

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



## Agenda

March 11, 2024 | 9 to 10:30 a.m.

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

[https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYrcOyvqD0tE9V9q3CYgroEP0Drx3gbmyAi](https://us06web.zoom.us/join/9101234567890)

- I. **Welcome Council members, alternates, and meeting attendees** - (Celica Garcia-Plascencia) **5 minutes**  
 Translation available upon prior request
  - Culture Share – Dina Ali - Handouts – **Pages 5-12**
    - Seeking volunteer for May 13, 2024
  
- II. **Review of Meeting Summary** (Yael Koenig) **5 minutes**
  - February 12, 2024, Meeting Summary - Handout - **Pages 13-17**
  - Action items completed – See page 3 of the meeting summary (Page 15 of the meeting packet)
  
- 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

February 21, 2024

- Chairwoman, Nora Vargas - [State of the County address](#) - Handout - **Page 18**

February 27, 2024

- **Item 02:** Blue Envelope Program and Recommendations - Handout - **Pages 19-23**
- **Item 11:** County of San Diego American Rescue Plan Framework Reprioritization and Evergreen Component Framework Recommendations - Handouts includes presentation - **Pages 24-78**
- **Item 13:** Sustainable Planning for Federally Funded Long-Term Migrant Transfer Site and Shelter Center Handouts- **Pages 79-91**
- **Item 14:** Urge President Biden to Temporarily Close the U.S.-Mexico Border in Response to U.S. Customs and Border Protection Street Releases Resuming on February 22, 2024 - Handout – **Pages 92-94**

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

- Proposition 1, Behavioral Health Services Program and Bond Measure results pending as of the morning of March 8, 2024
- [Children and Youth Behavioral Health Initiative \(CYBHI\)](#)
  - [CYBHI February 2024 Newsletter](#) - Handout - **Pages 95-96**
- [Behavioral Health Director’s Report -March 2024](#) - Handout - **Pages 97-101**  
[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)
- **Notice of Initiation of 30-Day Public Review and Comment Period** - Handout - **Page 102**  
[Amendment to Mental Health Services Act Three Year Plan for FYs 23-24 through 2025-26 30-Day Public Comment Form \(smartsheet.com\)](#)  
[Mental Health Services Act \(MHSA\) \(sandiegocounty.gov\)](#)
- Fiscal Year 2023-24 San Diego County **Drug Medi-Cal Organized Delivery System (DMC-ODS) Virtual External Quality Review (EQR)** - is scheduled for March 19-21, 2024 – Handout - **Page 103**  
[Drug Medi-Cal Organized Delivery System : CalEQRO](#)
- Council membership assessment begins in April 2024
- May 13, 2024 Council Meeting - Conversation with the BHS Director, Dr. Luke Bergmann

**IV. Committees and relevant groups mid-year updates/highlights**

**20 minutes**

- Brief presentations were offered at the January and February meetings. Due to time, three presentations were shifted to the March 11, 2024 meeting
- **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
Managed Care Plans	Private	James Trout	<b>Pages 104-108</b>
Behavioral Health Services	Public	Dr. Laura Vleugels	<b>Pages 109-115</b>
Homeless Solutions and Equitable Communities	Public	Katie Gordon	<b>Pages 116-122</b>

**V. Hot Topic: Recent Floods in San Diego and its impacts on Mental Health (Stephanie Escobar)**

**40 minutes**

- Presentation by Urban Corps-Teresa Leader Anderson
- Questions and answers
- Open Forum
  - How has the flooding affected your community?
  - What strategies have you shared to support your community?
- [Recovery \(alertsandiego.org\)](https://alertsandiego.org)
- [Flood Disaster Declaration Allows Impacted San Diegans to Get Disaster CalFresh Benefits](#)
- [Recovery center opens for National City small businesses hurt in historic floods at Southwestern College – NBC 7 San Diego \(nbcсандiego.com\)](#)
- January 30, 2024 Community Response Board Letter and Presentation can be found on **pages 67 to 102** of: [February 12, 2024 CYF Council meeting packet](#)

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

**5 minutes**

- Poll Question
- **Combined Councils meeting on April 8, 2024 from 10 to 11:30 a.m.** – Flier - **Page 123**
- Family Sector opportunities for CYF and Peer Councils – Handouts – **Pages 124-125**
- **NAMI San Diego Community Advocacy Trainings via Zoom**
  - **Reimagining Crisis Response** - March 14, 2024 from 2 to 3:30 p.m. - Flier - **Page 126**  
[Meeting Registration - Zoom](#)
  - **Telling your story!** – March 26, 2024 from 2 to 4 p.m. – Flier – **Page 127**  
[Meeting Registration - Zoom](#)
- [9<sup>th</sup> Critical Issues in Child and Adolescent Mental Health \(CICAMH\) Conference](#) (Hybrid)  
Breaking Barriers: Innovative Approaches to Youth and Family Well Being-April 26, 2024 - Handout -**Page 128**
- [NAMIWalks San Diego](#) – April 27, 2024 at NTC Park in Liberty Station
- **10<sup>th</sup> Annual Youth Mental Health Well Being Celebration** – May 11, 2024 - Handouts - **Pages 129-130**
- [44<sup>th</sup> Annual California Mental Health Advocates for Children and Youth \(CMHACY\) Conference](#) - May 15-17, 2024 Handout - **Page 131**

**Next Executive Committee Meeting:**

**Date:** Thursday, April 25, 2024

**Time:** 11:30 to noon

**Next Meeting: Combined Councils**

**Date:** Monday, April 8, 2024

**Time:** 10 to 11:30 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/hlsa/programs/bhs/mental\\_health\\_services\\_children/CYFBHSOCCouncil.html](https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/hlsa/programs/bhs/mental_health_services_children/CYFBHSOCCouncil.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

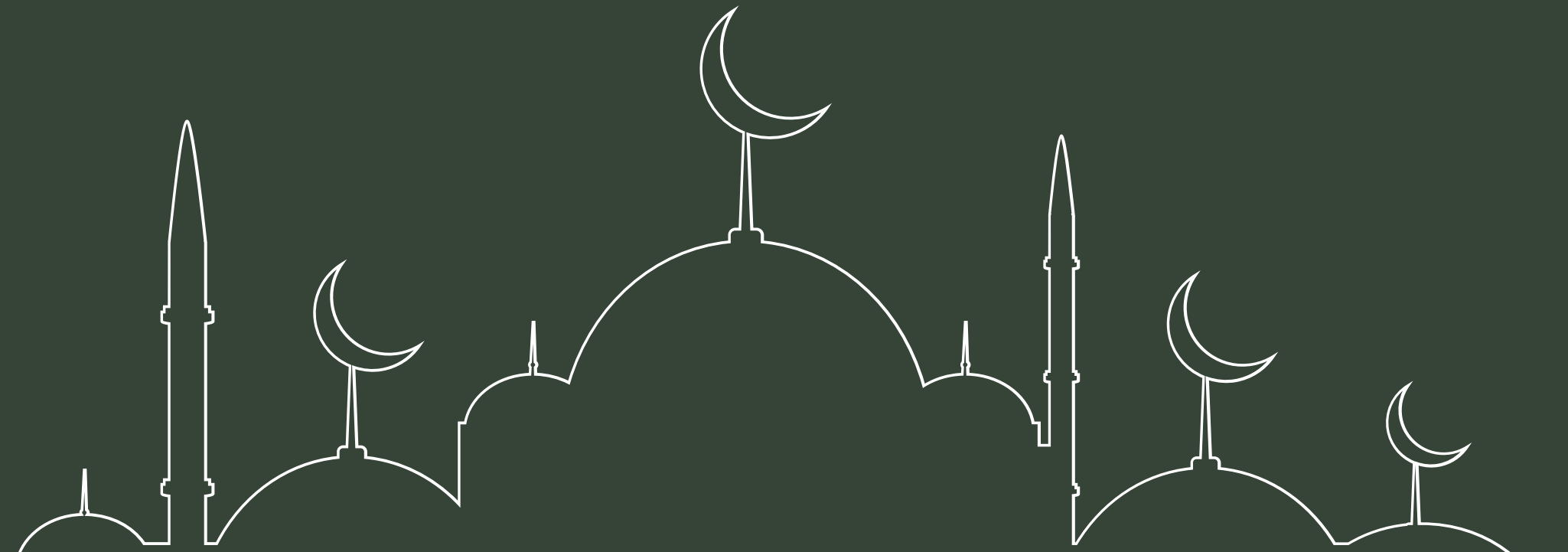
- Supportive Families
- Nurturing Communities
- Connection to Natural Supports
- Positive Social Interactions



### 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





# Ramadan

# Background on Ramadan

Ramadan is known in Islam as the month in which the prophet Muhammad (PBUH) received the first of the revelations that make up the Quran & falls on the ninth month of the Islamic Calendar.

- The beginning of Ramadan is determined by the sighting of the new moon, because of this the actual date when Ramadan begins differs from year to year.
- Adult Muslims fast from dawn until sunset, unless they are ill, pregnant, breastfeeding, sick, or traveling.

Ramadan is a time for family, community, & strengthening bonds with loved ones. Month of kindness, generosity, and service.



# Fact

*Did you know of the 7 billion people in the world, 22% (1.6 billion) fast during Ramadan, making it one of the largest group fasts in the world.*



# *What does one do during Ramadan?*



## *Prayer*

*Time for reflection, connection,  
and growth in their religion.*



## *Charitable Acts*

*Doing charitable things for  
others or give charity to those  
in need.*



## *Read Quran*

*Reading the Quran for  
purifying the mind and body.*

# Intention of Ramadan

*Goal is to develop self discipline, empathy,  
and gratitude while strengthening one's faith.*





# Ramadan to me...







*Thank You*

# BH-SOC Children, Youth, and Families Culture Share



## 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



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

ITEM	SUMMARY AND ACTION ITEMS
<p><b>I. Welcome</b> Council members, alternates, and meeting attendees – Translation available (<b>Celica Garcia-Plascencia</b>)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Welcome Alicia Castro representing First 5 San Diego (Alternate)</li> <li>Congratulations Stephanie Escobar!</li> <li>Culture Share – <b>Celebrate Black History Month</b> - Handouts - <b>Pages 5-6</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Seeking volunteer for March 11, 2024</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>Celica Garcia-Plascencia welcomed meeting attendees and made the following announcements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Alicia Castro is the new alternate to First 5 San Diego as Stephanie Escobar transitions from First 5 San Diego to BHS</li> <li>o Acknowledged Black History Month and announced the opportunity to provide the Culture Share at the March 11, 2024 meeting</li> </ul>
<p><b>II. Review of Meeting Summary</b> (Yael Koenig)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>January 8, 2024, Meeting Summary - Handout - <b>Pages 7-10</b></li> <li>No action items pending</li> </ul>	<p>Yael Koenig reviewed the meeting summary from January 8, 2024. There were no pending action items</p>
<p><b>III. Business Items</b> (Yael Koenig)</p>	
<p><b>Public Comment</b></p>	<p>None</p>
<p><b>Board Letters / Board Actions</b></p> <p><u>January 9, 2024</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>County Supervisors Reelect Chairwoman, Nora Vargas for 2024 – Handout – <b>Page 11</b></li> <li>County Board of Supervisors selected Sarah Aghassi as Interim Chief Administrative Officer – Handout – <b>Page 12</b></li> <li><b>Item 12:</b> County of San Diego American Rescue Plan Act Framework Update Handouts include presentations – <b>Pages 13-44</b></li> <li><b>Item 14:</b> Fiscal Subcommittee Recommendations for Evergreen Fund Framework: Behavioral Health Services, Homelessness Services, Housing, Climate and Economic Prosperity – Handout – <b>Pages 45-61</b></li> </ul> <p><u>January 23, 2024</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Item 06:</b> Protecting Our Community from Sexually Violent Predators</li> <li><b>Item 11:</b> Remove Barriers to Health for People Experiencing Homelessness by Creating a Regionwide Street Health Initiative</li> <li><b>Item 13:</b> Resolution in Support of Governor Gavin Newsom’s Right to Safety Amendment &amp; Call for Constitutional Convention</li> <li><b>Item 14:</b> Resolution in Support of Proposition 1, Rebuilding California’s Mental Health System – Handout – <b>Pages 62-66</b></li> </ul> <p><u>January 30, 2024</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Item 01:</b> 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 – <b>Pages 67-102</b> <a href="https://alertsandiego.org">Recovery (alertsandiego.org)</a></li> </ul> <p><u>February 6, 2024</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Item 01:</b> 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 - <b>Pages 103-107</b></li> <li><b>Item 11:</b> 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 - <b>Pages 108-112</b></li> <li><b>Item 13:</b> Making County Land Available for Emergency Homeless Shelter Solutions</li> <li><b>Item 14:</b> Gun Violence Reduction Community Needs Assessment Final Report and Recommendations – Handout - <b>Pages 113-125</b></li> <li><b>Item 15:</b> Annual Report of Gun Violence Handouts include presentation for items 14 and 15 - <b>Pages 126-154</b></li> </ul>	<p>Yael Koenig provided an overview of the highlighted Board Letters listed on the left</p> <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>

**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**
- [Behavioral Health Director’s Report -February 2024](#) - Handout - **Pages 168-172**  
[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)
- [Fourth Annual Birth of Brilliance Virtual Conference and Cultural Fair](#) (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 \(google.com\)](#)

- Yael Koenig provided an overview of State and local updates, and informational items
- Aisha Pope and Melanie Morones invited everyone to attend the upcoming Birth of Brilliance conference and Cultural Fair
- Charmi Patel and Carrie Jackson provided an overview of the upcoming CICAMH conference and invited everyone to attend
- Sten Walker provided an update on the upcoming Youth Mental Health Well-Being Celebration and on the reconvening of the Family Sector committee meetings
- Desiree Lopez announced the free supervision opportunity for registered Associate Clinical Social Workers

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

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. Due to time, the following three constituencies will present at the March 11, 2024 meeting: Managed Care Plans, Behavioral Health Services, and Homeless Solutions and Equitable Communities.

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	

Discussion/Questions/Action Items	Action Due/Status										
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>From the Education Sector presentation:</b> Can the SDCOE Suicide Prevention Efforts/Policy to Practice Suicide Intervention Toolkit be incorporated into the <a href="#">It's Up to Us</a> campaign?</li> <li>• <b>From the Outcomes Committee presentation:</b> "Group Therapy is great, but under CalAIM Payment Reform, groups have to be more than 5 people to not lose money on groups"</li> <li>• From the Early Childhood Committee presentation: Explore a Neurofeedback presentation from Dr. Divya Kakaiya</li> <li>• Questions regarding School Threats Resources</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Completed – Yael Koenig provided suggestion and the Policy to Practice Suicide Intervention Toolkit link to the BHS Communication and Engagement leadership to explore <a href="#">Policy to Practice Toolkit final.pdf (finalsite.net)</a></li> <li>• Completed – The following information was provided during the meeting chat: The Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) designed groups at 4.5 participants; the fiscal benefit materializes when there are 5 and over participants</li> <li>• Completed - Opportunity presented to the CYF Council Executive Committee and placed in queue for potential future areas of discussion</li> <li>• Completed. School Threat Protocol provided at the meeting via the Chat feature: <a href="https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/dam/sdc/hhsa/programs/bhs/CYF/FINAL-%20Master%20School%20Threat%20Protocol%20revised%20November-2-2021.pdf">https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/dam/sdc/hhsa/programs/bhs/CYF/FINAL-%20Master%20School%20Threat%20Protocol%20revised%20November-2-2021.pdf</a></li> </ul>										
<p><b>V. Announcements</b> (Stephanie Escobar)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Poll Question</li> <li>• <b>NAMI San Diego Community Advocacy – Reimagining Crisis Response Trainings via Zoom</b> - Flier - <b>Page 259</b> February 16 and 29, 2024 from 2 to 3:30 p.m.</li> <li>• <b>Jewish Family Service - Free Citizenship Courses</b> - Weekly from February 20 to April 24, 2024 - Fliers - <b>Pages 260-261</b></li> <li>• <a href="#">44<sup>th</sup> Annual California Mental Health Advocates for Children and Youth (CMHACY) Conference</a> - May 15-17, 2024 – Handout - <b>Page 262</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Announcements provided via Chat during the meeting:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>San Diego County Office of Education and Rady’s Children’s Hospital – Supporting Our Youth</b> - Free Mental Health Webinar series for parents and caregivers in English and Spanish</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Announcements included on the agenda are listed on the left column</li> <li>• Announcements can be sent in advance to Edith Mohler at: <a href="mailto:Edith.Mohler@sdcounty.ca.gov">Edith.Mohler@sdcounty.ca.gov</a></li> </ul> <p><b>CYF Council Poll Question</b></p> <p>Poll ended   1 question   70 of 89 (78%) participated</p> <p>1. On a scale 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)</p> <p>70/70 (100%) answered</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>1 - Low Relevance</td> <td>(0/70) 0%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2</td> <td>(0/70) 0%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3 - Some Relevance</td> <td>(8/70) 11%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4</td> <td>(23/70) 33%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5 - High Relevance</td> <td>(39/70) 56%</td> </tr> </table>	1 - Low Relevance	(0/70) 0%	2	(0/70) 0%	3 - Some Relevance	(8/70) 11%	4	(23/70) 33%	5 - High Relevance	(39/70) 56%
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2	(0/70) 0%										
3 - Some Relevance	(8/70) 11%										
4	(23/70) 33%										
5 - High Relevance	(39/70) 56%										

**Next Executive Committee Meeting:**

Date: 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/CYFBHSCouncil.html](https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/hhsa/programs/bhs/mental_health_services_children/CYFBHSCouncil.html)

+ = Member in Attendance    O = Absent    E = Excused

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	O	Delona King	O
4	Child and Family Well Being (CFWB) Department – Office of Child Safety	Steven Wells	O	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	+
8	Juvenile Court	H. Judge Ana España	O	Beth Brown	+
9	CFWB Department – Office of Child and Family Strengthening - First 5 San Diego	Alethea Arguilez	O	Stephanie Escobar/Alicia Castro	+
<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	O	Lori Sorenson	+
15	Alcohol and Drug Service Provider Association (ADSPA)	Angela Rowe	+	John Laidlaw	O
16	ADSPA	Marisa Varond	+	Claudette Allen Butler	O
17	Mental Health Contractors Association (MHCA)	Julie McPherson	+	Vanessa Arteaga	+
18	MHCA	Laura Beadles	+	Golby Rahimi	O
19	Fee- For-Service (FFS) Network	Dr. Sherry Casper	+	Marcelo A. Podesta	O
20	Managed Care Health Plans	Vacant		James Trout	E
21	Healthcare/ Pediatrician	Dr. Pradeep Gidwani	+	Vacant	
<b>FAMILY AND YOUTH SECTOR</b>					
22	Consumer Advocacy/Family Education Services	Khalif Kelly	O	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	O		
-	CYF CADRE	Julie McPherson/Marisa Varond	+/+		
-	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: 112**

Aisha Pope	Dina Ali	Karen Giannini	Pradeep Gidwani
Alexis Anderson	Divya Kakaiya	Katie Gordon	Rafael-Ortiz Gomez
Alicia Castro	Donna Moore	Kelly Bordman	Reigel Javinal
Alicia O'Neill	Edith Mohler	Kelly Dougherty	Rhonda Crowder
Amanda Lance-Sexton	Eileen Quinn-O'Malley	Kenia Urrutia	Roberto Suarez
Angela Rowe	Elizabeth Daus	Kimberley Saelens	Sade Carswell
Angelina Puffelis	Emily Gaines	Kristin Garrett	Sarah Baldwin
Aprille Peña	Eric Camerino	Larry Edmonds	Shane Padamada
Azmin Granados	Erick Mora	Laura Beadles	Shannon Jackson
Babbi Winegarden	Ericka Hernandez	Laura Krzywicki	Shaun Goff
Barbara Ryan	Erin Murphy	Laura Vleugels	Sherry Casper
Beth Brown	Evan Hodges	Leslie LaMay	Shewa Legesse
Brady Gunther	Fran Cooper	Leslie Manriquez	Stacey Musso
Bridget Lambert	Francisco Medrano	Linda Puebla	Sten Walker
Carmen Pat	Ginger Bial-Cox	Lori Sorenson	Stephanie Escobar
Carrie Jackson	Grisel Ortega-Vaca	Mareeh Marquez	Stephanie Gioia-Beckman
Caryl Montillano	Hannah Zimmerman	Maria Norris	Susana Antonio
Celica Garcia-Plascencia	Heather Nemour	Maria Ventura	Tanya Mercado
Charmi Patel Rao	Heather Summers	Marie Hommel	Terri Kang
Cheryl Rode	Jamie Pellegrino	Marisa Varond	Tom Coleman
Christina Grice	Janet Cacho	Mayra Gonzalez-Munoz	Vanessa Arteaga
Christine A. Davies	Janette Magsanoc	Melanie Morones	Victor Esquivel
Christine Maggio	Jennifer Busico	Melissa Penaflor	Yael Koenig
Danyte Mockus-Valenzuela	Jennifer Fuentesilla	Melizza Welton	Yuka Sakamoto
Darwin Espejo	Jennifer Kennedy	Michael Miller	Yvette Leyva
David Taylor	Jody Erickson	Michelle Houle	Zayra Rios
Debra Schade	Julie McPherson	Nay Htoo	Unknown Caller
Desiree Lopez	Kacie Rodvill	Pamela Hansen	Unknown Caller

**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 quarterly. Next meeting will be on May 2024.

**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

**February 21, 2024**



Chairwoman Nora E. Vargas'  
**STATE** *of the* **COUNTY**

**ADDRESS**



<https://youtu.be/sqKIFBObMSA>



2024 STATE OF THE COUNTY ADDRESS

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CHAIRWOMAN NORA VARGAS

COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO SUPERVISOR, FIRST DISTRICT



# 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 27, 2024

**02**

**TO:** Board of Supervisors

### **SUBJECT**

**BLUE ENVELOPE PROGRAM UPDATE AND RECOMMENDATIONS (DISTRICTS: ALL)**

### **OVERVIEW**

On September 26, 2023 (1), the Board of Supervisors (Board) directed the Chief Administrative Officer to identify County departments to collaborate with the Sheriff's Department in the implementation of the Blue Envelope Program, identify grants and other funding sources to fund ongoing needs of the program, and return to the Board in early 2024 with a set of recommendations and a cost analysis relevant to the complete implementation of the program within the Fiscal Year 2024-25 budget.

