



# County of San Diego Legislative Program Process

## Health Services Advisory Board Meeting February 3, 2026

**Sarah Dawe, Office of Economic Development and Government Affairs**

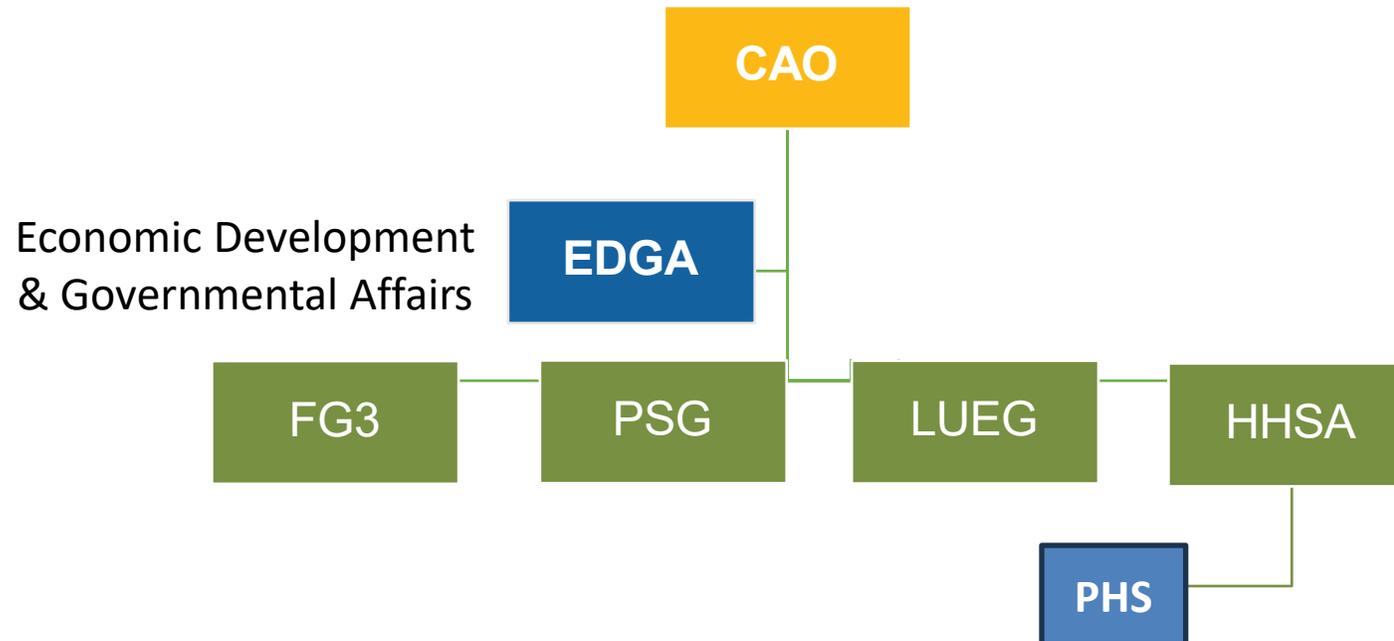
**Anuj Bhatia, DrPH, Public Health Services**



# County Legislative Org Structure



## COUNTY ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES



# Legislative Program



The Legislative Program provides guidance and authority for the County's advocacy efforts at the state and federal levels.

It has three components:

- Sponsorship Proposals
- Priority Issues
- Policy Guidelines

# 2025 Advocacy

1400+ Bills  
Tracked

42 Bill  
Positions

81 Board  
Memos

15 Federal  
Action Letters

Ensuring Safe Communities

Climate Change and the Environment

Affordable Housing

Equitable Access to Health and Social Care

Nutrition Security

Top 5 Priority  
Issues addressed in  
Bill Positions



# 2026 Priority Issues

Advancing Housing Solutions

Bolstering the Behavioral Health System

Combating Climate Change and Protecting the Environment

Ensuring Safe Communities

Reducing Homelessness

Safeguarding the Social Safety Net

Responding to the Tijuana River Valley Sewage Crisis



# Example of Formal Position



## BOS M-2- LEGISLATIVE POLICY: LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY



### COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO INTER-DEPARTMENTAL MEMORANDUM

June 15, 2023

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

**FROM:** Caroline Smith, Director  
Office of Economic Development and Government Affairs

**SUPPORT: ASSEMBLY BILL 663 (HANEY) PHARMACY: MOBILE UNITS.**

Opioid overdoses are connected to rising deaths among vulnerable populations in San Diego County. According to data from the San Diego County Medical Examiner and San Diego's Regional Taskforce on Homelessness, 588 people experiencing homelessness died in San Diego County in 2022. Of these deaths, 361 died due to an overdose, including 269 individuals who died from a fentanyl overdose.

# Policy A-74



**COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS POLICY**

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committee meeting place of which they are a member and which is within the County. Members will be reimbursed at the mileage rate established in Section 472.2 of the Administrative Code.

