

# Reproductive Health Care Assessment

Response to the Board of Supervisors Action on May 24, 2022:  
*Strengthening Access to Reproductive Health Care*



# Board of Supervisors Directive



On May 24, 2022, the San Diego County Board of Supervisors directed staff to:

- **Conduct a comprehensive assessment of reproductive health care services offered by County of San Diego (County), and County health contractors, including:**
  - Barriers to care
  - Opportunities to optimize these services, including expanding partnerships with providers
  - Identify opportunities to address and reduce health disparities for marginalized communities
- **Advocate for regulatory, budgetary, and legislative efforts that strengthen access to reproductive rights and health care services, including abortion.**

# Scope & Methodology



- The scope of this assessment focused on **“prevention, identification (detection), and treatment of pregnancies that are unintended, undesired, non-viable and/or a threat to the pregnant person’s health.”**
- Approach included:
  - Workgroup meetings and in-depth interviews with County department representatives to collect information on the aspects of reproductive health addressed in their programs
  - Literature review to identify best practices for increasing access to services

# Initial Discoveries



## County Reproductive Health Programs

- Direct services for abortion are not provided by the County or contractors
- Staff are not trained to discuss pregnancy options
- Procedures or processes are not currently in place for assisting clients seeking abortion services
- Many programs provide sexual and reproductive health counseling
- Social services are available for clients seeking reproductive services

# Initial Discoveries



## Community Reproductive Health

- Medication-induced abortion is available during early pregnancy
- Federal funding restrictions limit access to services for low-income and uninsured persons
- Limited data/information available for:
  - Abortion options and providers offering comprehensive reproductive health care services
  - Providers in the rural areas of the county
  - Number of persons seeking abortion services locally
  - Services that are culturally and linguistically responsive
- Misinformation on abortion risks and options
- Stigma from partner, family/friends, providers and society
- Active-duty military often face unique barriers to abortion access, including restrictive coverage, inability to arrange time off, concerns of privacy and fear of reprimand or career limitations

# Opportunities for Advocacy



- **Legislative** - Active support of:
  - State Constitutional Amendment 10 (SCA 10)
  - House of Representatives Bill 8111 (H.R. 8111), the My Body, My Data Act
- **Regulatory**
  - State Executive Order N-12-22 Reproductive Freedom
  - Federal Executive Order 14076 Protecting Access to Reproductive Healthcare Services
  - Federal Executive Order 14079 Securing Access to Reproductive and Other Healthcare Services
- **Budgetary** - California's FY 22-23 Enacted Budget includes over \$200 million in investments to protect the right to safe and accessible reproductive health care

# Draft Recommendations



- Training for all County/contracted staff providing services for persons seeking pregnancy identification, education or treatment



- Well-developed person-centered referral pathways and procedures



- Advocate for a State assessment of abortion providers to determine if it is adequate to meet the current and potential demand



- Consider advocating in support of future State and Federal budget proposals that increase and/or expand access to abortion and review 2023 Legislative Program

THANK YOU!



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