The purpose of the Blue Envelope Program is to promote inclusivity and serve as an enhanced communication awareness tool between law enforcement officers and community members diagnosed with a condition or disability such as Autism Spectrum Disorder, dementia, anxiety, or other conditions that might require additional accommodations or awareness during a law enforcement contact. The Blue Envelope Program works by allowing the individual to readily display the Blue Envelope logo or present the Blue Envelope upon contact with law enforcement or other community service personnel. Blue Envelope branded products can contain the individual's identification, contact information, or pertinent vehicle operating documents such as the vehicle registration and proof of insurance.

In response to the Board's direction, the Public Safety Group Executive Office convened meetings with the Sheriff's Department to discuss their plans and strategies for implementing the Blue Envelope Program, including how County departments can support their implementation efforts, and to identify ongoing funding needs of the program. As of mid-January 2024, seven County departments are currently supporting program implementation by issuing Blue Envelope Program materials and the Sheriff's Department is in discussions with four other County departments to do the same. In addition, the Department of Human Resources (DHR) has been collaborating with the Sheriff's Department to thread and align with DHR's Neurodivergent Excellence Work Plans and to provide training support for enterprise-wide awareness of the Blue Envelope Program.

Today's requested actions are for the Board to receive the update related to the implementation of the Blue Envelope Program and authorize submission of grants that support Blue Envelope

**SUBJECT: BLUE ENVELOPE PROGRAM UPDATE AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

Program activities. If authorized and grant funds are awarded, Sheriff will return to the Board to accept grant funds and establish appropriations as necessary.

**RECOMMENDATION(S)**

**CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER**

1. Receive an update related to the implementation of the Blue Envelope Program.
2. Pursuant to Board Policy B-29, authorize the Sheriff or designee, through June 30, 2029, to submit grant applications that support Blue Envelope Program activities and execute all required grant documents, including annual extensions, amendments and/or revisions thereto that do not materially impact or alter the services or funding level.
3. Waive Board Policy B-29 Fees, Grants, Revenue Contracts – Department Responsibility for Cost Recovery, which requires prior approval of applications and full cost recovery for grants.

**EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

The implementation of the Blue Envelope Program in San Diego County is intended to promote inclusivity and serve as an enhanced communication awareness tool between law enforcement and community members diagnosed with a condition or disability such as Autism Spectrum Disorder, dementia, anxiety, or other conditions that might require additional accommodation or awareness during contact with law enforcement. Awareness and training provided by the Blue Envelope Program will assist law enforcement and other community service personnel with identifying, recognizing, and communicating more effectively with members of our community with a condition or disability. By providing a visible display of the program’s logo, individuals can choose to voluntarily disclose, and provide awareness of, their needs to a law enforcement or other community service personnel. This program promotes effective communication, thus reducing misunderstandings, and encouraging positive interactions.

**SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

This proposed action contributes to the County of San Diego’s Sustainability Goal of engaging the community in meaningful ways and continually seeking stakeholder input to foster inclusive and sustainable communities. The Blue Envelope Program, as envisioned for San Diego County, is a collaboration between law enforcement, other first responders, county agencies, and community partners to encourage education, inclusion, and training to improve interactions with members of our community with a condition or disability. The goal is creating a means for equitable treatment for individuals who may need accommodations. Efforts will be made to ensure equitable access to and awareness of the program to prevent any potential bias or discrimination, furthering its impact on promoting equity.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

If approved, funds for this request will be included in the Fiscal Year 2024-26 CAO Recommended Operational Plan in the Public Safety Group. This request will result in an estimated one-time cost of \$75,000 for program materials related to the Blue Envelope Program, which includes both public outreach materials and participating organization training resources. The funding source is existing General Purpose Revenue. There will be no change in net General Fund cost and no additional staff years.

**SUBJECT: BLUE ENVELOPE PROGRAM UPDATE AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

**BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT**

N/A

**ADVISORY BOARD STATEMENT**

N/A

**BACKGROUND**

On September 26, 2023 (1), the Board of Supervisors (Board) directed the Chief Administrative Officer to identify County departments to collaborate with the Sheriff’s Department in the implementation of the Blue Envelope Program, identify grants and other funding sources to fund ongoing needs of the program, and return to the Board in early 2024 with a set of recommendations and a cost analysis relevant to the complete implementation of the program within the Fiscal Year 2024-25 budget.

The purpose of the Blue Envelope Program is to promote inclusivity and serve as an enhanced communication awareness tool between law enforcement officers and community members diagnosed with a condition or disability such as Autism Spectrum Disorder, dementia, anxiety, or other conditions that might require additional accommodations or awareness during a law enforcement contact. The Blue Envelope Program works by allowing an individual to readily display the Blue Envelope logo or present the Blue Envelope upon contact with law enforcement or other community service personnel. Individuals displaying items with the Blue Envelope Program logo will let members of law enforcement know they will require additional accommodations or assistance during a service call or emergency.

Blue Envelope Program outreach materials are available to the public free of charge at participating locations. Participating locations can be found at [www.sdsheriff.gov/community/blue-envelope](http://www.sdsheriff.gov/community/blue-envelope). Participating locations include both community organizations and government agencies. Materials include blue envelopes, wallet information cards, lanyards, seatbelt covers, buttons, stickers, and bracelets. Blue Envelope branded products can contain the individual’s identification, contact information, or pertinent vehicle operating documents such as the vehicle registration and proof of insurance. Additional resources, including program brochures, can also be found on the website.

The Sheriff’s Department acquired the hardware and software necessary to print Blue Envelope wallet cards. The cards will include whatever information the participant would like to include, such as a photo if desired, on a durable Blue Envelope branded plastic wallet card. The cards will be advertised in February 2024.

The Sheriff’s Department is currently developing additional resources including a “Communication Card” for law enforcement to more easily communicate with someone who is deaf or hard of hearing. The card will help in everyday scenarios, such as a traffic stop, and will also help an officer determine how best to assist a victim who is deaf or hard of hearing during an emergency response.

The Sheriff’s Department has received the support of the San Diego County Chiefs’ and Sheriff’s Association, a private non-profit association comprised of chiefs and local law enforcement leaders in the region, to expand the program countywide with local law enforcement agencies by extending

**SUBJECT: BLUE ENVELOPE PROGRAM UPDATE AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

training resources and distributing the Blue Envelope Program outreach materials to county partners and organizations who engage with individuals with a condition or disability where additional accommodations or awareness could be helpful.

Since June 2023, the Sheriff's Department has met and gained program support from the San Diego Regional Center, Alzheimer's San Diego, ARC of San Diego, Deaf Community Services of San Diego, Autism Society of San Diego, American Diabetes Association, San Diego Center for the Blind, Braille Institute, San Diego Brain Injury Foundation, Gigi's Playhouse, and the Metropolitan Transit System (MTS). Community partner organizations, who serve individuals with conditions or disabilities, will be an integral piece in promoting and expanding the reach of the program across the region.

Since the program officially launched, additional community partner organizations have been added, including the Special Olympics of Southern California, United Cerebral Palsy of San Diego County, and the San Diego Veterans Coalition. Recent discussions have taken place with other large organizations with a presence in San Diego. Their partnership is expected and awaiting final approval from their respective board of directors. These organizations include medical groups, veteran care organizations, and youth services associations.

The Sheriff's Department has also been engaging with County departments to promote the Blue Envelope Program. Seven county departments are currently supporting program implementation by serving as issuing points for Blue Envelope Program materials, including the Sheriff's Department, District Attorney's Office, Probation Department, Behavioral Health Services, County Libraries, Registrar of Voters and Aging & Independence Services. The Sheriff's Department is in discussions with four other County departments to serve as issuing points, including County Fire, Child Support Services, Parks & Recreation, and HHS Live Well Centers. The Department of Human Resources and Registrar of Voters will be supporting the program with educational outreach. In addition, the Department of Human Resources (DHR) has been collaborating with the Sheriff's Department to thread and align with DHR's Neurodivergent Excellence Work Plans and to provide training support for enterprise-wide awareness of the Blue Envelope Program.

As part of a collaborative regional effort, in November 2023 the Blue Envelope Program brought community partner organizations and law enforcement representatives together to discuss the status of the program. Insights from the group helped produce additional ideas on how the program will evolve to meet community needs. Training videos that include law enforcement and community organizations will be produced to promote awareness of disabilities. The first community partner training module will feature Deaf Community Services of San Diego (DCS). DCS and the San Diego Sheriff's Department will film and produce the video in February. The video will be distributed to all local law enforcement agencies for training and awareness.

An estimated one-time cost of \$75,000 will support program materials, including both public outreach materials and participating organization training resources, related to the implementation and coordination of the Blue Envelope Program. Today's action also includes a recommendation that will authorize the Sheriff's Department to apply for grants that support the Blue Envelope Program. A waiver of Board Policy B-29 is recommended as grant funds may not result in full



**SUBJECT: BLUE ENVELOPE PROGRAM UPDATE AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

cost recovery and Blue Envelope Program activities would be worthy expenditures of County resources if external funding is unavailable. The Sheriff's Department will report to the Board of Supervisors should resource needs arise.

**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 meaningful conversations and maximizing community partnerships to reduce disparities and enhance the health, safety, and well-being of residents.

Respectfully submitted,



FOR

SARAH E. AGHASSI  
Interim Chief Administrative Officer

**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 27, 2024

# 11

**TO:** Board of Supervisors

### SUBJECT

**COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT FRAMEWORK  
REPRIORITIZATION AND EVERGREEN COMPONENT FRAMEWORK  
RECOMMENDATIONS (DISTRICTS: ALL)**

### OVERVIEW

On January 9, 2024 (12), the Board of Supervisors (Board) received an update on the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Framework. Established by the Board in 2021, the ARPA Framework ensures that ARPA resources attributed to San Diego County most effectively respond to the needs of our region's residents and invest in the long-term health and safety of the region. The update provided information on progress of the programs of the ARPA Framework, the anticipated remaining funding resources of these programs, and the Evergreen component of the ARPA Framework, which has not been programmed. Besides this update, the Board took action to support the staff recommendations, including considerations for how to program the projected remaining ARPA Framework balance of \$67.0 million anticipated at the end of Fiscal Year (FY) 2024-25. In addition, the Board also directed the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) to include priorities from all Board members when developing proposals for how to program remaining funds in the Evergreen component of the Framework. Priorities were to be focused on behavioral health, housing, climate change, economic prosperity, homelessness, and workforce, and were sent to the CAO by Board members via memorandum.

Since this time, on January 30, 2024 (1), the Board directed the use of \$10.0 million of the Evergreen component of the ARPA Framework to make funding available to meet the emergency needs caused by widespread flooding, mudslides, erosion, and storm debris resulting from the atmospheric river that moved through San Diego County on January 22, 2024. With this approval, the remaining amount allocated to the Evergreen component which is immediately available is now \$35.6 million.

Today's action includes direction for the CAO to reinvest any reimbursements received from this \$10.0 million into Evergreen program(s) upon completion of all proper audits and reviews of any expense claims. Given a Framework balance of \$67.0 million and the remaining Evergreen component of the Framework balance of \$35.6 million, these recommendations will ensure that ARPA funding available to the County of San Diego will be fully invested in the region. Staff will

**SUBJECT: COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT FRAMEWORK REPRIORITIZATION AND EVERGREEN FUND FRAMEWORK RECOMMENDATIONS (DISTRICTS: ALL)**

return to the Board with future action to implement the Framework and Evergreen programming as needed.

**RECOMMENDATION(S)**

**CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER**

1. Approve staff's recommendation for the projected remaining American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Framework balance of \$67.0 million as stated in Attachment A.
2. Authorize the Chief Administrative Officer to make administrative changes within the adopted ARPA Framework as needed to ensure the intent of the Board of Supervisors allocations in the programs is met. Examples of such permitted changes include but are not limited to adjusting within the programs listed if spending trajectories for original balances change or other funding is identified.
3. Approve one of the following options for the use of the Evergreen component funding:

Option A:

- i. To be used for program(s) that could draw down matching funds, philanthropic donations, grants, or other funding that measures performance both on self-sustaining revenue streams and level of public benefit.

Option B:

- i. To be used for program(s) that could draw down matching funds, philanthropic donations, grants, or other funding that measures performance both on self-sustaining revenue streams and level of public benefit, and/or supporting a lasting public benefit in the areas of behavioral health, housing, climate change, economic prosperity, homelessness, and workforce.
4. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to reinvest any reimbursements of the \$10.0 million allocation to emergency needs made on January 30, 2024 (1), into Evergreen program(s), after all proper audits and reviews of any expense claims have been completed.
  5. Direct the Auditor and Controller to establish an interest bearing trust fund, the "2024 Flood Reimbursement Fund" with interest earnings allocated and distributed to this fund, to deposit reimbursements in Recommendation 4 above.
  6. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to allocate the remaining balance of the Evergreen component of the ARPA Framework based on the following options:

Option A:

- i. Allocate \$15.0 million for the implementation of the Senate Bill 43 of 2023 (Involuntary Behavioral Health Treatment) program (SB 43 program). These amounts will support the implementation of SB 43, which may include, among other things, expanded services and supportive infrastructure in hospital and

**SUBJECT: COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT FRAMEWORK REPRIORITIZATION AND EVERGREEN FUND FRAMEWORK RECOMMENDATIONS (DISTRICTS: ALL)**

community-based settings, support for the Public Conservator, increased crisis stabilization unit capacity, training and education capacity, and substance use disorder services capacity including a harm reduction model.

- ii. Allocate \$15.6 million to the Innovative Housing Trust Fund to be used for Notice of Funding Availability for affordable housing construction, acquisition and rehabilitation.
- iii. Allocate \$5.0 million for Efforts to Address and Prevent Homelessness.
- iv. Upon availability of funding as directed in Recommendation #4, allocate the funding received, up to \$10 million, in Expanding San Diego’s Behavioral Health Workforce.

***OR***

**Option B:**

- i. Allocate \$15.0 million for the implementation of the SB 43 program as specified in Option A.
- ii. Allocate \$10.0 million in expanding San Diego’s Behavioral Health Workforce.
- iii. Allocate \$10.6 million in the Innovative Housing Trust Fund as specified in Option A.
- iv. Upon availability of funding as directed in Recommendation 4, allocate the funding received, up to \$10 million, in Efforts to Address and Prevent Homelessness.

***OR***

**Option C:**

- i. Allocate \$10.0 million for the implementation of the SB 43 program as specified in Option A.
- ii. Allocate \$10.6 million in the Innovative Housing Trust Fund as specified in Option A.
- iii. Allocate \$15.0 million for the establishment of a Regional Workforce Housing Program.
- iv. Upon availability of funding as directed in Recommendation #4, allocate the funding received, up to \$10 million, in Expanding San Diego’s Behavioral Health Workforce.

- 7. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to utilize ARPA funds directly or leveraged through a lost revenue strategy under the final ARPA guidance based on previously allocated General Purpose Revenue for the remaining amount allocated to the Evergreen component of the Framework of \$35.6 million, and to make the appropriate budget adjustments in future operational status letter updates as necessary.

**EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

Today’s actions provide the mechanism to present and ensure the most effective use of the County of San Diego 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

**SUBJECT: COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT  
FRAMEWORK REPRIORITIZATION AND EVERGREEN FUND  
FRAMEWORK RECOMMENDATIONS (DISTRICTS: ALL)**

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. 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 San Diego County region.

**SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

The proposed actions support the County of San Diego (County) Sustainability Goal #2 to provide just and equitable access to County services, policy decision-making, and resource allocation in support of sustainable communities, and Sustainability Goal #4 to protect the health and wellbeing of everyone in the region by ensuring the ARPA Framework including the Evergreen component supports just and equitable access to County services.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

Funds associated with this request are included in the Fiscal Year 2023-24 Operational Plan. For recommendations on the projected remaining ARPA Framework balance of \$67.0 million, if approved, this request will result in one-time costs and revenue of \$67.0 million. The funding source will be ARPA for programs that can be obligated before the end of the year 2024, and General Purpose Revenue through the lost revenue strategy for programs that cannot be obligated before the end of 2024.

For recommendations on the remaining amount allocated to the Evergreen component of the ARPA Framework, if approved, this request will result in one-time costs and revenue of \$35.6 million. These ARPA funds may be used directly or leveraged through a lost revenue strategy to redirect existing General Purpose Revenue, which will in turn be available for the Evergreen recommended programs. For any reimbursements received from the \$10.0 million allocation to emergency needs made on January 30, 2024 (1), the funds will be held in an interest bearing Trust Fund (2024 Flood Reimbursement Fund), and pending completion of all proper audits and reviews of any expense claims, will become available to Evergreen program(s) approved by the Board.

**BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT**

N/A

**ADVISORY BOARD STATEMENT**

N/A

**BACKGROUND**

On June 8, 2021 (3), the San Diego County Board of Supervisors (Board) approved the 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. The ARPA Framework not only addressed the

**SUBJECT: COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT  
FRAMEWORK REPRIORITIZATION AND EVERGREEN FUND  
FRAMEWORK RECOMMENDATIONS (DISTRICTS: ALL)**

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 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 correspondences 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 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.

On January 9, 2024 (12, 13 and 14), the Board took action to support the staff recommendations in item #12, including the proposal for how to program the projected remaining ARPA Framework balance of \$67.0 million by the end of Fiscal Year (FY) 2024-25. The Board also directed the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) to include priorities from all Board members when developing proposals for how to program remaining funds in the Evergreen component of the ARPA Framework to be considered for the Evergreen recommendations. Priorities were to be focused on behavioral health, housing, climate change, economic prosperity, homelessness, and workforce, and were to be sent to the CAO by Board members via memorandum by January 22, 2024.

Since the direction was provided on January 9, 2024, San Diego County experienced the heaviest rainfall in a single day in over one hundred years. The CAO as Director of Emergency Services issued a Proclamation of Local Emergency due to conditions of extreme peril to persons and property from a severe atmospheric river that produced widespread flooding, mudslides, erosion, and storm debris throughout the county resulting in numerous road closures and severe damage to both public and private infrastructure, the proclamation was ratified by the Board on January 24, 2024 (8). On January 30, 2024 (1), the Board held a special meeting and approved recommendations to help with both the immediate need in aftermath of the emergency as well as insure the resiliency of our communities for the future. Included as part of the recommendation is to use \$10.0 million of the Evergreen component of the ARPA Framework to make funding available to meet the emergency needs caused by this natural disaster; with this approval, the remaining amount allocated to the Evergreen component is now \$35.6 million. The County is pursuing reimbursement from federal, State, or other possible resources for the \$10.0 million



**SUBJECT: COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT  
FRAMEWORK REPRIORITIZATION AND EVERGREEN FUND  
FRAMEWORK RECOMMENDATIONS (DISTRICTS: ALL)**

allocated on January 30, 2024 (1), and today's recommendation will allow for any reimbursements to be held in trust and ultimately used to support the Evergreen component of the ARPA Framework.