12. Legislation - County committees are created to advise the Board of Supervisors - not the Legislature or Congress, with the exception of those committees which have been specifically mandated to advise other legislators under the government codes or laws establishing them. When a County committee wishes to make a recommendation on pending legislation to a legislative body other than the San Diego County Board of Supervisors, the committee shall submit recommendations or positions on legislation to the Department Head. The Department Head shall submit the committee recommendations to the Office of Strategy and Intergovernmental Affairs, noting the departmental position, relative to the Committee recommendations. The Office of Strategy and Intergovernmental Affairs shall inform the Board of Supervisors of the committee's recommendation or the CAO may place the committee and its recommendation on a future Board of Supervisors agenda.

If the Board does not agree with the committee and will not forward the recommendations to the appropriate legislative body, the committee members may, as individuals, contact the legislative body recommending certain actions. Transmittal of recommendations on County letterhead without prior Board approval violates the intent of Board Policy M-2 (Legislative Advocacy). The exception being those committees which have been specifically mandated to advise other legislators under the government codes or laws establishing them. These committees may forward their recommendations per the requirements of their mandate.



# How HSAB can participate in the process

## Legislative Advocacy, A-74 Process

- Related to specific bills
- Requires PHS to provide stance on the bills being addressed (as needed)
- Requires Formal A-74 Process

## Legislative Program Input

- Related to topics/areas
- Requires input on Legislative Program document due in August
- Approved by the Board in December



# Health Services Advisory Board (HSAB) Legislative Advocacy Timeline



## Acronyms

- HSAB:** Health Services Advisory Board
- PHS:** Public Health Services
- AEO:** Agency Executive Office
- COSD:** County of San Diego
- BOS:** Board of Supervisors
- EDGA:** Office of Economic Development and Governmental Affairs

# HSAB Advocacy Letter Process



## Initial Presentation

1. HSAB receives a presentation on the County Legislative Bill process, from PHS and EDGA, on the **first Tuesday in January or February** of the calendar year.
2. Legislative Subcommittee meets in **between February and March** to deliberate any Legislative Advocacy feedback for specific bills
3. By **early April**, HSAB finalizes its Legislative Advocacy recommendations and submits them to PHS for further elevation, ultimately to EDGA.

# HSAB Legislative Program Process



## HSAB Legislative Subcommittee

- **Ideally**, the Subcommittee would meet once or twice, or otherwise as needed to deliberate and determine draft recommendations on behalf of the HSAB.
  - County Health Executives Association of California (CHEAC) and Economic Development and Governmental Affairs (EDGA) Resources are available for determining input.
- **Ideally**, the Subcommittee would finalize Legislative Program recommendations in preparation for presentation to the entire HSAB, in June or early July.





# HSAB Legislative Program Process



## Additional Opportunities for Input

- Public Health Services Deputy Director will make HSAB Members aware of and have access to Community Forums available for Legislative Program input.
  - **These forums are an additional option for Legislative Program Input by HSAB Members**

Typically, Public Comment period begins in **August through October**. This period concludes with a **Virtual Community Forum**, where members of the community were able to provide input and ask questions about the upcoming Legislative Program.

A screenshot of a web form titled "Ask a Question". At the top, there are four buttons: "Ask a Question", "Submit a Comment", "Email a Comment", and "Register for a Forum". Below the buttons, the heading "Ask a Question" is followed by the text: "Have a question about the 2024 Legislative Program. Ask us! We'll get back to you as soon as we can." The form contains a large text input field with the placeholder "Ask a question...". Below this are two smaller input fields: "Enter your email" and "Enter your screen name". There is a checkbox labeled "I agree to the Terms of Use and Privacy Policy for using Engagement HQ". At the bottom of the form is a large black button labeled "SUBMIT" and a white button labeled "Register Now".

# HSAB Legislative Program Process



## Public Health Services

- Ensures that HSAB input on Legislative Program is included and differentiated from the Department input.
- Shares content with PHS Leadership for review and approval prior to submission of overall Legislative Program feedback to EDGA.
- Sends the combined feedback, from both the HSAB and PHS to EDGA.
- Ensures that the HSAB has access to the final recommendations approved by the Board of Supervisors.
  - The Legislative Program will be heard at the **December Board of Supervisors Hearing.**





## 2026 LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO'S STATE AND FEDERAL POLICY PLATFORM

Office of Economic Development and Government Affairs

[SANDIEGOCOUNTY.GOV](http://SANDIEGOCOUNTY.GOV)

Here is what the final document looks like.

[2026 COSD Legislative Program](#)



# Thank you and Questions



**Anuj Bhatia, DrPH**  
**[Anuj.Bhatia@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:Anuj.Bhatia@sdcounty.ca.gov)**  
**(619) 481-4417**

## EDGA Main Website

<https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/cao/edga.html>

**EDGA Legislative Program**  
[2026 COSD Legislative Program](#)



*The Public Health Services department, County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency, has maintained national public health accreditation, since May 17, 2016, and was re-accredited by the Public Health Accreditation Board on August 21, 2023.*