of care driven by crises to one centered on continuous, coordinated care and prevention. These efforts, broadly referred to as the Behavioral Health Continuum of Care (Continuum of Care), are guided by data, focused on equity, and designed to engender collaborative work across silos, within and outside of government. In addition to expanding regionally distributed services to improve access to care, the Continuum of Care strategy is also achieved through actions that build upon the success of existing programs by enhancing and expanding services that are informed by community input and clinical best practices.

To understand current community needs for parenting program services and identify program development opportunities to enhance prevention services, Behavioral Health Services (BHS) completed a series of community input activities with local stakeholders to evaluate the effectiveness and relevancy of existing parenting program services, and learn best practices for delivering culturally reflective and community-specific services that build resiliency, offer supports for parents and caregivers, and activate protective factors for children and their families. Through these activities, BHS identified the need to implement an *Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) Prevention Parenting Program for Fathers*, to build upon existing programming currently focused within the Central Region and expand efforts to support the engagement, participation, and parenting skills development for fathers with children up to the age of 18, and to provide augmented services countywide. Approval of the recommended action authorizes one or more competitive solicitations to implement and expand these services.

This item supports the County's vision of a just, sustainable, and resilient future for all, specifically those communities and populations that have been historically left behind. This item also supports the ongoing commitment to the regional *Live Well San Diego* vision of healthy, safe, and thriving communities by expanding critical behavioral health services for children, youth and their families.

**It is, THEREFORE, staff's recommendation that BHAB supports the approvals and authorizations needed to implement the above recommendation.**