To provide flexibility with regard to timeline and purpose for the Evergreen component of the ARPA Framework, 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 component of the ARPA Framework; the lost revenue strategy has been used for all Evergreen component program uses to date and could be used for today's recommendations for the remaining balance of the Evergreen component of the ARPA Framework.

***Revised ARPA Framework***

An update on the programs of the ARPA Framework, established in June 2021 and subsequently revised in August 2022, was presented to the Board on January 9, 2024 (12). Based on current program activity, it is projected that \$67 million in ARPA funds will remain at the end of FY 2024-25 for ARPA Framework programs outside of the Evergreen component of the ARPA Framework. The anticipated remaining balance of \$67 million for ARPA programs projected 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. Today's recommendations 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 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 ARPA Framework for emergency sheltering solutions, but also include programs like tenant legal services and the recent Board directed employee child care benefit program.

Today's recommendations also include other programs that align with the Framework, like the County's Regional Homeless Assistance Program (RHAP), a critical program that does not have an identified ongoing funding source. RHAP is an emergency housing program that supports individuals experiencing homelessness in the unincorporated area of the county by leveraging hotels countywide as emergency housing options. In addition, an amount is proposed to mitigate 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. Reallocation of the projected \$67 million balance, including ARPA Framework components as well as other programs, are summarized in Attachment A.

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. Today's actions provide authority to the CAO to make administrative changes within the adopted

**SUBJECT: COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT  
FRAMEWORK REPRIORITIZATION AND EVERGREEN FUND  
FRAMEWORK RECOMMENDATIONS (DISTRICTS: ALL)**

ARPA Framework where actual balances of ARPA Framework Programs vary from projections or alternate funding for a program is identified.

***Evergreen Component Options for Consideration***

On August 30, 2022 (20), the Board directed the CAO to explore the feasibility of establishing a fund, an “Evergreen Fund” with projected remaining balances and/or reallocated ARPA funding that could draw down matching funds, philanthropic donations, grants, or other funding sources that could provide self-sustaining revenue streams. On December 13, 2022 (30), the Board directed the CAO to continue developing evergreen fund concepts with the ad hoc Fiscal Management & Budget Strategy Subcommittee established in 2021 and sunset in 2023 (Fiscal Subcommittee) and return to the Board with options for discussion. In March 2023, the Fiscal Subcommittee discussed evergreen concepts, and programs under consideration included those that represent an ongoing investment in terms of public benefit as well as leveraging other funding sources in the form of matching funds, donations, grants, or other self-sustaining revenue streams.

The Board provided further direction to the CAO on January 9, 2024 (12, 13 and 14) by directing the consideration of priorities from all Board members when developing proposals for remaining Evergreen component funding. The Board directed those recommendations be focused on behavioral health, housing, climate change, economic prosperity, homelessness, and workforce.

Today’s actions also request the Board to provide additional guidelines for programs to be supported by the Evergreen component of the ARPA Framework. The initial direction of the Board in August 2022 reflected a focus on evergreen revenue streams. Through subsequent discussions, including those of the Fiscal Subcommittee, which was tasked to work with the Chief Administrative Officer to establish evergreen options, the consideration of an evergreen impact to the region in terms of public benefit was introduced. The definition contemplated by the Fiscal Subcommittee was that an evergreen fund would be a fund that could draw down matching funds, philanthropic donations, grants, or other funding that measures performance both on self-sustaining revenue streams and level of public benefit. Based on the priorities that were included in the Board memos, Recommendation 3, provides an option for resources of the Evergreen component to be used for programs that represent a one-time investment in the region or do not generate an evergreen revenue source, but that will generate an evergreen public benefit for San Diego communities.

Establishing one or more trust fund(s) for Evergreen purposes will depend on what program(s) the Board approves. A trust fund would need to be established for Evergreen program(s) if the purpose is to track earmarked receipts (money designated for a specific purpose or program) and corresponding expenditures. If the Evergreen program(s) selected by the Board is one-time in nature, like an expenditure to draw down matching funds, then no trust fund needs to be established.

Each Board member submitted a memorandum to the CAO that included their priorities for the Evergreen component of the ARPA Framework (Attachment C). Using these memoranda, the six priority areas directed by the Board for consideration, and the intent of the Evergreen component,

**SUBJECT: COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT FRAMEWORK REPRIORITIZATION AND EVERGREEN FUND FRAMEWORK RECOMMENDATIONS (DISTRICTS: ALL)**

staff compiled priorities that were proposed by more than one Board member (Attachment B) to prepare the following options for discussion and consideration.

OPTION A

<b>Program</b>	<b>Allocation<sup>1</sup></b>
Implementation of Senate Bill 43 of 2023 (Involuntary Behavioral Health Treatment)	\$15.0
Innovative Housing Trust Fund	\$15.6
Efforts to Address and Prevent Homelessness	\$5.0
Expanding San Diego’s Behavioral Health Workforce	\$10.0 <sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> in millions

<sup>2</sup> upon any reimbursements from January 30, 2024 (1) allocation to emergency needs

*Implementation of Senate Bill 43 of 2023 (Involuntary Behavioral Health Treatment)*

On October 10, 2023, the Governor signed into law Senate Bill 43 (Involuntary Behavioral Health Treatment) (SB 43), amending the Lanterman-Petris-Short (LPS) Act and significantly expanding the definition of “gravely disabled” by including severe substance use disorder (SUD) as an allowable category for someone to be compelled into involuntary behavioral health evaluation and treatment, and if clinical standards are met, placed under conservatorship. The law also expands the criteria that can be considered in determining whether a person, as a result of their behavioral health condition, is unable to meet their personal needs, to include “personal safety” and “necessary medical care”. Other significant changes brought forth through SB 43 include the expansion of the array of testimony that can be submitted into conservatorship proceedings without requiring in-person cross examination; a requirement that counties consider less restrictive alternatives in conducting conservatorship investigations; and expansion of State reporting requirements. Together, these updates to State law will make new populations of individuals eligible for involuntary holds for evaluation and treatment, and, for some of these individuals, make them eligible for conservatorship.

On December 5, 2023 (6), the Board directed the CAO to establish a process that includes a multi-sectoral planning process with key parties and agencies impacted by and/or involved in the implementation of SB 43 in order to implement the new law no later than January 1, 2025. It is anticipated that staff will return to the Board with an update on this plan on March 12, 2024, at the regular meeting of the Board.

At this time, staff estimate the implementation of SB 43 could cost approximately \$15 million annually, which is anticipated to shift as service, resource, and infrastructure needs are further refined. The \$15 million in this option would be anticipated to fund one year of implementation costs depending on the mix of allocations prioritized as planning continues. Specific allocations may include, among other things, support of expanded services and supportive infrastructure in hospital and community-based settings, primarily as a bridge to more sustainable funding, Public Conservator infrastructure, crisis stabilization unit capacity, training and education capacity, and support SUD services capacity including a harm reduction model.

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Option A before the Board today would help fund the initial infrastructure needs to implement this new law while staff continue to seek alternative funding sources and pursue the possibility of advocating for the additional funding needed at the local level. Staff would return to the Board for approval on specific items and amounts to be programmed as part of SB 43 implementation with these funds.

*Innovative Housing Trust Fund*

This option also includes an investment of \$15.6 million into the Innovative Housing Trust Fund (IHTF). The IHTF is a dynamic, multifaceted affordable housing program that has dramatically increased production of homes for low-income residents. The IHTF represents local resources being leveraged to increase the production of affordable homes through public/private partnerships between the County and private housing developers. Additionally, many affordable housing developments have offered wraparound supportive services through partnerships with non-profit service providers.

As of January 2024, \$98 million has been awarded to housing projects from the IHTF. This investment has leveraged an additional \$1.2 billion in other public and private funds to create and preserve 2,702 permanent affordable housing units within 33 developments throughout the region.

*Efforts to Address and Prevent Homelessness*

An investment of \$5 million for efforts to address and prevent homelessness is included. The Board has taken multiple actions to address the needs of people experiencing and at-risk of homelessness utilizing the Framework for Ending Homelessness (Framework) adopted by the Board on November 2, 2021 (4) to coordinate investments across five strategic domains:

- 1) Root Cause and Upstream Prevention
- 2) Diversion and Mitigation
- 3) Services, Treatment and Outreach
- 4) Emergency/Interim Housing and Resources
- 5) Permanent Housing and Support

Option A could allow for additional investments across the domains to reinforce and augment programs already in place and/or create a new grant program for one-time resources to meet or increase sheltering and other needs in the community. Examples of existing programs that could benefit from additional funding include:

- Pilot Shallow Rental Subsidy program bridge funding: This program currently serves 222 Senior households who are rent burdened and at risk of homelessness by providing a \$500 monthly subsidy over a period of 18 months. In 2023, funding was added by the Board to serve an additional 160 households in round two which will launch in early 2024. In alignment with the Board's value of implementing data driven strategies, the County Office of Evaluation, Performance and Analytics will conduct an evaluation to review the effectiveness of this program in preventing homelessness for older adults. Some households may need bridge funding after 18-month subsidy ends. It is estimated that \$1.3 million from the ARPA Framework would serve the round-one participants. Additional funding would help to bridge round two participants.

**SUBJECT: COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT FRAMEWORK REPRIORITIZATION AND EVERGREEN FUND FRAMEWORK RECOMMENDATIONS (DISTRICTS: ALL)**

- Coordinated Eviction Prevention program: This program launched in January 2023 and uses data and targeted outreach activities to identify households at risk of being evicted and prevent unnecessary evictions countywide. Families facing the threat of eviction are provided with support tailored to each enrolled household's situation, with the goal of avoiding unnecessary evictions. On average, it is estimated that \$1 million of funding serves 100 households.
- Diversion Program: Regional Task Force on Homelessness (RTFH) launched a regional homeless diversion program in 2019. Since then, it has helped nearly 1,500 households (totaling nearly 2,000 individuals) avoid emergency shelters and instead quickly reconnect with stable housing opportunities within their own networks. Over the past four years, RTFH has found that on average, \$1,500 in one-time flexible funding was enough to keep 85% of households stably housed. Per Board direction on October 10, 2023 (12), the County will contribute \$350,000 towards the flexible fund and leverage additional funding commitments from philanthropic and local government partners. An additional infusion of funds from the Evergreen component could be considered for new or similar diversion activities.
- Landlord Incentives Program: The County Housing Authority administers several rental assistance programs that support individuals and families experiencing homelessness. The County landlord incentive program reduces the time it takes for voucher holders to secure a rental unit by addressing barriers for tenants (such as the inability to pay security deposits, utility costs, and rental application fees) and encouraging landlords to rent to voucher holders (by providing monetary incentives and other on-going supports). The program is also critical to the success of the County's Leave No Veteran Homeless (LNVH) initiative, a region-wide effort to essentially end veteran homelessness by achieving "functional zero". Since the initiation of LNVH in July of 2023, the County has connected over 200 veterans with Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing vouchers.

Additional funds would allow the County landlord incentive program to serve more participants and may include enhancing existing supports and expanding the program with other components such as securing units and other flexible uses that meet the needs of the participants and landlords. It is estimated that \$1 million of funding serves approximately 125 – 150 households.

Staff would return to the Board for approval on specific items and amounts to be programmed as part of efforts to address and prevent homelessness with these funds.

*Expanding San Diego's Behavioral Health Workforce*

This option includes an allocation of up to \$10 million for expanding San Diego's behavioral health workforce upon receipt, audits, and review of expense claims from of any reimbursements of the \$10.0 million allocation to emergency needs made on January 30, 2024 (1).

The total allocation of up to \$10 million dollars could be utilized over five years at up to \$2 million per year. This allocation would build capacity of behavioral health service provision within diverse

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communities through engaging and expanding the pool of organizations equipped to provide behavioral health care within the public behavioral health system, including small and minority-owned community-based organizations, to participate in the provision of Medi-Cal funded behavioral health services, broadening the diversity of providers offering providing mental health and substance use services. Key elements of the program may include:

- Inclusive participation of a large set of cross-sector stakeholders.
- Extensive stakeholder and community engagement where Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) are located.
- Technical Assistance and operational support to CBOs to include incentivized participation, tangible support in contracting readiness, such as creating sustainable infrastructure.

Staff would return to the Board for any additional authority needed to implement this option if selected. This item will complement the Public Behavioral Health Workforce Development and Retention Program approved by the Board on May 2, 2023 (5), which allocated \$15 million of Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Innovation funds annually to recruit, train, and educate public behavioral health workers within County-funded behavioral health programs.

**OPTION B**

<b>Program</b>	<b>Allocation<sup>1</sup></b>
Implementation of SB 43 of 2023 Program	\$15.0
Innovative Housing Trust Fund	\$10.6
Efforts to Address and Prevent Homelessness	\$10.0 <sup>2</sup>
Expanding San Diego’s Behavioral Health Workforce	\$10.0

<sup>1</sup> in millions

<sup>2</sup> upon any reimbursements from January 30, 2024 (1) allocation to emergency needs

Option B before the Board today includes the same programs as Option A with the implementation of SB 43, the Innovative Housing Trust Fund (IHTF), and Expanding San Diego’s Behavioral Health Workforce receiving immediate allocations, and Efforts to Address and Prevent Homelessness receiving funding upon any reimbursements from the January 30, 2024 (1) allocation to emergency needs. Program options in each area would follow descriptions provided under Option A.

**OPTION C**

<b>Program</b>	<b>Allocation<sup>1</sup></b>
Implementation of SB 43 of 2023 Program	\$10.0
Innovative Housing Trust Fund	\$10.6
Expanding San Diego’s Behavioral Health Workforce	\$10.0 <sup>2</sup>
Regional Workforce Housing Program	\$15.0

<sup>1</sup> in millions

<sup>2</sup> upon any reimbursements from January 30, 2024 (1) allocation to emergency needs

**SUBJECT: COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT FRAMEWORK REPRIORITIZATION AND EVERGREEN FUND FRAMEWORK RECOMMENDATIONS (DISTRICTS: ALL)**

Option C before the Board today includes largely the same programs as aforementioned options; however, Efforts to Address and Prevent Homelessness is removed, and a Regional Workforce Housing Program is added. In Option C, the Expanding San Diego's Behavioral Health Workforce options would receive up to \$10.0 million in funding upon any reimbursements from the January 30, 2024 (1) allocation to emergency needs.

*Regional Workforce Housing Program*

Board memos highlighted an interest in supporting middle-income housing through various efforts, including programs for County employees. Option C would allocate funding to support one or more programs in this area targeting rental or homeownership opportunities for households with incomes ranging from 80%-120% of area median income. In order to have the broadest community reach, programs could be structured regionally with the opportunity to also benefit County employees meeting eligibility criteria. Funds could be allocated for first time homebuyer assistance programs modeled after similar County programs currently in place, or funds could be invested to facilitate the development of middle-income housing.

The County's current Housing Blueprint efforts underway anticipate the following deliverables related to middle income and/or workforce housing:

- Creation and facilitation of a working group of financial experts and stakeholders to identify financial tools and incentives to make increase affordability of housing and reduce the cost of financing housing for the region's workforce.
- Analyze and integrate recommendation from the Middle-Income Housing Workgroup into the recommendations for policies, strategies, and programs to facilitate the development of workforce housing.
- Explore and determine the viability of several recommendations including building wealth through homebuyer opportunities for community members at various AMIs.

It is anticipated that the final Housing Blueprint will make recommendations related to creating both middle income homeownership programs as well as programs that provide financing for the development of middle-income rental housing. Should option C be selected, it is anticipated staff would return with proposals for Board action on the recommended programming of the \$15 million in Regional Workforce Housing Evergreen funds to align with the Housing Blueprint recommendations and return.

**Next Steps**

Today's recommendations request the Board provide the CAO with direction on how to utilize the projected remaining ARPA Framework balance of \$67.0 million, the remaining Evergreen component of the ARPA Framework balance of \$35.6 million, and to reinvest any reimbursements of the \$10.0 million Evergreen component allocation to emergency needs made on January 30, 2024 (1) into Evergreen program(s).

**SUBJECT:** COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT  
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**LINKAGE TO THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO STRATEGIC PLAN**

Today's proposed actions supports the Sustainability (Economy, Climate, and Environment), Equity (Housing), and Community (Quality of Life and Partnership) Strategic Initiatives in the County of San Diego's 2024-2029 Strategic Plan by investing in programs to draw down matching funds philanthropic donations, grants, or other funding sources that could provide self-sustaining program revenue streams. This action aligns with the County's goal to maintain fiscal stability and ensure long term solvency by leveraging investments from the community to improve the environment and tackle climate change. This in return will create impactful and effective options to support behavioral health, housing, climate change, economic prosperity, homelessness, and workforce.

Respectfully submitted,



SARAH E. AGHASSI  
Interim Chief Administrative Officer

**ATTACHMENT(S)**

Attachment A – ARPA Framework – Recommendation for Projected Remaining Program Balances

Attachment B – Evergreen Component Options

Attachment C – Board Member Memorandums on Evergreen Component Priorities



## County ARPA Framework - Allocation of Projected ARPA Program Balances (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.

<b>Evergreen Component Options</b>			
<b>Evergreen Component Program Focus (\$ millions)</b>	<b>Option A</b>	<b>Option B</b>	<b>Option C</b>
<b>Behavioral Health</b>			
Implementation of Senate Bill 43 of 2023 (Involuntary Behavioral Health Treatment)	15.0	15.0	10.0
Expanding San Diego's Behavioral Health Workforce	-	10.0	-
<b>Housing</b>			
Innovative Housing Trust Fund	15.6	10.6	10.6
Regional Workforce Housing Program			15.0
<b>Homelessness</b>			
Efforts to Address and Prevent Homelessness	5.0	-	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>35.6</b>	<b>35.6</b>	<b>35.6</b>
<b>Reimbursed amounts of up to \$10 million allocated for 1/22/2024 Storm Response</b>			
Expanding San Diego's Behavioral Health Workforce	10.0		10.0
Efforts to Address and Prevent Homelessness		10.0	
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>45.6</b>	<b>45.6</b>	<b>45.6</b>



NORA VARGAS  
 SUPERVISOR, FIRST DISTRICT  
 SAN DIEGO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

DATE: January 22, 2024

TO: Sarah Aghassi, Interim Chief Administrative Officer

FROM: Chairwoman Nora Vargas, First District

SUBJECT: Reprioritization of Priorities for the American Rescue Act Plan Funding including the Evergreen Fund

In June 2021, the Board of Supervisors adopted a framework for the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding to help address the major challenges impacting our region including homelessness, childcare, food access, among other things. As part of the subsequent ARPA funding discussions, the Board of Supervisors set aside a total of \$80.6M for the establishment of an Evergreen Fund, and has used \$35.0M for specific priorities, leaving \$45.6M for other purposes.

Since the adoption of the initial ARPA Framework and the creation of the Evergreen Fund, there have been changes, including the swearing in of a new County Board Supervisor. As a result of the changes, it is important for the Board of Supervisors to reevaluate the current framework and the Evergreen Fund to decide how best to move forward based on today's most pressing priorities for our County. In light of that, I offer the following priorities to be considered by staff in preparing options for the Board's consideration:

**Homeless Solutions and Equitable Communities:**

**Homeless Sheltering Solutions: \$5M**

To further support the County's homeless efforts in providing housing, service providers, and the necessary wrap-around services, this funding will be used to work with community organizations that specialize in the unsheltered population to address their specific needs. This funding will allow the County to begin replacing law enforcement as the primary homeless outreach provider and allow trained service providers to conduct outreach and provide resources.

Support existing and established County programs with one-time funding infusions from the Evergreen Fund. For example, existing prevention or diversion programs, additional bridge funding for the existing Senior Shallow Rent subsidy participants, landlord incentives to open additional doors to future renters. Also supporting established community programs with one-time grants that increase homeless sheltering solutions.

**Governor cabins: approximately \$4.6M** for two sites if max 150 cabins.

**Health:****SB 43: \$15M**

Senate Bill 43, signed into law by Governor Newsom in October 2023, makes major changes to the Lanterman-Petris-Short (LPS) Act—California law related to involuntary detention and conservatorship of people with behavioral health conditions. The County is engaging stakeholders across sectors to ensure swift and optimal implementation of the new State law; initial planning efforts reflect that significant resources will be needed to support this effort.

ARPA evergreen funding of \$15 million is recommended to be set aside to aid in successful implementation of SB 43 by investing in infrastructure to support new requirements for involuntary behavioral health care, as well as bolster our local network of voluntary behavioral health services and support. This will serve as bridge funding as the County and its partners identify sustainable sources of funding for ongoing needs. These funds could help support areas such as:

- Operational support for the Office of the Public Conservator
- Training, engagement and public media campaigns
- Hospital and community-based substance use disorder (SUD) services
- Bridge funding for Crisis Stabilization Unit (CSU) capacity
- Harm reduction services, including outreach and engagement as well as shelter and transitional housing, consistent with a Community Harm Reduction Team (C-HRT) model

**Housing:****Financial Homebuyer Assistance for County Employees: \$3M**

This funding would be used for down payment assistance and low-interest loan programs for County employees.

**Transportation: \$3M**

This funding would be used to expand the current youth opportunity passes including seniors in the San Diego County. The additional funding would help support additional operations for two years. Consideration should be given regarding the potential for this program to be expanded to serve youth up until the age of 24 and seniors.

**Economic Development:****Gateway to the Californias: \$10M**

The COVID-19 pandemic underscored the pivotal role of public parks as essential hubs for recreational activities, playing a vital role in enhancing overall public health and social well-being. Recognizing this, the allocated funding offers a distinctive opportunity to develop a comprehensive plan and design for the revitalization of 69 acres of currently unused County land within the Tijuana River Valley Regional Park (TRVRP) area in District 1.


This inclusive approach encompasses various stages, including community outreach, preliminary design development, environmental analysis, and engineering studies. The overarching goal is to transform the TRVRP area into a vibrant space that integrates soccer and baseball/softball fields, sport courts, playgrounds, a concession building, restrooms, multi-use paths, an equestrian center, picnic areas, and parking. Through these enhancements, we aim to create a welcoming

and accessible recreational space that caters to the diverse needs and interests of our community. This project will ensure equitable access and continue to foster healthier and stronger communities for all.

**Small Business Stimulus Grant: \$5M**

The Small Business Stimulus Grant Program was funded by the Board of Supervisors using federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), CARES Act and County General Fund to provide economic assistance to help businesses and nonprofit entities impacted by COVID-19. This funding will be used to continue this effort.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nora E. Vargas". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Nora Vargas,

Chairwoman

First District Supervisor



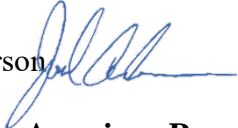
# JOEL ANDERSON

SAN DIEGO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
SECOND DISTRICT

## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** January 22, 2024

**TO:** Sarah Aghassi, Interim Chief Administrative Officer

**FROM:** Supervisor Joel Anderson 

**SUBJECT:** Recommendations for American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Expenditures

Pursuant to the action taken by the Board of Supervisors during the January 9, 2024, meeting, related to the use of the County's remaining American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding, I submit the following list of recommended expenditures for the remaining balance of the ARPA "Evergreen Fund":

### **Implementation of Senate Bill 43 - \$10 million**

On December 5, 2024, a majority of the Board voted to delay the implementation of SB 43 for one year due to the concern that the space to treat homeless individuals with chronic addictions is inadequate in the San Diego region. To address this and related issues that will allow the County to move forward with the implementation of SB 43, County staff has identified several actions that need to be taken. I am, therefore, recommending that \$10 million in ARPA Evergreen Funds be allocated to fund the following actions:

- Provide additional locked inpatient drug treatment facilities
- Increase residential treatment settings
- Add staffing of up to 30 Full Time Equivalent (FTE) conservators
- Expand withdrawal management/treatment resources
- Expand the work of drug and Substance Use Disorder (SUD) treatment providers in emergency departments

This use of ARPA funding for these recommended actions is expected to leverage State funding and payments to the County through Medi-Cal reimbursements. Therefore, it complies with the Board's direction to use Evergreen Funds in a manner that will replenish the Evergreen Fund and/or leverage additional external funding for the County.

Sarah Aghassi  
 January 22, 2024  
 Page 2

**Workforce Housing Revolving Loan Fund - \$10 million**

On September 22, 2022, the Board unanimously directed staff to return to the Board with options and recommendations to develop a pilot workforce housing program for rental and homeownership opportunities for our region’s workforce. This action included the potential creation and use of a revolving loan or equity fund, identifying ARPA as a potential funding resource, with the County providing low interest loans in exchange for deed restriction of moderate-income housing in the 80-120% AMI range. I am, therefore, recommending that the Board allocate \$10 million in ARPA Evergreen Funds to establish a revolving loan or equity fund to provide additional housing for our region’s workforce.

By establishing a loan fund that will be repaid by those entities approved for loans, this recommendation complies with the Board’s direction to use Evergreen Funds in a manner that will replenish the Evergreen Fund and/or leverage additional external funding for the County.

**Innovative Housing Trust Fund - \$10 million**

On June 20, 2017, the San Diego County Board of Supervisors created the Innovative Housing Trust Fund (IHTF) to increase the regional supply of affordable housing. The initial investment of \$25 million was used to provide low-interest loans for the construction, acquisition and/or rehabilitation of multi-family housing for low-income households and vulnerable populations. Over the course of the last 6 years the Board has allocated an additional \$70 million in loan funds.

Through several separate Notices of Funding Availability, the IHTF helped to spur the development of 2,702 housing units in 33 developments throughout the region. All IHTF funds have been committed to affordable housing developments and leveraged more than \$1.2 billion in other public and private funding sources. In light of the regional housing crisis and need for more units to be built to meet our Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) production goals, I recommend that \$10 million be allocated to the IHTF.

By leveraging additional funding from other public and private sources, this recommendation complies with the Board’s direction to use Evergreen Funds in a manner that will replenish the Evergreen Fund and/or leverage additional external funding for the County.

Attachments:

- Letter of support – Greg Gossard, President, The Hampstead Companies
- Letter of support – John Seymour, Senior Vice President - Acquisitions & Forward Planning, National Community Renaissance
- Letter of support – Rick Wilson, President & CEO, San Diego East County Regional Chamber of Commerce
- Letter of support – Student Minister Abdul Waliullah “Hugh” Muhammad, Founder/CEO, I Am My Brother’s Keeper

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January 19, 2024

Board of Supervisors  
1600 Pacific Highway  
San Diego, CA 92101

**Re: American Rescue Plan Act Funding**

Dear Honorable Supervisors,

I am pleased to support Supervisor Joel Anderson's recommendations for the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) expenditures.

Pursuant to the action taken by the Board of Supervisors during the January 9, 2024, meeting, related to the use of the County's remaining ARPA funding, we support the following recommendations:

**Implementation of Senate Bill 43 - \$10 million**

This use of ARPA funding for these recommended actions is expected to leverage State funding and payments to the County through Medi-Cal reimbursements. Therefore, it complies with the Board's direction to use Evergreen Funds in a manner that will replenish the Evergreen Fund and/or leverage additional external funding for the County.

**Workforce Housing Revolving Loan Fund - \$10 million**

By establishing a loan fund that will be repaid by those entities approved for loans, this recommendation complies with the Board's direction to use Evergreen Funds in a manner that will replenish the Evergreen Fund and/or leverage additional external funding for the County.

**Innovative Housing Trust Fund - \$10 million**

By leveraging additional funding from other public and private sources, this recommendation complies with the Board's direction to use Evergreen Funds in a manner that will replenish the Evergreen Fund and/or leverage additional external funding for the County.

Supervisor Anderson's recommendations make sense as they are not one-time expenditures—they will replenish over time which is in direct alignment with the original intent of the Evergreen Fund.

Sincerely,

Rick Wilson  
President & CEO





January 19, 2024

Honorable Board of Supervisors  
1600 Pacific Highway  
San Diego, CA 92101

**RE: ARPA Funding**

Dear Honorable Board of Supervisors:

The non-profit National Community Renaissance supports Supervisor Anderson's recommendations for the ARPA expenditures.

One of Supervisor Anderson's recommendations is the largest return on investment and that is the replenishment of the **INNOVATIVE HOUSING TRUST FUND (IHTF)**

**INNOVATIVE HOUSING TRUST FUND (IHTF)**

The previous IHTF's have created several hundred permanent/deed-restricted affordable housing rental homes for low, very-low and extremely low-income veterans, seniors and hard-working families in addition to creating high quality permanent affordable housing for unhoused people.

The IHTF has literally leveraged millions of dollars from state and local entities to create healthy life-styles through housing and a launching pad for success. The **IHTF SAVES County resources** by helping people get into housing.

The IHTF has proven itself to be one of the County greatest and long-lasting **REAL INVESTMENTS** for thousands of people.

The IHTF are not grants and in fact will be **re-paid/re-circulated** to create hundreds of affordable homes for the long-term.

**The most recent \$25 million IHTF (2023)** had over 20 great projects making applications for funding, but only a few were actually recommended for funding. **The IHTF is very oversubscribed!**

**Lastly, National CORE also supports modifying the IHTF to include preference points for projects which include as a real project partner an emerging developer being a local BIPOC organization.**

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John Seymour".

John Seymour  
National Community Renaissance





Greg Gossard  
 (619) 543-4210  
 greg@hampstead.com

January 22, 2024

Board of Supervisors  
 County of San Diego  
 1600 Pacific Highway  
 San Diego, CA 92101

**RE: Support in Favor of the American Rescue Plan Act Recommendations**

Dear Honorable Supervisors,

Please consider this letter formal documentation of my support in favor of Supervisor Joel Anderson's recommendations listed below for the highest and best use of the remaining American Rescue Plan Act ("ARPA") funds:

**Workforce Housing Revolving Loan Fund - \$10 million**

- On September 22, 2022, the Board unanimously directed staff to return to the Board with options and recommendations to develop a pilot workforce housing program for rental and homeownership opportunities for our region's workforce.
- This action included the potential creation and use of a revolving loan or equity fund, identifying ARPA as a potential funding resource, with the County providing low interest loans in exchange for deed restriction of moderate-income housing in the 80-120% AMI range.
- We are recommending that the Board allocate \$10 million in ARPA Evergreen Funds to establish a revolving loan or equity fund to provide additional housing for our region's workforce.

**Innovative Housing Trust Fund - \$10 million**

- Innovative Housing Trust Fund (IHTF) to increase the regional supply of affordable housing. The initial investment of \$25 million was used to provide low-interest loans for the construction, acquisition and/or rehabilitation of multi-family housing for low-income households and vulnerable populations.
- In light of the regional housing crisis and need for more units to be built to meet our Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) production goals, I recommend that \$10 million be allocated to the IHTF.

These funds are critical to the creation of much-needed affordable housing in San Diego County.

Respectfully Submitted,

The Hampstead Companies

*Greg Gossard*

(Electronic Signature)

Greg Gossard  
 President

1350 Columbia Street, Suite 802 San Diego, CA 92101

[www.hampstead.com](http://www.hampstead.com)



6601 Imperial Avenue • San Diego, CA 92114 • (619) 262-7600  
www.iambkcdc.org

January 22, 2024

Honorable Board of Supervisors  
1600 Pacific Highway  
San Diego, CA 92101

**RE: ARPA FUNDING /BIPOC FUNDING PRIORITY**

Dear Honorable Board of Supervisors,

May this find you well.

I Am My Brother's Keeper CDC is a nonprofit organization with a 20+ year history of sponsoring programs and services that assist members of the community to overcome the societal disparities that negatively impact their quality of life. We join our development partner, National Community Renaissance, in supporting Supervisor Anderson's recommendation for the refunding of the **INNOVATIVE HOUSING TRUST FUND (IHTF)** via remaining American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) monies.

The **IHTF** has been a vital funding vehicle for Affordable Housing Projects such as ours, which enable vulnerable populations such as low income individuals and families, veterans, and seniors to qualify to for safe and decent places to live. **We further request that the Board of Supervisors give funding priority to BIPOC partnered developments, such as our Encanto Gateway Project.** We did not receive funding in the last rounds, and were told that the Board of Supervisors had not designated preference points for BIPOC status – which we feel is an oversight that should be addressed.

Best Wishes,

Student Minister Abdul Waliullah "Hugh" Muhammad  
Founder/CEO  
(619) 384-0576

AWM:mem



6339 Paseo Del Lago  
Carlsbad, CA 92011  
Tel (760) 456-6000  
Fax (760) 456-6001  
www.chelseainvestco.com

January 22, 2024

Board of Supervisors  
1600 Pacific Highway  
San Diego, CA 92101

**RE: American Rescue Plan Act Funding**

Dear Honorable Supervisors:

The purpose of this letter is to inform you that Chelsea Investment Corporation is pleased to support Supervisor Joel Anderson's recommendations for the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) expenditures. Providing more resources is critical to help solve the housing crisis in San Diego County.

Consistent with the action taken by the Board of Supervisors during the January 9, 2024, meeting related to the use of the County's remaining ARPA funding, we support the following recommendations:

**Workforce Housing Revolving Loan Fund - \$10M**

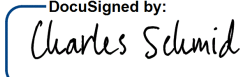
We concur with the recommendation that the Board allocate \$10M in ARPA Evergreen Funds to establish a revolving loan or equity fund to provide additional housing for our region's workforce. Consistent with the Board's direction on September 22, 2022, this funding would allow the County to provide low interest loans in exchange for deed restriction of moderate-income housing in the 80-120% AMI range. By establishing a loan fund that will be repaid by the entities approved for these loans, this recommendation remains consistent with the Board's direction to use Evergreen Funds in a manner that will replenish the funding source and/or leverage additional funding sources for future developments.

**Innovative Housing Trust Fund - \$10M**

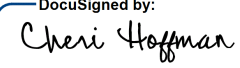
We concur with the recommendation that the Board allocate \$10M to the the Innovative Housing Trust Fund. While the initial investment of \$25M was used to provide low-interest loans for the construction, acquisition, and/or rehabilitation of multi-family housing for low-income households and vulnerable populations, the recent Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) determined that additional housing must be developed to meet the region's affordable housing production goals. This recommendation leverages additional funding from other public and private sources, thus, complying with the Board's direction to use Evergreen Fund as set forth above.

Chelsea Investment Corporation supports Supervisor Anderson's recommendations on the use of the expenditures, as they will replenish over time, remaining consistent with the original purpose of the Evergreen Fund. Thank you for consideration of our recommendations and contact Heidi Mather (619-246-5336 or [hmather@chelseainvestco.com](mailto:hmather@chelseainvestco.com)) if you would like to discuss further.

Sincerely,

By:   
A3B187D0657A4BF...

Charles Schmid  
Chief Executive Officer

By:   
3184AF482F104DC...

Cheri Hoffman  
President





9924 Vine Street  
Lakeside, CA 92040  
info@lakesidechamber.org  
www.lakesidechamber.org  
Phone (619) 561-1031  
Fax: (619) 561-7951

1/25/24

San Diego County Board of Supervisors  
1600 Pacific Hwy  
San Diego, CA 92101

Dear San Diego County Board of Supervisors,

On behalf of the Lakeside Chamber and our members, we would like to support the allocation of funding towards the Workforce Housing Revolving Loan Fund and Innovative Housing Trust Fund.

We believe securing funding related to financing could help address our shortage of available and affordable housing. Developing a pilot workforce housing program for rental and homeownership opportunities for our region's workforce will have a positive impact on our community. Considering our regional housing crisis, we need more units to be built to meet our Regional Housing Needs Assessment production goals and allocating funds toward the Innovative Housing Trust Fund will accomplish meeting your goals.

Please allocate the \$10 million for the Workforce Housing Revolving Loan Fund and \$10 million added to the Innovative Housing Trust Fund. Housing for our community should be a high priority of our Board of Supervisors.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kathy Kassel", is written over the typed name.

Kathy Kassel  
President/CEO



January 22, 2024

Board of Supervisors  
1600 Pacific Highway  
San Diego, CA 92101

RE: American Rescue Plan Act Funding

I am pleased to support Supervisor Joel Anderson's recommendations for the American Rescue Plan (ARPA) expenditures.

We support the following recommendations:

**Workforce Housing Revolving Loan Fund - \$10 million**

By establishing a loan fund that will be repaid by those entities approved for loans, this recommendation would allow our organization to finance and develop workforce housing for moderate-income households in the 80%-120% AMI range.

**Innovative Housing Trust Fund - \$10 million**

By leveraging additional funding from other public and private sources, this recommendation will provide much needed additional funds for our organization to apply for and finance multifamily housing for low-income households and vulnerable populations.

Supervisor Anderson's recommendations are in direct alignment with the original intent of the County's ARPA Evergreen Fund, as they are not one-time expenditures and will replenish over time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "James P. Silverwood".

James P. Silverwood  
President



# TOWNSPEOPLE®

2047 El Cajon Boulevard, San Diego, CA 92104

January 23, 2024

San Diego County Board of Supervisors  
 County Administration Center  
 1600 Pacific Highway  
 San Diego, CA 92101

**Re: Support for Proposed Uses of American Rescue Plan Act Funds**

Dear Honorable Members of the San Diego County Board of Supervisors,

I am writing to express Townspeople's support for the proposed uses of the remaining American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds, specifically the allocation of \$10 million to the Workforce Housing Revolving Loan Fund and \$10 million to the Innovative Housing Trust Fund.

The Workforce Housing Revolving Loan Fund initiative, as directed by the Board on September 22, 2022, is a commendable step towards addressing the housing challenges faced by our region's workforce. The creation of a pilot workforce housing program for both rental and homeownership opportunities aligns with the pressing need for affordable housing options. By utilizing ARPA Evergreen Funds to establish a revolving loan or equity fund, the County can play a pivotal role in providing low-interest loans in exchange for deed restrictions on moderate-income housing in the 80 - 120% Area Median Income (AMI) range. This approach not only supports the workforce but also contributes to the overall development of a more inclusive and sustainable community.

Additionally, the allocation of \$10 million to the Innovative Housing Trust Fund is a strategic move to address the regional housing crisis and meet the goals outlined in the Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA). The initial investment of \$25 million has already demonstrated the effectiveness of providing low-interest loans for the construction, acquisition, and rehabilitation of multi-family housing catering to households with low-income and vulnerable populations. By injecting further funds into the IHTF, the County can significantly contribute to increasing the regional supply of affordable housing, fostering a more equitable and resilient community.

Townspeople believes these proposed allocations align with the County's commitment to addressing housing challenges, promoting economic stability, and ensuring the well-being of our residents. As a concerned member of the community, I urge you to support these initiatives and allocate the necessary funds to the Workforce Housing Revolving Loan Fund and the Innovative Housing Trust Fund.

Thank you for being so dedicated to the well-being of San Diego County residents. I appreciate your time and consideration of these critical matters.

Sincerely,

*Melissa Peterman*

Melissa Peterman  
 Executive Director





## TERRA LAWSON-REMER

SUPERVISOR THIRD DISTRICT  
COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

**To:** Sarah Aghassi, Interim Chief Administrative Officer

**From:** Supervisor Terra Lawson-Remer, Third District

**Date:** January 11, 2024

**Subject:** ARPA Memo and Feedback on Item 12 Attachment C from Jan 9, 2024, BOS Meeting

This memo is a summary of my remarks on the dais at the January 9, 2024, Board of Supervisors meeting, regarding Item 12 County of San Diego American Rescue Plan Framework Update. Upon reviewing Attachment C, I have the following feedback on the 12 proposed program allocations:

I believe the following five programs are critically important to continue to prioritize and fund:

- Specialized Funding for Imminent Needs - \$1 million
- Shallow Rent Subsidy for Seniors - \$1.3 million
- Employee Child Care Benefit Program - \$0.5 million
- Innovation in Foster Care Cash Transfer - \$3 million
- Tenant Legal Services - \$1.5 million

Attachment C also proposes three homeless shelter programs to house homeless individuals immediately, totaling \$33.6 million:

- \$8.6 for emergency shelter solutions
- \$15 million for RHAP motel vouchers in FY24-25,
- \$10 million for RHAP and vouchers in FY 25-26.

I agree that we need to prioritize homeless solutions that prevent and end homelessness and get people reconnected to stable housing. These programs could be the best way to use the resources, but given the size of the expenditure, it would be helpful to see a table of the different options to support preventing and ending homelessness. Options should include, but not be limited to:

- RHAP
- LRSP
- Safe Parking – Bancroft
- Tiny Cabin Village – Caltrans Site 1
- Tiny Cabin Village – Caltrans Site 2
- Tiny Cabin Village operated by a third-party partner – such as City of San Diego
- Homeless Diversion (to divert individuals out of the need for short-term shelter)
- Sprung shelter on County owned land



## TERRA LAWSON-REMER

SUPERVISOR THIRD DISTRICT  
COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

The comparison table should include: (1) one-time capital costs, (2) on-going costs, and (3) number of people served annually, and (4) anticipated ROI.

Thank you for your attention and support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Terra Lawson-Remer", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Terra Lawson-Remer

San Diego County Supervisor, District 3

CC: Michael Vu, Assistant Chief Administrative Officer



## TERRA LAWSON-REMER

SUPERVISOR THIRD DISTRICT  
COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

**To:** Sarah Aghassi, Interim Chief Administrative Officer

**From:** Supervisor Terra Lawson-Remer, Third District

**Date:** January 11, 2024

**Subject:** Evergreen Fund Priorities for Remaining \$45.6 million

On January 9, 2024, the Board of Supervisors heard items 12,13, and 14 concurrently. The Board took action to implement Program 3 “Recuperative Care Homeless Beds” as described in agenda Item 14 and implement Program 5 “Supporting County Workforce Well-Being” as described in agenda item 14. These actions left a remaining Evergreen Fund balance of \$45.6 million that has yet to be programmed.

The Board directed the CAO to include priorities from all Board members when developing proposals for how to program remaining \$45.6 million in the Evergreen Fund to be considered when the CAO returns to the Board on February 27, 2024, with the Evergreen Fund recommendations. The Board previously directed that priorities are to be focused on (1) behavioral health, (2) housing, (3) climate change, (4) economic prosperity, (5) homelessness, and (6) workforce.

**This memo outlines my top two priorities for the remaining Evergreen Fund balance, including Priority 1: \$24 million to Expand San Diego’s Behavioral Health Workforce, and Priority 2: \$7 million to Advance Economic Prosperity by Growing the Green Economy.** Please include these programs specifically as described below (NOT just as broad concepts) as Evergreen Fund options for the February 27, 2024, return to the Board.

### **Priority 1: Expanding San Diego’s Behavioral Health Workforce (\$24 million)**

Allocate \$24 million in funding to support investments toward enhancing and expanding the 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. This program would not be limited to County of San Diego BHS workers but will include additional partners.

This program builds on successful models throughout California of public sector focused workforce training that draw on partnerships between healthcare providers, local government, and unionized



## TERRA LAWSON-REMER

SUPERVISOR THIRD DISTRICT  
COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

healthcare professionals and labor partners. **The specific relevant approach is successfully modeled by Futuro-Health and AlliedUp, a partnership between Kaiser Permanente and SEIU-UHW to train and place 10,000 new healthcare workers into high-quality unionized healthcare jobs.**

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).

### **Priority 2: Creating an Economic Development Matching Fund to Advance Economic Prosperity and Grow the Green Economy (\$7 million)**

Allocate \$7 million to launch an Economic Development Matching Fund designed to advance economic prosperity and grow the green economy. **The Fund would provide a source of local matching dollars needed to secure state and federal economic development, infrastructure, and climate justice grants and investments, supporting projects and programs that have a nexus with green jobs and the green economy. Matching dollars are the biggest challenge for local entities and prevent our communities from maximizing our fair share of the billions in state and federal grant resources.** Many local stakeholders could benefit from a County matching fund including local jurisdictions and cities, economic development councils, chambers of commerce, organized labor partners, and other stakeholders. 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 matching 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



## TERRA LAWSON-REMER

SUPERVISOR THIRD DISTRICT  
COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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 10-50% 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 accessing local matching funds that can support regional economic development efforts.

The two programs outlined in this memo address critical community needs and build upon prior County actions. They also have strong and widespread support from community partners and local stakeholders to ensure successful implementation. I urge their inclusion in the Evergreen Fund options at the February 27, 2024, Board meeting.

Thank you for your attention,

Terra Lawson-Remer

San Diego County Supervisor, District 3

CC:

Michael Vu, Assistant Chief Administrative Officer

Ebony Shelton, Chief Financial Officer






# MONICA MONTGOMERY STEPPE

SUPERVISOR, DISTRICT FOUR  
SAN DIEGO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** January 22, 2024

**TO:** Sarah Aghassi, Interim Chief Administrative Officer

**FROM:** Supervisor Monica Montgomery Steppe 

**SUBJECT:** American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Evergreen Fund Priorities, District Four

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### BACKGROUND

As stated in the January 9, 2024, board letter, the ARPA framework established by the Board of Supervisors (Board) was the culmination of input from each 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-based organizations and advocates. My goal is to continue to meet the obligations of the county while ensuring we are balancing the urgent needs that have surfaced since the framework was first established.

This memorandum elaborates on the urgent needs of residents under the ARPA Evergreen Fund Framework and sets to prioritize funding in the categories of homelessness, food assistance, and behavioral health. To adequately respond to these challenges, the Board and County staff must commit to establishing and utilizing the fund in accordance with its original intent of prioritizing investments in programs with self-sustaining revenue sources, or that draw down and leverage external matching funds as proposed in the August 30, 2022, board letter.

### DISCUSSION

To ensure equity as a principle, the ARPA Evergreen Fund implementation should highlight a socially responsible return on investment of impacted populations. In addition to social equity measurement tools such as the County's Health Places Index, implementation efforts that feature data and reporting of outreach and direct services from community-based organizations should be included. Because these frameworks were inclusive of community voices, the expressed need and intended equitable outcomes should be comprehensively documented.

**SUBJECT:** American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Evergreen Fund Priorities, District Four

### Homelessness Assistance and Prevention

As County residents recover from the lingering effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, the need for stable housing is critical. In 2021, more than half of District Four households were rent burdened, where residents spent more than 30 percent of their income on rent. Over 90 percent of households in District Four living with incomes under \$50,000 were rent burdened<sup>1</sup>. It is imperative to expand ARPA Evergreen Funding to further mitigate residents becoming homeless in addition to providing services to our homeless population. County staff should further evaluate programs such as the Innovative Housing Trust Fund, the Shallow Rental Subsidy program and other similar type programs to maximize utilization of the ARPA Evergreen Fund.

### Food Assistance

Households where residents spend more than 30 percent of their income on housing costs, present challenges for other needs, such as access to healthy food. The COVID-19 CalFresh emergency allotment ended in March of 2023. In June of 2023, the Hunger Coalition reported that the county was 13.4 million meals short of fully addressing food insecurities in San Diego County. In addition, the San Diego Food Bank and other major food assistance community-based organizations have also reported declines in individual donations between 22 to 27 percent at the end of 2023. The data overwhelmingly indicates the ongoing need for food assistance which should be further supported by ARPA Evergreen Funds.

### Expanding the County of San Diego's Public Behavioral Health Workforce

According to a 2022 report entitled "*Addressing San Diego's Behavioral Health Worker Shortage*," the San Diego region needs to recruit 18,500 behavioral health professionals to the field by 2027. The County will be unable to effectively address the needs of its citizens and provide services to our most vulnerable if these goals are not accomplished. It is critical that the county invest in programs that offer financial incentives, such as scholarships, stipends, down payment assistance and loan forgiveness, in order to attract and retain workers to the behavioral health profession. We also must invest in programs that create pathways to high quality jobs in partnership with healthcare workforce unions and other community stakeholders.

### Workforce Housing for County of San Diego Employees

In addition to the challenges of the behavioral health worker shortage, issues related to the cost-of-living for the workforce must be addressed. While there have been discussions about land acquisition and development activities for workforce housing, shared housing and downpayment assistance should also be evaluated to maximize use of the ARPA Evergreen Funds. County of San Diego workers deserve sustainable living conditions that support their well-being as they serve the most impacted populations in San Diego County.

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<sup>1</sup> Center on Policy Initiatives. (n.d.). *The Economic Conditions of County District 4*. Center on Policy Initiatives. <https://cpisandiego.org/economic-conditions-of-county-district-4/>

**SUBJECT:** American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Evergreen Fund Priorities, District FourSB 43 Implementation

On December 5, 2023, the Board of Supervisors approved a resolution to establish a process to implement SB 43 by January 1, 2025. This process will include a multi-sectoral planning process with key parties and agencies impacted by or involved with the implementation of SB 43. To effectively deliver services for individuals that are gravely disabled, and their families, additional capacity and resources are needed for hospitals and other service providers throughout the county. Listed below are recommendations for an adequate response to SB 43 implementation:

- Invest in the public conservators' office.
- Expand substance abuse treatment with a focus on in-patient detox and withdrawal management in hospital settings.
- Establish crisis stabilization units, community harm reduction teams, and expand community outreach and education.

Sustainability of the ARPA Evergreen Framework Fund

On August 30, 2022, the Board directed staff to establish an "Evergreen Fund." This decision was one of vision and purpose. The fund, as a part of the ARPA framework, was to be used long term as a self-sustaining revenue stream. The county allocated a portion of the ARPA funds to the "Evergreen Fund" to draw down matching funds, philanthropic donations, or other funding sources to help address ongoing concerns of the pandemic specifically, and poverty, in general.

To date, I am not aware of whether the fund has been properly set up (from an accounting perspective and a legal one) to fulfill the purpose, intent, and vision of the fund. The Board's intent should be fulfilled. To use this fund consistent with the Board's original intent, the appropriate legal and accounting mechanism must be established.

**CONCLUSION**

The issues discussed in this memorandum only represent a fraction of the services that District Four constituents and San Diego County residents need. The Board should further evaluate and consider any and all funding sources in addition to the ARPA and the Evergreen Fund to support the continuation of the essential programs and activities that emerged from the framework.

MMS/eh

Cc: Michael Vu, Assistant Chief Administrative Officer





## JIM DESMOND

SUPERVISOR, FIFTH DISTRICT  
SAN DIEGO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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

1-22-24

To: Sarah Aghassi, Interim CAO  
From: Jim Desmond, Supervisor 5<sup>th</sup> District

### **RE: ARPA evergreen framework update requests for ARPA framework revisions**

Please see below for a request list to the ARPA framework. Items are listed in priority order. We have attempted to place the requests under the correct framework categories, however, if they apply to other categories please adjust accordingly.

### **TOP PRIORITIES FOR THE REMAINING ARPA EVERGREEN FUNDS**

#### **1. Campus for Detox Beds, Sober Living, and Board and Care Acquisition (*Behavioral Health Services, Homeless Services*) \$15 million**

The need for addiction treatment and sober housing is quickly growing and our infrastructure is not keeping pace. Investing County resources into property and infrastructure to provide the needed services and housing for our vulnerable populations is a top priority. A 24/7 hour staffed campus that provides sober living, detox beds, and Board and Care, is needed desperately.

#### **2. Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) Fee Waiver Program (*Housing*)**

The County's pilot fee waiver program for ADU's expired January 9, 2024. During the five years of the program, the County was able to waive fees for roughly 1,500 ADU projects. ADU's are an important tool to address the housing crisis in the County; they increase options for first-time home buyers, young adults looking to start a family, and older adults seeking to age in place. On top of that, more than half (55%) of permitted ADU's count toward our Low and Very Low-Income categories under the State's Regional Housing Needs Allocation.

### **For the Implementation of SB 43 including:**

#### **3. Expanded Substance Use Disorder treatment both in community based and hospital settings including: Locked drug treatment and inpatient detox infrastructure (*Behavioral Health Services*)**

We do not have a locked drug treatment capacity in San Diego County. There are only 72 detox beds in San Diego County and the need for these beds has greatly increased. The County must

invest in infrastructure to increase our regional capacity to provide treatment for those suffering from substance abuse disorders, especially those placed in conservatorship. Funding is needed for hospitals to provide additional resources to connect patients to external treatment centers and ensure an adequate continuum of care.

**4. Bridging Crisis Stabilization Units as Emergency Room alternatives (*Behavioral Health Services*)**

San Diego County emergency rooms are routinely full in part due to the increasing number of patients suffering from substance abuse disorders. An alternative destination for individuals placed on 5150 hold or experiencing SUD symptoms would alleviate the emergency rooms and provide the appropriate care for these individuals.

**5. Increase capacity in the Public Conservator's Office (*Behavioral Health Services*)**

Due to the introduction of the CARE Act and changes to the LPS Act, the eligible population for conservatorship greatly expanded. To address increased petitions, more resources are needed in the Public Conservator's Office.

**OTHER**

**6. Valley Center Intergenerational Center (*Senior and Youth Services*)**

Valley Center is a prime location for an intergenerational center as the community is currently underserved for seniors and youth recreational needs. Funding is needed to kickstart this project.

**7. Fallbrook Affordable Housing Project - Property Acquisition (*Senior and Youth Services*)**

The community of Fallbrook lacks affordable senior housing. With the senior population rapidly growing and the cost of living increasing, this is an important project. Funding is needed for property acquisition to build affordable senior housing.



# COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

## **ITEM #11: COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT FRAMEWORK REPRIORITIZATION AND EVERGREEN COMPONENT FRAMEWORK RECOMMENDATIONS**

Sarah Aghassi, Interim Chief Administrative Officer

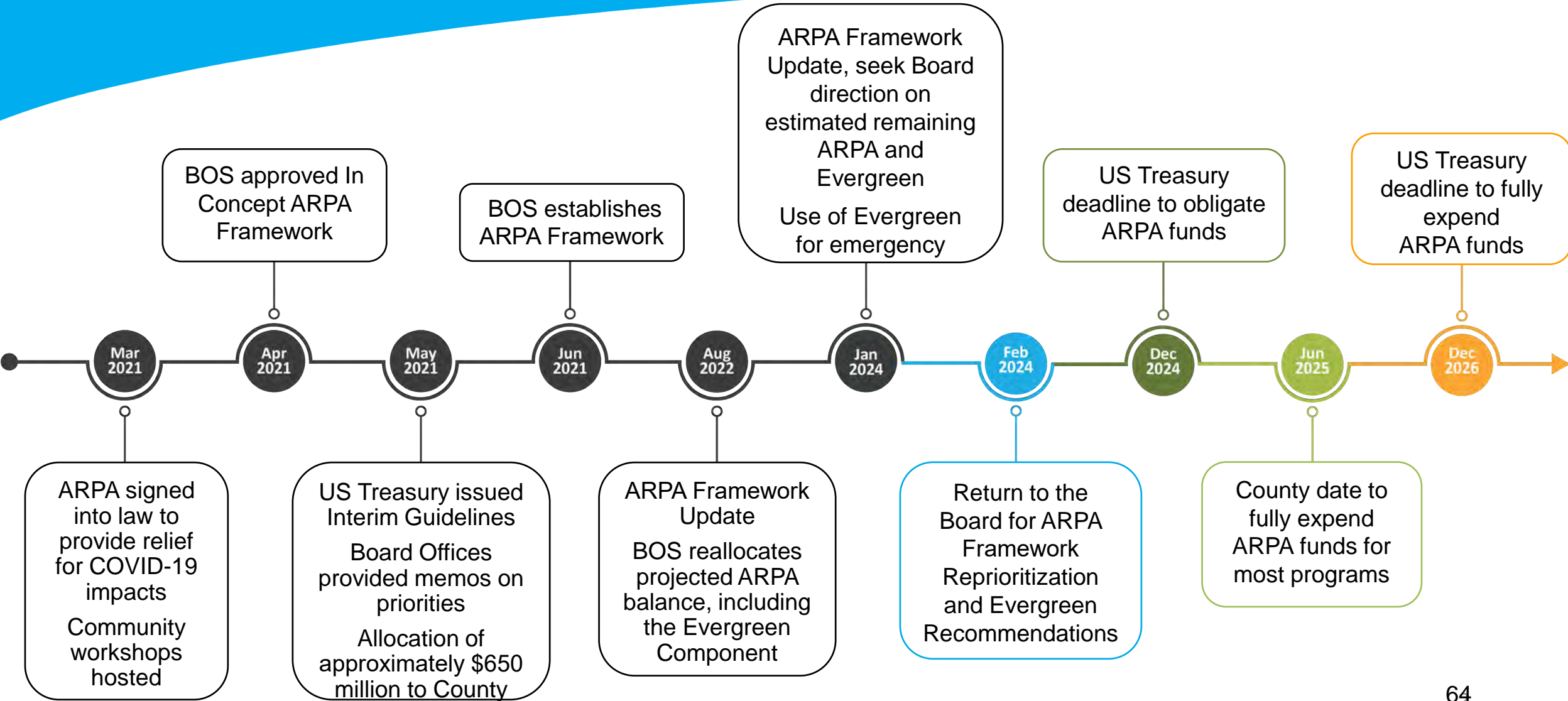
Ebony Shelton, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer / Chief Financial Officer, Finance & General Government Group

Eric C. McDonald, MD, Interim Agency Director, Health and Human Services Agency

Amy Thompson, Executive Finance Director, Health and Human Services Agency

February 27, 2024

# ARPA FRAMEWORK MILESTONES



# ARPA PROGRAM BALANCES



Framework Component Balances (in millions)	Approved Amount	Estimated Remaining Balance FY 24-25	Reallocation of Projected Remaining Balance
Saving Lives and Protecting Families	\$ 275.4	\$ 25.4	\$ 10.0
Stimulating the Economy and Getting Back to Work	\$ 73.0	\$ 6.1	\$ 3.0
Investing in the Future of our Region	\$ 240.1	\$ 35.5	\$ 43.4
<b>ARPA Framework TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 588.5</b>	<b>\$ 67.0</b>	<b>\$ 56.4</b>
FEMA Disallowance Contingency			\$ 10.6
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>\$ 67.0</b>

# ARPA FRAMEWORK REALLOCATION



<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b>ARPA Framework Eligible Item</b>	<b>Estimated Costs (in millions)</b>
	FEMA Contingency	\$10.6
FY 24/25	Regional Homeless Assistance Program	\$15.0
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	\$27.1
<b>Total use of ARPA Balance</b>		<b>\$67.0</b>

# ARPA FRAMEWORK REALLOCATION: SPECIFIC PROGRAMS



Program (in millions) Ongoing Costs	Proposed Allocation
Local Rent Subsidy Program & Services, Emergency Housing, Regional Homeless Assistance Program	\$ 18.6
Specialized Funding for Imminent Needs	\$ 1.0
Tenant Legal Services	\$ 1.5
BHS Support for Children and Youth	\$ 5.0
Child Care Bridge Program	\$ 0.5
Employee Child Care Benefit Program	\$ 0.5
<b>Total Ongoing Operating Costs for ARPA programs</b>	<b>\$ 27.1</b>

# EVERGREEN COMPONENT



## Evergreen Definition Options:

3A. To be used for program(s) that could draw down matching funds, philanthropic donations, grants, or other funding that measures performance both on self-sustaining revenue streams and level of public benefit.

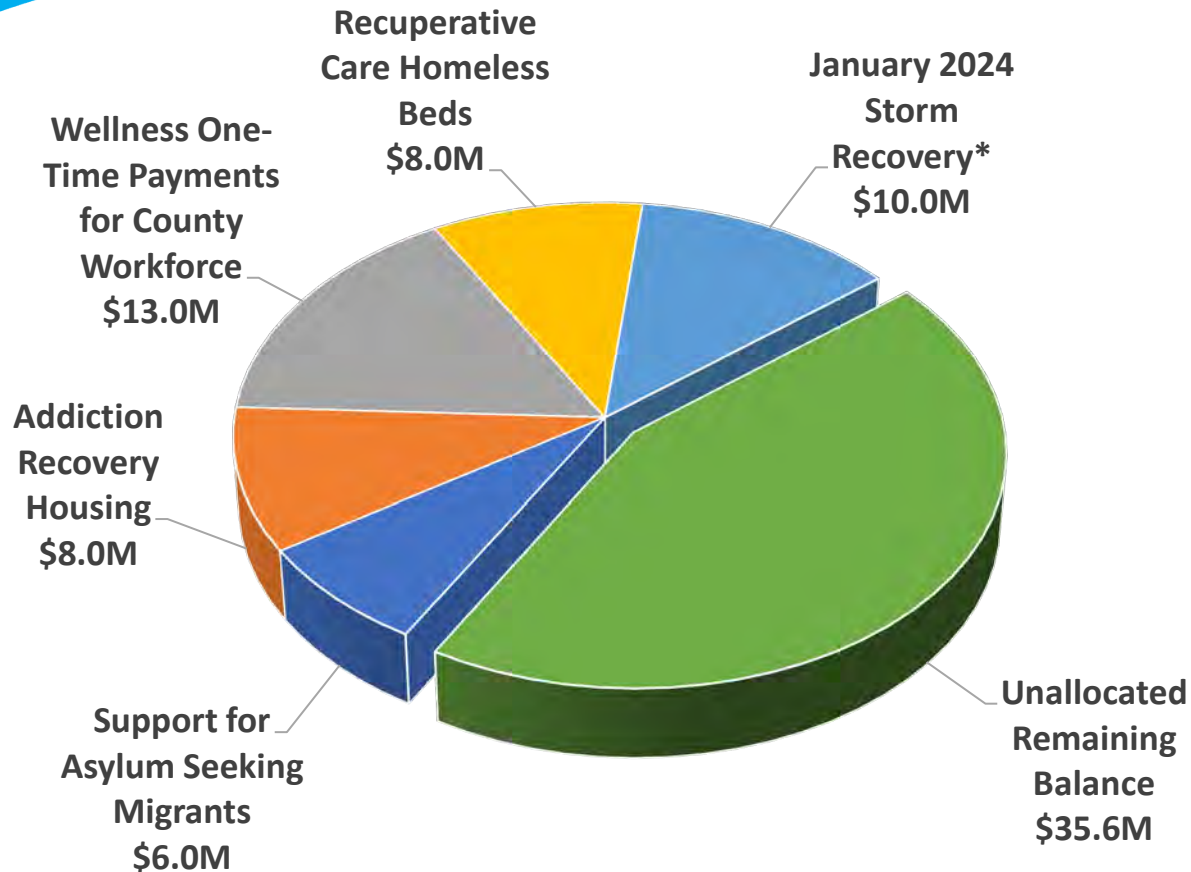
**OR**

3B. To be used for program(s) that could draw down matching funds, philanthropic donations, grants, or other funding that measures performance both on self-sustaining revenue streams and level of public benefit, and/or supporting a lasting public benefit in the areas of behavioral health, housing, climate change, economic prosperity, homelessness, and workforce.



# EVERGREEN COMPONENT

\$80.6 million



Evergreen Component (in millions)	Allocation
Support for Asylum Seeking Migrants	\$ 6.0
Addiction Recovery Housing	\$ 8.0
Wellness One-Time Payments for County Workforce	\$ 13.0
Recuperative Care Homeless Beds	\$ 8.0
January 2024 Storm Recovery	\$ 10.0
<b>Unallocated Remaining Balance</b>	<b>\$ 35.6</b>

# EVERGREEN OPTIONS



Program (in millions)	Evergreen Definition 3A or 3B	Allocation		
		Option A	Option B	Option C
Implementation of Senate Bill 43 of 2023 (Involuntary Behavioral Health Treatment)	3B	\$15.0	\$15.0	\$10.0
Innovative Housing Trust Fund	3B	\$15.6	\$10.6	\$10.6
Efforts to Address and Prevent Homelessness	3B	\$5.0	\$10.0*	-
Expanding San Diego's Behavioral Health Workforce	3B	\$10.0*	\$10.0	\$10.0*
Regional Workforce Housing Program	3A or 3B	-	-	\$15.0

\* Upon any reimbursements from January 30, 2024 (1) allocation to emergency needs.

# EVERGREEN OPTIONS



Program (in millions)	Evergreen Definition 3A or 3B	Allocation		
		Option A	Option B	Option C
Implementation of Senate Bill 43 of 2023 (Involuntary Behavioral Health Treatment)	3B	\$15.0	\$15.0	\$10.0
Innovative Housing Trust Fund	3B	\$15.6	\$10.6	\$10.6
Efforts to Address and Prevent Homelessness	3B	\$5.0	\$10.0*	-
Expanding San Diego's Behavioral Health Workforce	3B	\$10.0*	\$10.0	\$10.0*
Regional Workforce Housing Program	3A or 3B	-	-	\$15.0

\* Upon any reimbursements from January 30, 2024 (1) allocation to emergency needs.

# EVERGREEN OPTIONS



Program (in millions)	Evergreen Definition 3A or 3B	Allocation		
		Option A	Option B	Option C
Implementation of Senate Bill 43 of 2023 (Involuntary Behavioral Health Treatment)	3B	\$15.0	\$15.0	\$10.0
→ Innovative Housing Trust Fund	3B	\$15.6	\$10.6	\$10.6
Efforts to Address and Prevent Homelessness	3B	\$5.0	\$10.0*	-
Expanding San Diego's Behavioral Health Workforce	3B	\$10.0*	\$10.0	\$10.0*
Regional Workforce Housing Program	3A or 3B	-	-	\$15.0

\* Upon any reimbursements from January 30, 2024 (1) allocation to emergency needs.

# EVERGREEN OPTIONS



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Regional Workforce Housing Program	3A or 3B	-	-	\$15.0

\* Upon any reimbursements from January 30, 2024 (1) allocation to emergency needs.

# EVERGREEN OPTIONS



Program (in millions)	Evergreen Definition 3A or 3B	Allocation		
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Innovative Housing Trust Fund	3B	\$15.6	\$10.6	\$10.6
Efforts to Address and Prevent Homelessness	3B	\$5.0	\$10.0*	-
Expanding San Diego's Behavioral Health Workforce	3B	\$10.0*	\$10.0	\$10.0*
Regional Workforce Housing Program	3A or 3B	-	-	\$15.0

\* Upon any reimbursements from January 30, 2024 (1) allocation to emergency needs.


# EVERGREEN OPTIONS




Program (in millions)	Evergreen Definition 3A or 3B	Allocation		
		Option A	Option B	Option C
Implementation of Senate Bill 43 of 2023 (Involuntary Behavioral Health Treatment)	3B	\$15.0	\$15.0	\$10.0
Innovative Housing Trust Fund	3B	\$15.6	\$10.6	\$10.6
Efforts to Address and Prevent Homelessness	3B	\$5.0	\$10.0*	-
Expanding San Diego's Behavioral Health Workforce	3B	\$10.0*	\$10.0	\$10.0*
→ Regional Workforce Housing Program	3A or 3B	-	-	\$15.0

\* Upon any reimbursements from January 30, 2024 (1) allocation to emergency needs.

# RECOMMENDATIONS: ARPA FRAMEWORK REALLOCATION



1. Approve staff's recommendation for the projected remaining ARPA Framework balance of \$67.0 million as stated in Attachment A.



2. Authorize the CAO to make administrative changes within the adopted ARPA Framework as needed to ensure the intent of the Board of Supervisors investments in the programs is met. Examples of such permitted changes include but are not limited to adjusting within the programs listed if spending trajectories for original balances change or other funding is identified.



# RECOMMENDATIONS: EVERGREEN COMPONENT



3. Approve an option for the use of the Evergreen component funding.

4. Direct the CAO to reinvest any reimbursements of the \$10.0 million investment in emergency needs into Evergreen program(s), after all proper audits and reviews of any expense claims have been completed.

5. Authorize the CAO to establish a trust fund to hold any reimbursements pending completion of all proper audits and reviews of any expense claims.

6. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to allocate the remaining balance of the Evergreen component of the ARPA Framework.

7. Direct the CAO to utilize a lost revenue strategy as needed under the final ARPA guidance.



# COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

## **ITEM #11: COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT FRAMEWORK REPRIORITIZATION AND EVERGREEN COMPONENT FRAMEWORK RECOMMENDATIONS**

Sarah Aghassi, Interim Chief Administrative Officer

Ebony Shelton, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer / Chief Financial Officer, Finance & General Government Group

Eric C. McDonald, MD, Interim Agency Director, Health and Human Services Agency

Amy Thompson, Executive Finance Director, Health and Human Services Agency

February 27, 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 27, 2024

# 13

**TO:** Board of Supervisors

### **SUBJECT**

**SUSTAINABLE PLANNING FOR A FEDERALLY FUNDED LONG-TERM MIGRANT TRANSFER SITE AND SHELTER CENTER (DISTRICTS: ALL)**

### **OVERVIEW**

San Diego county is proud of our binational community, and of the work done by our local partners every day to assist those seeking asylum in our country. Over the past several years, the number of asylum seekers coming to our region through the U.S.-Mexico border has increased as those individuals flee crises and persecution in their home countries.

As part of a short-term mitigation strategy, the County of San Diego (County) provided funding in October of 2023 for the creation of a Migrant Center (Center) to assist with supporting the sheer number of asylum seekers coming through our border and traveling to their final destination and provided additional funding in December of 2023 to extend those efforts. This Center was operated by SBCS and augments the efforts of Catholic Charities Diocese of San Diego and Jewish Family Service, who receive federal Shelter and Services Program (SSP) funding to manage shelter operations to assist the most vulnerable asylum seekers. SBCS subcontracted with several smaller community-based organizations headquartered in south, central, and east San Diego and with various local shelters. In the absence of an ongoing, dedicated funding stream, the Center ceased operations at the end of February.

On February 6, 2024 (11) the Board of Supervisors (Board) directed staff to look for a sustainable plan for the future to support the migrants entering our community and to prevent street releases. This direction contained a two-part strategy: first, to work with the current fiscal agent of SSP funds on ways to maximize this funding stream; and two, to develop a concept paper and advocacy plan to create a long-term, federally funded, Migrant Transfer Site and Respite Shelter. County staff did meet with current fiscal agent for SSP who provided important operational insight into their current program and funding. The SSP funds are currently not allocated in the form of a competitive grant. Grant awards are announced with the recipient and amount, and are reimbursed to the fiscal agent, not provided in advance for services.

Today's actions recommend that the Board receive the Concept Paper and Advocacy Plan, approve a corresponding addition to the Legislative Program, and authorize application for any associated grant funding that would be received in advance of services performed.

**SUBJECT:** SUSTAINABLE PLANNING FOR A FEDERALLY FUNDED LONG-TERM MIGRANT TRANSFER SITE AND SHELTER CENTER (DISTRICTS: ALL)

**RECOMMENDATION(S)**

**CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER**

1. Accept the report titled “Concept Paper and Advocacy Plan for a Long-Term Migrant Transfer Site and Respite Shelter” and direct the Interim Chief Administrative Officer to update the Concept Paper on an as-needed basis with current and relevant information.
2. Add to the County’s 2024 Legislative Program, Priority Issues, support for a Long-Term Migrant Transfer Site and Respite Shelter, consistent with the Concept Paper.
3. Pursuant to Board Policy B-29, authorize the Interim Chief Administrative Officer, or their designee, to apply for any grant funds and/or allocations for migrant sheltering and services that provide funding in advance of services performed.

**EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

The County of San Diego’s (County) vision is for a just, sustainable, and resilient future for all, regardless of residency and immigration status. Today’s action provides a long-term and sustainable plan for welcoming migrants coming to the San Diego region to seek asylum into the United States. Migrants seeking asylum are coming to the United States in search of a better life for themselves and their families. The number of migrants passing through San Diego County and onto their final destination has steadily increased. To address the increase, the County of San Diego relied on its values as a welcoming and binational community to invest in a centralized migrant intake center to provide migrants with information to continue their journey, food, and other basic support services. The centralized migrant intake center has prevented more than 80,000 street releases into San Diego communities and at mass transit stations.

To do this work, the County actively communicated and engaged with the federal government, the state government, and many non-governmental organizations (NGOs) providing critical aid and services to asylum seekers. NGOs include Jewish Family Service, SBCS, Casa Familiar, and the fiscal agent for federal SSP funding in San Diego County, Catholic Charities Diocese of San Diego. The County’s work with these organizations has allowed the County to understand and appreciate how migrants passing through San Diego County are fleeing violence, political persecution, and trauma. All persons, regardless of where one lives, or immigration status, deserve dignity and our respect.

In the absence of federal funding and support, the County along with our community partners have bridged an important gap and have assisted a very vulnerable population with critical support and services to ensure their path to a new future is possible.

The attached concept paper and advocacy plan demonstrate how the County humanely and compassionately provided an important resource for migrants passing through San Diego region. To ensure the resources and services the County currently provides to migrants through the migrant intake center remain long-term, and to prevent street releases in San Diego communities, the attached concept paper details how a federal migrant transfer shelter can be considered and implemented, including the specifications, staffing needs of the CBOs to run it, and potential costs. The County consulted and relied on feedback from our NGO partners to identify what is needed in the region to operate such a shelter and what services and requirements would be required.

**SUBJECT: SUSTAINABLE PLANNING FOR A FEDERALLY FUNDED LONG-TERM MIGRANT TRANSFER SITE AND SHELTER CENTER (DISTRICTS: ALL)**

The County remains committed to this endeavor and looks forward to advocating for a sustainable and long-term plan for supporting and protecting an extremely vulnerable population.

**SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

As a proud binational community, San Diego is the first point of entry into the United States for many who are seeking asylum. By providing for the coordination of resources to ensure a humanitarian response while simultaneously providing for the safety of the migrants and our communities, we can meet the needs of those temporarily in our region without compromising the resources that benefit those we serve.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

There is no fiscal impact associated with these recommendations. There will be no change in net General Fund cost and no additional staff years. There may be fiscal impacts associated with future related recommendations which staff would return to the Board for consideration and approval.

**BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT**

N/A

**ADVISORY BOARD STATEMENT**

N/A

**BACKGROUND**

In accordance with the Board of Supervisor’s (Board) direction on February 6, 2024 (11), County of San Diego (County) staff met with Catholic Charities Diocese of San Diego, the fiscal agent for the federal Shelter and Services Program (SSP) funding, administered through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Catholic Charities provided an overview of their role as the fiscal agent, how the funding stream works, how their shelters currently operate, and the opportunities for expanding operations to include the Migrant Center currently funded by the County and operated by SBCS.

SSP funds in their current form are a reimbursement, and not an upfront grant. Similar to the FEMA funds for disaster relief and Non-Congregate Sheltering, the fiscal agent fronts and absorbs all costs and submits for reimbursements that are not on a specific timeline. This makes this funding stream operationally infeasible for the County since we have been waiting approximately two years for reimbursements of over \$10 million for our Non-Congregate Sheltering Program during COVID. Should SSP change in the future to be a competitive grant or to allocate money before services are performed, the County would be able to utilize this funding stream.

At the Board’s direction, the County engaged in ongoing discussions with Catholic Charities, which also connected County staff to contacts in the California Department of Social Services to discuss options for short- and long-term support to maximize current SSP funding to assist in providing dedicated overnight shelter beds while attempting to identify state and federal funding

**SUBJECT: SUSTAINABLE PLANNING FOR A FEDERALLY FUNDED LONG-TERM MIGRANT TRANSFER SITE AND SHELTER CENTER (DISTRICTS: ALL)**

opportunities. While those conversations did not yield immediate actions that can be taken, County staff will report back to the Board if those discussions bring opportunities in the future.

Accordingly, the Board is requested, pursuant to Board Policy B-29, Fees, Grants, Revenue Contracts - Department Responsibility for Cost Recovery, to authorize the Interim Chief Administrative Officer or their designee to apply for grants or allocations that provide advance funding for migrant sheltering and services. Upon notification of grant award and/or allocation, County staff will return to the Board to appropriate funds, as necessary. Possible grant funding and/or allocations of federal and/or state funds for migrant sheltering and services would support the County's vision of a just, sustainable, and resilient future for all, regardless of residency and immigration status.

Concept Paper and Advocacy

As the federal government faces uncertainty in their current appropriations process, the availability of federal funds in any capacity is unclear at this time. In addition to funding needs, the absence of meaningful immigration reform means that the piecemeal approach of the last several years will continue to bring waves of migration without the adequate support for the asylum seekers, the border communities who welcome them, or the communities to which they are traveling for residence.

The County has created the concept paper for what is needed to provide a long-term solution which provides humanitarian support to those seeking asylum in our country. A permanent Migrant Transfer Site and Respite Shelter is needed in our region to serve as a one-stop-shop to assist with the needs of migrants including onward travel to their sponsors. With a firm plan in hand, the County can advocate consistently at the state and federal levels for funding, acquisition of a site, and ongoing staffing and services support. This plan will also support our regional partners to seek philanthropic matching funds for this effort as well as additional sources of funding.

Site Needs

As directed by the Board, the plan also includes the specifications needed for a viable property to support this mission. If and when funding becomes available, a list of both public and commercially available sites will be prepared for consideration and feasibility. For example, below are some current commercially available sites that meet the specifications outlined in the plan. The County currently does not own any viable sites, however, if and when the funding becomes available, we will reassess those options as well.

For example, there are currently four properties on the market in the San Ysidro/Otay Mesa area that are either warehouse type buildings or former retail buildings that meet the size specifications as well as safety features such as fire sprinklers.

Today's recommended action is to accept the Concept Paper and Advocacy Plan, to approve memorializing the Board's support for a Long-Term Migrant Transfer Site and Respite Shelter in the County's 2024 Legislative Program in the Priority Issues section, and to authorize application for any associated grant funding and/or allocations that would be received in advance of services performed.

**SUBJECT:** SUSTAINABLE PLANNING FOR A FEDERALLY FUNDED LONG-TERM  
MIGRANT TRANSFER SITE AND SHELTER CENTER (DISTRICTS: ALL)

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

Today's proposed actions support the Community (Partnership and Safety) and Sustainability (Economy) Initiatives in the County of San Diego's 2024-2029 Strategic Plan by working with our regional partners and other levels of government to create a sustainable strategy to support our communities and those seeking asylum in our country.

Respectfully submitted,



SARAH E. AGHASSI  
Interim Chief Administrative Officer

**ATTACHMENT(S)**

Attachment A-Concept Paper and Advocacy Plan for a Long-Term Migrant Transfer Site and Respite Shelter



# Migrant Transfer Site and Respite Shelter for the San Diego Region



## Table of Contents

OVERVIEW and BACKGROUND.....	3
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STAFFING .....	5
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## OVERVIEW and BACKGROUND

San Diego is a welcoming county, in a welcoming state and home to non-governmental organizations (NGOs) that provide aid to asylum seekers from throughout the Southwest. Although the San Diego County border region has experienced varying waves of migration over the years, we are currently facing an unprecedented humanitarian crisis. On May 11, 2023, Title 42 expired thereby removing the federal government's authority to turn away migrants who came to the U.S.-Mexico border on the grounds of preventing the spread of COVID-19. Following the expiration of Title 42, border crossings began to slowly increase over time to the historic levels that they are today. Beginning September 13, 2023, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) began triaging asylum-seeking migrants crossing into the United States, sending only those who fit certain vulnerability criteria to existing federally funded and state managed migrant shelters and street releasing the rest. Also in 2023, the State of California ceased its migrant shelter operations, leaving NGOs and local municipalities to assist those being released into communities.

The San Diego County region continues to experience a significant number of migrant and asylum seeker arrivals daily. This is not just a local trend, but a national trend, and San Diego County continues to put our values of a welcoming and binational community at the forefront of our work. To address the increase in street releases and the state ceasing funding and support services, the County of San Diego stepped up and contributed \$6 million towards a centralized migrant center from October of 2023 through February of 2024. At the migrant transit center, those who have been recently processed by U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) were transported to the Center and could then receive information to continue their journey, food, and other basic support services. The center processed hundreds of new arrivals daily, and in some instances nearly 1000 individuals a day. The funding was provided to a local non-profit, SBCS, to operate the intake center.

Currently, the County does not receive dedicated federal support for a Migrant Intake Shelter. FEMA's Shelter and Services Program (SSP), which is the primary federal funding vehicle for migrant support services, currently directs its funds earmarked for the San Diego region to Catholic Charities Diocese of San Diego for its shelter operations.

With the rate of arrivals not appearing to slow, and with the absence of federal funding, there need to be consideration for longer term solutions until Congress achieves comprehensive immigration reform. This concept paper will lay out past research and background as well as possible solutions, in particular ones that will require greater partnership with the Federal Government.

## SPECIFICATIONS

A Migrant Transit Shelter needs to accommodate the flow of migrants into the San Diego region and should be able to provide services to 500 individuals and/or families. The location of the shelter should be close to the US/Mexico border or Central San Diego to best serve those being released and to account for the next steps on their journeys, such as need to connect to the airport or other transportation hubs.

The space needs to be large enough to flex between congregate and non-congregate space options, depending on shelter census. The most efficient use of space would be to use a largely congregate setting with additional space for areas of isolation or separation to account for the potential need to curb the spread of infectious diseases such as influenza, tuberculosis, and COVID-19.

The space must include areas for sleeping and for restroom and shower facilities. Additional space will be needed for the essential support services provided by the shelter including case management, travel assistance, nutrition services, medical screenings, translation services, and other support such as storage facilities, administrative offices, charging stations for phones, and cultural and recreational space.

Specifically, to function adequately for the needs identified for the population, the shelter should include the following.

#### Guest Support

- Dedicated sleeping quarters to accommodate 300-500 guests per night on sleeping cots. Separate space should be provided for families.
- 25 private sleeping quarters to accommodate up to 6 guests, use of bunks, trundles, and rollway's all acceptable.
- Guest sleeping quarters to include space for luggage/storage racks.
- 20 private showers (15 Individual and 5 Family)
- Incorporated baby changing stations.
- Welcome/Intake space – separate from sleeping areas.
- 2 quiet spaces to be flexed for lactation support or religious expression.
- Multi-use space – to accommodate “Know Your Rights” presentations, transportation coordination, and other presentations (Flex to sleeping space).
- Phone charging stations throughout the facility.
- Interior play space / kids’ room (up to 30 children, ages 3 – 10 years old).
- Exterior play space (Mini sports field and green space with play structure).

#### Staff / Operations Needs

- Open seating area with desk/cubicles to accommodate 50- 60 Staff.
- 10-15 private offices for management/private guest meetings.
- Production space – including millwork, countertops, and space for three standing printers.
- Flexible conference/training space to host 60-100 Staff. Include partition to split space into two rooms.
- 5000 square feet of exterior operations storage – With roll up doors for easy loading and unloading.
- Staff lounge – including staff lockers/storage.
- Commercial kitchen – sized to serve 300-500+ guest per meal.
- Dining space to accommodate 100 guests.
- 500-1000 square feet of interior pantry/food storage space.
- Commercial laundry space to accommodate bedding.
- Janitorial supply closet.
- Maintenance/storage area.

- IT storage/server room.

### Medical Support

- 2 private offices.
- File storage space.
- 2- 3 medical exam rooms.

Services would include 24-hour care, site supervision, mental health services, education services, legal rights presentations, and telephone services. Services, such as initial medical evaluation, case management, travel assistance, nutrition services, and translation services, will need to be procured by the Federal Government with one of several non-governmental agencies (NGOs) in this region who specialize in these areas.

While the Federal Migrant Transit Center would be funded and operated by the federal government, or the CBOs they choose to lead the effort, the County would provide some core services they would otherwise provide to individuals who are intending to remain in the county. Through the Refugee Health Assessment Program, the County would provide individuals with comprehensive health assessments, including follow-up and referrals for health conditions identified in the initial assessment process for those remaining in the County. Additionally, the County of San Diego would support these individuals and families by providing connections to public assistance benefits, and access to our Welcome Center when they choose to remain in San Diego. The County's Refugee Employment Services program, which provides employment focused services to assist families who are eligible, could provide employment focused services. Services could also include Welfare to Work services, Elder-Multicultural Access and Support Services, Vocational English-As-A-Second Language Services, and Work Readiness Exchange programs.

## **STAFFING**

A robust staff will need to be hired and trained to support the Shelter. All hired staff should have the appropriate background clearances depending on the population being served. Funding would be needed to provide security for the shelter and to support the essential services being offered. In addition, there would need to be an ability to flex up or down staffing with volunteers or temporary staff depending on the Migrant Shelter's census. Specific staffing needs for essential services is still being considered.

## FACILITY COSTS

The approximate cost for acquiring, constructing, or rehabilitating a space to accommodate 500 individuals and/or families ranges between \$12M and \$345M. See below for a breakdown of the approximate costs per option.

Buy Land and Build				
	Purchase Commercial Land	Construction	Total	Duration
Near Border	\$3,600,000.00	\$165,000,000.00	\$168,600,000.00	4.5 years
Central San Diego	\$18,000,000.00	\$165,000,000.00	\$183,000,000.00	4.5 years
Downtown	\$180,000,000.00	\$165,000,000.00	\$345,000,000.00	4.5 years

Buy Existing Building and Re-Purpose				
	Hotel Comps - Assuming 250 Room Hotel	Re-Purposing Costs	Total	Duration
Near Border*	\$64,500,000.00	\$6,000,000.00	\$70,500,000.00	4 years
Central San Diego	\$50,000,000.00	\$30,000,000.00	\$80,000,000.00	4 years
Downtown	\$62,500,000.00	\$30,000,000.00	\$92,500,000.00	4 years
NOTE: Near Border option does not have a large hotel operation to compare for this estimate. Purchase of a warehouse or retail 'big box' building would likely require zoning amendments. No large hotel operations near the border.				
<b>*Near the Border Estimate is lowest confidence estimate: This estimate has least amount of supporting data.</b>				

Lease an Existing Building and Remodel for Use				
	Annual Cost - Lease of existing building	Annual rental of portable bathrooms, showers, laundry, fence	Total	Duration
Near Border - Otay Mesa - Warehouse*	\$6,168,000.00	\$6,000,000.00	\$12,168,000.00	3 years
NOTE 1: Best available comp was the lease of a warehouse building in Otay Mesa. Actual use of a warehouse for this purpose would likely require zoning amendments.				

The chart below demonstrates vacant land comps for purchasing commercial land. Estimates are based on comparison of comparable sized properties.

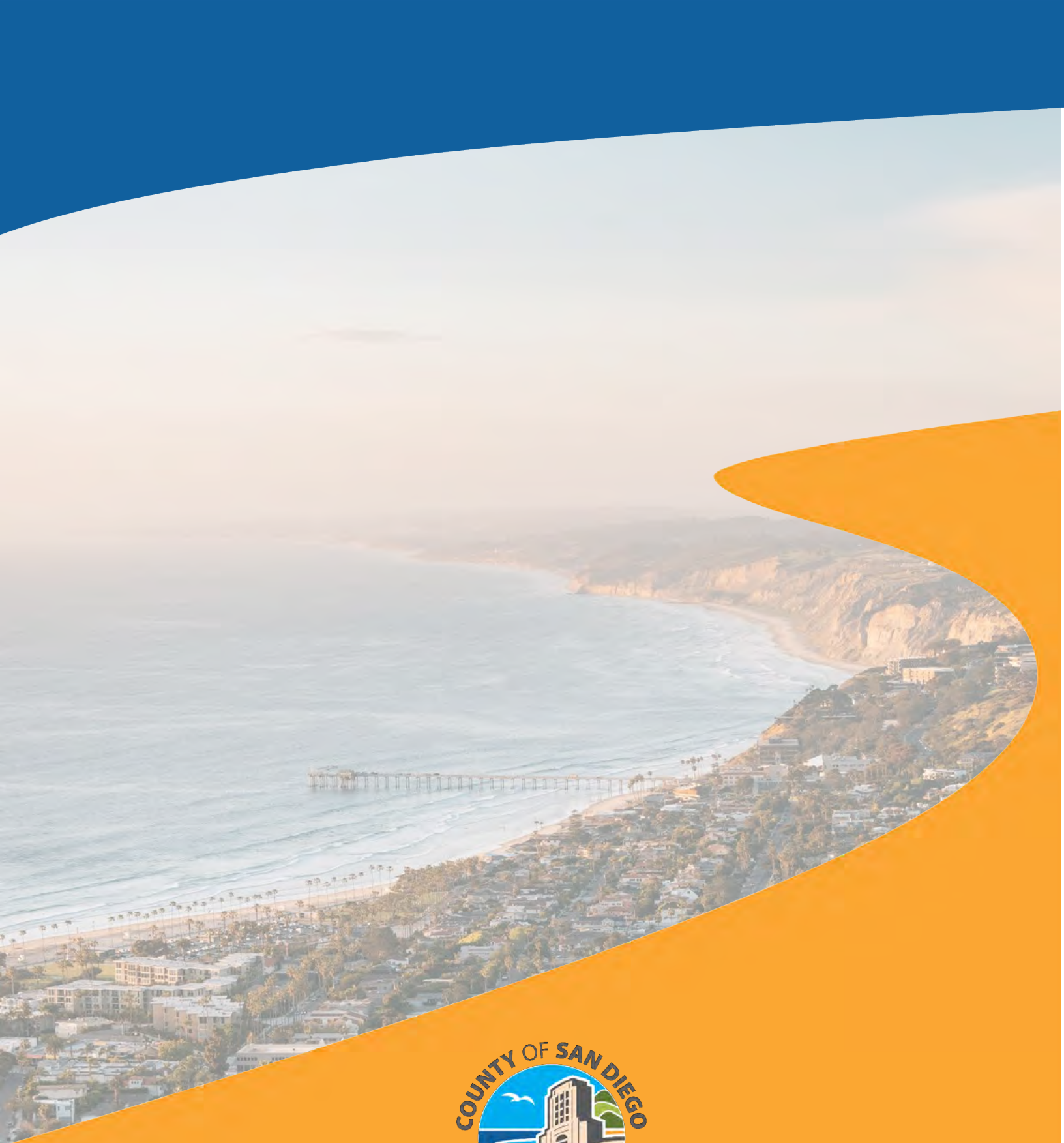
Location	Per acre cost
Near Border	\$600,000.00
Central San Diego	\$3,000,000.00
Downtown	\$30,000,000.00

The chart below demonstrates hotel comps per room. Estimates for hotels are based on a comparison of comparable sized properties. Estimates for rehab/construction are based on previous research on conversion of hotels for sheltering programs.

Location	Per room cost
Near Border	No comparison available. Only small motel type operations exist.
Central San Diego	\$200,000.00
Downtown	\$250,000.00

Hotel Rehab/Construction Costs - based on conversion for sheltering	
Per room	\$120,000





**1600 Pacific Highway  
San Diego, CA 92101-2422**

**[sandiegocounty.gov](http://sandiegocounty.gov)**



**JOEL ANDERSON**  
SUPERVISOR, SECOND DISTRICT  
SAN DIEGO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

AGENDA ITEM

**DATE:** February 27, 2024

**14**

**TO:** Board of Supervisors

**SUBJECT:**

**URGE PRESIDENT BIDEN TO TEMPORARILY CLOSE THE U.S.-MEXICO BORDER IN RESPONSE TO U.S. CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION STREET RELEASES RESUMING ON FEBRUARY 22, 2024. (DISTRICTS: ALL)**

**OVERVIEW**

San Diego County faces an imminent crisis as street releases of migrants by U.S. Customs and Border Protection (USCBP) are, at the writing of this letter, set to resume on February 22nd, alongside the closure of the SBCS-led and County-funded migrant transition center. This situation arises without any identified funding or assistance from the federal government to handle the expected surge in street releases or to support the ongoing operations of the current migrant transition center.

As a diverse border community, San Diego has a long-standing tradition of welcoming newcomers. Over the past decade, our community-based organizations (CBOs) have navigated fluctuating numbers of migrants crossing our land border, successfully piecing together funding to meet their needs. However, the lifting of Title 42 restrictions on immigration in May 2023 has overwhelmed our CBOs, leading to an unprecedented situation at San Diego's border and transit stations. Despite continuous advocacy for meaningful immigration reform and additional resources from the federal government, our efforts have not yielded the necessary support. The County's \$6 million in stop-gap funding to mitigate street releases has been depleted, and we are in the midst of a humanitarian crisis.

On February 15, 2024, I wrote a letter to President Biden urgently requesting the temporary closure of the border as a measure to prevent the anticipated influx and continuation of street releases to alleviate the burden on our communities. Today, I'm asking the Board to approve direction to the CAO to send a letter on behalf of the County to the Biden Administration to take swift action in temporarily closing the U.S.-Mexico border. This step has the potential to provide us with the time needed to secure additional funding and resources to support our efforts in mitigating migrant street releases.

**SUBJECT: URGE PRESIDENT BIDEN TO CLOSE THE U.S.-MEXICO BORDER IN RESPONSE TO U.S. CUSTOMS & BORDER PATROL STREET RELEASES RESUMING ON FEBRUARY 22, 2024. (DISTRICTS: ALL)**

**RECOMMENDATION**

**SUPERVISOR JOEL ANDERSON:**

1. Direct the Interim Chief Administrative Officer through the Office of Economic Development and Government Affairs to send a letter to the White House from the Board of Supervisors urging the temporary closure of the U.S.-Mexico border.

**EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

The resumption of street releases without adequate resources to manage them disproportionately impacts vulnerable populations, including asylum seekers, immigrants, and individuals experiencing homelessness. Without immediate action, these communities will bear the brunt of the humanitarian crisis, exacerbating existing disparities and inequities. Closing the border is essential to protect the well-being and safety of all residents and new arrivals, particularly those most marginalized and at risk.

**SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT**

By addressing the influx of migrants through proactive measures such as a border closure, we can mitigate the strain on our local resources and infrastructure. Sustainable management of our community's resources is paramount to ensure long-term resilience and stability. Closing the border temporarily will allow us to better manage and allocate resources, reducing the environmental and social impact associated with the humanitarian crisis. This action aligns with our commitment to building a sustainable future for San Diego County and its residents.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

There is no fiscal impact associated with these recommendations.

**BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT**

By proactively addressing the situation through a border closure, we aim to safeguard the interests of businesses and ensure continuity in economic activities. This action will help maintain stability in the business environment, protect livelihoods, and support the long-term economic prosperity of the region. Collaborative efforts between the public and private sectors are essential to navigate this challenging period and sustain the vibrancy of our local economy.

**BACKGROUND**

The County, alongside local resettlement partners and NGOs, finds itself inundated by the influx of over 90,000 migrants processed and released into San Diego since September 2023 by U.S. Customs and Border Protection (USCBP). With immigration being a federal responsibility, it is imperative that we urgently seek federal intervention to avert further strain on our local resources and prevent a worsened humanitarian crisis. Given the urgency of the situation, I urge the Board of Supervisors to take immediate action to address the resumption of street releases and the funding shortfall for the migrant processing center. Our community cannot endure the weight of failed federal policy, and decisive action is crucial to safeguarding the well-being of our residents.

**SUBJECT: URGE PRESIDENT BIDEN TO CLOSE THE U.S.-MEXICO BORDER  
IN RESPONSE TO U.S. CUSTOMS & BORDER PATROL STREET  
RELEASES RESUMING ON FEBRUARY 22, 2024. (DISTRICTS: ALL)**

San Diego County is facing a critical situation with street releases of migrants by U.S. Customs and Border Protection (USCBP), as of the writing of this letter, set to resume on February 22nd, with the closure of the SBCS-led and County-funded migrant transition center. Without federal funding or assistance to handle the expected surge in street releases or to maintain the current migrant transition center, this situation could crush our struggling service provider network with federally-sponsored homelessness of tens of thousands of people if swift action is not taken.

Requesting that the Biden Administration shut down the U.S.-Mexico border temporarily is a critical step to prevent further street releases and mitigate the impact on our local communities. This action will provide us with the time and space needed to secure additional funding and resources from the federal government to support our efforts in managing the influx of migrants and addressing their needs and the needs of our community. I urge the Board of Supervisors to take immediate action to address the resumption of street releases and the funding shortfall for the migrant processing center. Our community cannot bear the burden of failed federal policy any longer.

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

By addressing the humanitarian crisis at our border, we uphold the core values of safety, equity, and sustainability outlined in the strategic plan. This action underscores our commitment to protecting the welfare of residents and ensuring a safe environment for all. Furthermore, it demonstrates our proactive approach to addressing emerging challenges and fostering resilience within our communities. By advocating for decisive action at the federal level, we uphold the strategic priorities of enhancing public safety and promoting the health and prosperity of San Diego County residents.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joel Anderson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

JOEL ANDERSON  
Supervisor, Second District

ATTACHMENTS:  
Supervisor Joel Anderson's Letter to President Biden

# [Link to the full document](#)



## Current Funding Opportunities

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Grant   Certified Wellness Coach Employer Support Grant Program</a> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Eighteen-month grant for educational institutions and school-based or school-linked health and behavioral health nonprofits to assist Certified Wellness Coach employers in recruiting and employing personnel in this new profession. This opportunity was recently updated. For details, please read through Addendums <a href="#">One</a>, <a href="#">Two</a>, and <a href="#">Three</a>.</li> <li>◦ Application due <b>March 15, 2024, by 3:00 p.m PST.</b></li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Student Program &amp; Internship   Youth Mental Health Academy</a> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Fourteen-month program for high school students from structurally marginalized communities who are interested in the mental health field. Participants will receive a stipend to learn about topics in mental health and develop skills through a five-week summer academy, be matched with mentors in a health-related field and participate in hands-on experience in clinical, research, or media/communications during their second summer.</li> <li>◦ Application due <b>March 15, 2024, by 11:59 p.m. PST</b></li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Grant   Peer-to-Peer Youth Mental Health High School Pilot Demonstration</a> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ The High School Peer-to-Peer Demonstration Pilot is a school-based youth-driven mental health grant opportunity which will support eight high schools (grades 9-12) in urban, suburban, and rural areas of the state as pilot sites in California for a student peer-to-peer program.</li> <li>◦ Application due <b>March 22, 2024, by 11:59 p.m. PST.</b></li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Grant   Social Work Education Capacity Expansion Grant Program</a> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Grant opportunity for higher education institutions to develop new Bachelor of Art in Social Work (BASW) and/or Master of Social Work (MSW) programs and to expand existing MSW programs.</li> <li>◦ Application due <b>April 8, 2024.</b></li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Grant   Psychiatric Education Capacity Expansion Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioners Grant Program</a> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Grant opportunity for educational institutions to add Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP) field placements, recruit PMNHP students, recruit culturally diverse students who can provide culturally competent care, increase the number of training hours, and provide clinical supervision that leads to credentialing or national certification.</li> <li>◦ Application due <b>April 8, 2024.</b></li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Grant   Psychiatric Education Capacity Expansion Psychiatry Residency Grant Program</a> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Grant opportunity for educational institutions to add psychiatry residency and/or fellowship slots to existing programs, recruit residents/fellows, recruit culturally diverse residents/fellows who can provide culturally competent care, increase the number of training hours, and provide clinical supervision that leads to Board of Psychiatry and Neurology certification.</li> <li>◦ Application due <b>April 8, 2024.</b></li> </ul> </li> </ul>

## Upcoming Webinar

- **Webinar** | [CYBHI Quarterly Public Webinar](#)
  - Get an update on the progress the CYBHI and its workstreams are making to transform the way California meets the behavioral health needs of our children, youth and families.
  - Join on **March 14, 3-5 p.m. PST**

## Spotlights



Story From the Field: Launching a Social Worker Program to Support Student Well-Being in West Kern County

Social workers play a vital role in supporting the health and well-being of our young people. But rural schools often struggle to access critical mental health services and support because of workforce challenges and how distant they are from community resources. In this month's Story From the Field, you'll learn how Kern County school districts joined together to overcome these barriers and meet their students' mental health needs by building a dedicated cohort of school social workers.



### Youth Suicide Prevention Media and Outreach Campaign: Updates and Launch

The California Department of Health (CDPH) Office of Suicide Prevention is excited to launch a data-driven, youth-co-created suicide prevention campaign this spring. The campaign team has worked with its Youth Advisory Board, in addition to a partnership with The Center at Sierra Health Foundation and **34 youth-serving tribal and community-based organizations across the state**, to support the development and implementation of the campaign.

## In the News

[California surgeon general focuses on student trauma during visit to Sonoma schools \(sonomanews.com\)](#)

## About the CYBHI

The Children and Youth Behavioral Health Initiative (CYBHI) is a five-year initiative that is transforming the way California supports children, youth and families. Learn more at [cybhi.chhs.ca.gov](http://cybhi.chhs.ca.gov). You can also view past [updates](#) and [webinars](#).







# County of San Diego

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

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

February 29, 2024

TO: Behavioral Health Advisory Board (BHAB)

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

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

### **EXPLORING A PILOT PROGRAM TO EXPAND RECOVERY RESIDENCE UTILIZATION IN NORTH SAN DIEGO COUNTY AND COUNTYWIDE**

The County of San Diego (County) is transforming behavioral healthcare by building an array of mental health and substance use services that is distributed across the San Diego County region, enabling people to access and remain connected to care within their own communities. To advance this transformation, BHS continues to enhance mental health and substance use services, workforce, and infrastructure to support individuals in connecting to needed care, including housing that is most conducive to recovery.

With a longstanding commitment to addressing behavioral health and housing needs in the county, on [November 7, 2023 \(28\)](#), the San Diego County Board of Supervisors (Board) took action directing staff to explore a pilot program to expand recovery residence access to support approximately 100 homeless individuals in North San Diego County who are in County-funded outpatient substance use treatment through enhanced investments and report back to the Board in 90 days. In addition, the Board directed staff to identify funding for the recovery residence expansion pilot program and include findings in the report back. The Board also directed staff to explore a plan to expand the pilot program countywide and report back in 180 days.

Subsequently, on [December 5, 2023 \(24\)](#), the Board approved a revision to the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Framework to reallocate \$8.0 million of Evergreen Funds to expand recovery residences in support of housing individuals experiencing homelessness who are currently receiving outpatient substance use treatment or recovery services funded by the County. In addition, the Board directed staff to utilize a lost revenue strategy under the final ARPA guidance based on previously allocated General Purpose Revenue in the HHS General Relief Program and transfer revenue of \$8.0 million from Finance Other, Intergovernmental Revenue to HHS.

The information below offers further information on recovery residences and provides an update on efforts to support increased utilization.



## **Background**

Recovery residences are privately-owned homes or living situations that provide housing to adults with substance use or co-occurring conditions who are experiencing homelessness or living in unsafe environments that are not conducive to their recovery. They are essential to the behavioral health continuum of care as a housing option for individuals currently receiving substance use outpatient treatment or recovery services and otherwise do not have access to housing. While recovery residences are considered transitional housing, there is no maximum length of stay for individuals, however, there are ongoing efforts to connect individuals to more permanent housing options.

Recovery residence operators do not directly contract with the County for services but rather have agreements with local community-based substance use outpatient and opioid treatment program (OTP) providers to secure the housing component. Substance use outpatient and OTP providers are responsible for establishing and maintaining an agreement with recovery residence providers and to monitor compliance of each facility to ensure locations are secure, safe, and free of alcohol and other substances.

Recovery residences support individuals in maintaining sobriety and a healthy lifestyle, however, they do not provide treatment services to individuals. Despite being an option for many, recovery residences are not a viable option for all individuals due to the requirement to maintain sobriety as a condition for utilizing this program.

## **Recovery Residence Association**

The Recovery Residence Association (RRA) provides oversight, support, and tools for local recovery residence operators and their proprietors, owners, and residents to ensure living environments meet quality standards. The RRA implements best practices for recovery residences, along with a training curriculum and support for members and the community. Recovery residences that serve County clients are not currently required to be members of RRA; however, they are actively encouraged to join.

RRA was established as a County-funded program in Fiscal Year (FY) 2018-19 and conducts ongoing outreach and engagement to bring on additional members to ensure facilities providing care to behavioral health clients. Since program implementation, the RRA has consistently increased membership from 12 members and 127 recovery residence beds in FY 2018-19 to 45 members and 515 beds in FY 2022-23. As of October 2023, the RRA had 55 members countywide offering approximately 607 beds. Efforts are also underway to establish a more coordinated and centralized oversight of recovery residences and to enhance data collection practices to ensure clients are connected to housing that meets their needs.

## **Utilization and Demographic Data**

BHS has continued to actively engage with RRA to improve access to recovery residence beds. Since FY 2019-20, utilization of recovery residences has increased dramatically from approximately 1,500 unique clients utilizing about 130,000 bed days countywide, to over 2,500 unique clients utilizing nearly 240,000 bed days in FY 2022-23. This is an increase of approximately 67% in unique client utilization and 85% in bed day utilization. With the addition of recovery residence funding to all OTP contracts, it is anticipated that the number of unique clients utilizing recovery residences and the number of bed days will continue to grow in FY 2023-24.

In FY 2022-23, for approximately 2,500 unique clients receiving substance use outpatient or OTP services, recovery residence funding was utilized with an average length of stay in the recovery residence of 66 days. Of the individuals who utilized recovery residences in FY 2022-23, more than 85% were aged 26-59. Data collected on the race/ethnicity of individuals who utilized these services noted that 49% reported being white, 32% Latino/Hispanic, 11% black, and the remaining 10% reported being Asian/Pacific Islander, Native American, or other. Additionally, of those utilizing recovery

residences, 49% had no justice involvement while 43% were on probation or post release, and the remaining 8% were awaiting trial, on parole, or admitted other diversion from Court.

In terms of utilization across the system:

- Of the 7,225 unique clients receiving substance use outpatient services in FY 2022-23, 1,940 self-reported experiencing homelessness at the time of admission. Of those, 53% (1,031) were connected to a recovery residence.
- Of the 4,676 unique clients receiving OTP services in FY 2022-23, 528 self-reported experiencing homelessness at the time of admission. Of those, 1% (7) were connected to a recovery residence. It is noteworthy that except for two programs, OTPs did not receive recovery residence funding until FY 2023-24.

Although data indicate that 47% (909) of individuals experiencing homelessness and receiving outpatient services and 99% (521) receiving services in OTP settings were not connected to recovery residences, there are various factors that may impact a successful connection of clients to recovery residences. Individuals may be unwilling to maintain sobriety as a condition of utilizing services, be reluctant to live in a congregate living situation and/or share a room with others, refuse to relocate due to the geographic location of the recovery residence, or for other reasons. While recovery residence services may be a viable treatment option for many individuals in need of housing while receiving treatment, many may choose not to do so.

#### **Investments to Increase Utilization**

Investments to support recovery residences have steadily grown over the past years. This is critical, as recovery residences are not eligible for Medi-Cal reimbursement and are 100% funded through County Realignment funds. In addition, one-time Substance Abuse Block Grant (SABG) from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Supplemental funds has been supporting continued operations of recovery residences, which will be available through June 30, 2025. Recovery residence budget was approximately \$2.6 million in FY 2019-20 and has grown to approximately \$9.3 million in FY 2023-24, representing an increase of 258%. Of the \$9.3 million budget, realignment funding totals \$8.0 million embedded within 31 contracted substance use outpatient programs, with an additional \$1.3 million in SABG ARPA Supplemental funding, which is embedded within contracts with 10 OTPs. Funding for recovery residences was added for all OTPs in FY 2023-24, with exception of two OTPs that received this funding during the prior fiscal year. Based on information collected during the first quarter of FY 2023-24, substance use outpatient programs and OTPs are projected to utilize approximately 75% of the total recovery residence budget. This is anticipated to increase as OTPs expand utilization for this newly added service.

On December 5, 2023 (24), the Board approved an additional investment of \$8.0 million allocated to support recovery residences through June 30, 2026. Beginning in Spring 2024, this supplemental funding will be allocated to existing substance use outpatient providers to increase countywide utilization of recovery residences and support individuals who are experiencing homelessness or living in unsafe environments that is not conducive to their recovery. The supplemental funding will also support increased rates to enhance and preserve recovery residence capacity, inclusive of specialty populations such as individuals with children who often experience challenges due to their unique needs. Finally, funding will also be utilized to develop a centralized information system for tracking, reporting, capacity management, and outreach and engagement to further increase utilization and oversight of recovery residence housing.

The supplemental funding for recovery residences will be allocated to existing substance use outpatient programs in FY 2025-26 at an amount proportional to the estimated unique number of homeless clients served by each program, as follows.

<b>Recovery Residence Supplemental Funding Budget</b>	
<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b>Estimated Funding</b>
2023-24	\$960,000
2024-25	\$3,520,000
2025-26	\$3,520,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$8,000,000</b>

Supplemental funding allocations may be adjusted based on utilization, need, and expenditures realized by programs.

**Sustainability**

Beginning July 1, 2026, recovery residences may become eligible for Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA) funding through Proposition 1. If passed, this change would be implemented on July 1, 2026. Amongst other impactful changes, BHSA makes substantive shifts to prioritize care for individuals experiencing homelessness, along with adding flexibility to support programming for individuals with substance use disorders. Under this new guidance, recovery residences could be included in the statutorily required annual program and expenditure plan for approval by the Board.

**BHS 2024 SPECIAL EVENTS & ACHIEVEMENTS**

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

Registration is now open 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, to be held on Friday, April 26, 2024. Event details can be found at the following link: <https://cicamh.com>

**Children and Youth Mental Health Well Being Celebration – May 11, 2024**

BHS, through the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) San Diego Community Advocacy Program, is hosting the 10<sup>th</sup> annual Children and Youth Mental Health Well Being Celebration: "Lighting the Path to Social Justice!" on Saturday, May 11, 2024, from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the Grossmont Center Main Courtyard. This event is free of charge, open to the public, and will include a resource fair. To host a resource table, submit an Interest Form at the following link: <https://bit.ly/ResourceFairInterestForm>.

**Partial Hospitalization Program (PHP)**

A Partial Hospitalization Program (PHP) will soon be available in San Diego. PHP is a non-24-hour, time limited (approximately 5 days for two weeks) treatment program that is hospital-based or community-based in a structured setting. The San Diego PHP will offer Day Intensive treatment services in a therapeutic environment with the goal of stabilization, skill building, and medication management. Services will include individual, family, and group therapy with an educational instruction component. The San Diego PHP will serve children/youth up to age 21 with the primary focus on youth between ages 13-18 with similar clinical needs (i.e., mental health and substance use). Referrals will be available through Emergency Screening Unit, Inpatient hospital, and Intensive Outpatient Program (IOP).

**Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) 30-Day Public Review Period**

The County of San Diego Behavioral Health Services (BHS) is seeking approval for a one-time transfer of Community Services and Supports (CSS) funds in the amount of \$10 million to the Capital Facilities and Technological Needs (CFTN) component for the development and construction of the East Region Crisis Stabilization Unit. The total cost for the project is estimated at about \$28 million. BHS will pursue and potentially leverage other funding sources for the remaining costs associated with this project,

which may include Opioid Settlement Funds, grant funds, and others, if available. If other funding is not received, a future request to shift additional MHSAs funds to support this project may be requested. The amendment shifting \$10 million of funding from the CSS component to the CFTN component will be reflected in Fiscal Year (FY) 2023-24 budget within the MHSAs Three-Year Program and Expenditure Plan for Fiscal Years 2023-24 through 2025-26.

The California Code of Regulations §3420.10 allows for the transfer of excess funds from CSS component to Prudent Reserve, CFTN, and Workforce Education and Training (WET) components. The proposed amendment will be posted for the public to access on the BHS website and the Clerk of the Board office for a 30-day public review and comment period, as required. The review period will begin March 5, 2024, and end on April 4, 2024, with a public hearing at the April 4, 2024, Behavioral Health Advisory Board (BHAB) general meeting. The MHSAs Amendment is anticipated to be presented at the May 21, 2024, Board of Supervisors meeting for review and approval, as required by the Mental Health Services Oversight & Accountability Commission (MHSOAC).

Respectfully submitted,

LUKE BERGMANN, Digitally signed by LUKE BERGMANN, Ph.D., Director  
Date: 2024.03.01 10:34:11 -08'00'  
Ph.D., Director

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



# County of San Diego

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

## **NOTICE OF INITIATION OF 30-DAY PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENT PERIOD RE: AMENDMENT TO MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES ACT THREE YEAR PLAN FOR FYS 2023-24 THROUGH 2025-26**

Dear Community Members and Stakeholders:

The County of San Diego is holding a 30-day public review and comment period for the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Amendment to the Three-Year Plan for Fiscal Years 2023-24 through 2025-26. The review period begins March 5, 2024, and ends April 4, 2024, when final comments will be heard at the April Behavioral Health Advisory Board (BHAB) meeting. The MHSA Amendment will go before the San Diego County Board of Supervisors on May 21, 2024, subject to change, for review and approval, as required by the Mental Health Services Oversight & Accountability Commission (MHSOAC).

The Amendment seeks to shift \$10.0 million of Community Services and Supports (CSS) component funding to the Capital Facilities and Technological Needs (CFTN) component in Fiscal Year (FY) 2023-24, to support the development and construction of the East Region Crisis Stabilization Unit.

The following information is located on the Behavioral Health Services website:

**Amendment to the MHSA Three-Year Plan for Fys 2023-24 through 2025-26:**

[Mental Health Services Act \(MHSA\) \(sandiegocounty.gov\)](http://www.sandiegocounty.gov)

**BHAB Meeting Information:**

[http://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/hhsa/programs/bhs/mental\\_health\\_services\\_act/bhab.html](http://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/hhsa/programs/bhs/mental_health_services_act/bhab.html)

Please review the draft MHSA Amendment and send your comments, suggestions and/or questions to either the MHSA voice message line or email address below or use the Public Comment link below:

**[Mental Health Services Act Amendment Public Comment Form](#)**

**Mental Health Services Act Comment/Question Line:**

Phone: 619-584-5063 / Toll-Free: 888-977-6763

Email: [MHSProp63.HHSA@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:MHSProp63.HHSA@sdcounty.ca.gov)

Thank You,

**LUKE BERGMANN,** Digitally signed by LUKE BERGMANN, Ph.D. Director  
Ph.D., Director Date: 2024.03.04 16:53:52 -08'00'

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

# California EQRO for Drug Medi-Cal Organized Delivery System

Behavioral Health Concepts, Inc. is serving as California's External Quality Review Organization for Drug Medi-Cal Organized Delivery System (DMC-ODS)

## [Drug Medi-Cal Organized Delivery System : CalEQRO](#)

### News and Updates

#### **FY23-24 Review Forms, Materials, and Schedules are Available** **DMC-ODS**

Behavioral Health Concepts has released the FY23-24 review forms, materials, and schedules. Please use the following links to view and download:  
[Drug Medi-Cal Review Tools](#) | [Schedule](#)

#### **FY21-22 Statewide Annual Report Available** **DMC-ODS**

Behavioral Health Concepts is pleased to announce that the FY 21-22 Statewide Annual Report is now available for download on CalEQRO.com. Please use the following link to download the report: [FY21-22 Statewide Annual Report](#)

#### **5-Year Statewide Report Available** **DMC-ODS**

Behavioral Health Concepts is pleased to announce that the five-year report summarizing the first years of External Quality Reviews of the Drug Medi-Cal Organized Delivery Systems in California is now available for download. [5-Year Statewide Report](#)

# 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 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)



# DEPARTMENT OF HOMELESS SOLUTIONS AND EQUITABLE COMMUNITIES

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***Katie Gordon***

*Community Health & Engagement Team Manager  
Office of Equitable Communities*

*Department of Homeless Solutions & Equitable Communities  
County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA)*





**Department of Homeless Solutions  
and Equitable Communities**  
*Barbara Jiménez, Community Operations Officer*



**Office of  
Homeless  
Solutions**  
Dijana Beck  
*Director*



**Office of  
Equitable  
Communities**  
Jennifer  
Bransford-Koons  
*Director*



**Office of  
Immigrant and  
Refugee Affairs**  
Lucero  
Chavez Basilio  
*Director*

**Department Focus:** *To achieve better coordination of existing and new County homeless and equitable community efforts and serve as a central point of collaboration for outside partners to ensure equity among all San Diegans and reduce homelessness in the region.*



# OFFICE OF HOMELESS SOLUTIONS (OHS)



LIVE WELL  
SAN DIEGO

## Focus

Homeless Assistance Services and Prevention Programs

Specilaized Funding for Imminent Needs

Housing Disability Advocacy Program

Innovative Housing, Affirming Services and Resources for People Identyfing as LGBTQ+

Magnolia Safe Parking

Coordinated Eviction Prevention System

## Direct outreach & system coordination

Systems & Integration Branch

Services & Outreach Branch

## Highlighted Projects

Housing Our Youth (HOY)

Regional Homeless Services



# OFFICE OF EQUITABLE COMMUNITIES (OEqC)



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SAN DIEGO

## Programs and Projects

Regional  
Community  
Coordination

Community  
Health  
Engagement  
Team (CHET)

Community  
Action  
Partnership

Community  
Health Worker  
(CHW) Liaisons  
and CHWs

## Community engagement at the core:

Outreach is  
culturally  
responsiveness  
, trauma-  
informed and  
inclusive

## Highlighted Projects

Grandparents Raising  
Grandchildren

Community Health Workers-  
Behavioral Health Services focus



# OFFICE OF IMMIGRANT AND REFUGEE AFFAIRS (OIRA)



LIVE WELL  
SAN DIEGO

## Focus

Regional expert  
and leader in  
immigrant and  
refugee affairs

Provider of  
information,  
referrals, and  
resources

## Programs:

Refugee Support  
Services

Landlord Education  
Program

Emotional Wellness  
and Self Care  
Education Program

## Highlighted Projects

South Region and North Region  
Welcome Centers





# LIVE WELL SAN DIEGO REGIONAL COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP TEAMS



LIVE WELL  
SAN DIEGO

## WE ENCOURAGE YOUR PROGRAMS TO JOIN US!



### South

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday at 2PM
- Focus Areas:  
Mental Health
- Food Insecurity
- Homelessness



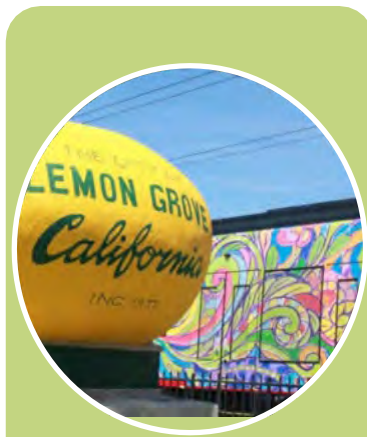
### Central

- 4<sup>th</sup> Monday at 1:30 PM
- Focus areas:  
• Health & Well-Being
- Housing for All
- Education & Economic Vitality



### North Central

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday at 11AM
- Focus areas:  
Youth and Families
- Food Security and & Homelessness Reduction
- Behavioral Health



### East

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday at 10:30 AM
- Focus areas:  
• Behavioral Health /Prevention and Early Intervention
- East Region Thriving Communities
- Children and Families



### North Region

- 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday at 10 AM (dark quarterly)
- Focus Areas:  
• Mental Health
- Substance Abuse
- Homelessness





# THANK YOU!

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*Katie Gordon*

*Office of Equitable Communities*

*Department of Homeless Solutions & Equitable Communities*

*[Katherine.gordon@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:Katherine.gordon@sdcounty.ca.gov)*



# Save the Date!



**April 8, 2024**  
**10:00 am to 11:30 a.m.**

## **Combined Behavioral Health Services Councils Meeting**

Children, Youth and Families (CYF) Council  
Transitional Age Youth (TAY) Council  
Older Adult Council  
Housing Council  
Adult Council  
Peer Council

**Zoom link to be sent out separately**

*For more information, contact:* **Loretta Ramirez,**  
**AA III** [Loretta.Ramirez@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:Loretta.Ramirez@sdcounty.ca.gov) and **Francisco**  
**Evangelista, AA II** [Francisco.Evangelista@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:Francisco.Evangelista@sdcounty.ca.gov)



# Family Sector Meeting



## BECOME A SEAT MEMBER

Inviting all youth ages (16-26) and caregivers of youth who are part of the mental health and substance use community to join our Family Sector as a seat member.

[Sign Up](#)





# Calling Youth Ages (16-26) and Caregivers of Youth

**WHO ARE PART OF THE MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE USE COMMUNITY!**

**JOIN OUR PEER COUNCIL**

**AS A SEAT MEMBER!**

**LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD!**

**INTERESTED?  
CLICK THIS  
APPLICATION  
LINK**



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO  
HEALTH AND HUMAN  
SERVICES AGENCY



San Diego and  
Imperial Counties



LIVE WELL  
SAN DIEGO



Every 11 minutes,  
someone loses their life to suicide.  
A mental health crisis  
deserves a mental health response.



Local Crisis Hotlines  
& Call Centers



Mobile Crisis  
Response Teams



Crisis Stabilization  
Units & Options

## COMMUNITY ADVOCACY TRAINING: REIMAGINING CRISIS RESPONSE

This training covers 988, mobile crisis response teams, PERT, local resources, and more! Virtual on Zoom!

Upcoming Trainings:  
Friday, 3/8, 2:00 - 3:30  
Thursday, 3/14, 2:00 - 3:30



3/8/24



3/14/24



NAMI SAN DIEGO & IMPERIAL COUNTIES

RSVP by clicking on a date or scanning the QR code



# COMMUNITY ADVOCACY TRAINING!

*Telling Your Story!*  
Learn how to transform  
passion and lived  
experience into skillful  
grassroots advocacy!



**March 26, 2024**  
**2:00 PM- 4:00 PM**



*Use QR code, or click on date to register in advance*



Community  
Advocacy  
Program



**NAMI SAN DIEGO & IMPERIAL COUNTIES**



# 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:

	Student	Professional
<b>VIRTUAL</b>		
Early Bird	\$50	\$75
Regular	\$75	\$100
<b>IN PERSON</b>		
Early Bird	\$100	\$125
Regular	\$125	\$150

### REGISTER



[APP.GE-GO.COM/CICAMH2024](http://APP.GE-GO.COM/CICAMH2024)





# Community Based Organizations Wanted for Resource Fair!

- 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!

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

**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



***Come and Join***

***Thursday, March 21, 2024  
Time: 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM***

# ***May Event Planning Meeting***

***Come bring your  
ideas and help plan  
our Children, Youth,  
and Families Mental  
Health & Well Being  
Celebration!***

***RSVP by using link below  
[Zoom Link](#)***



San Diego and  
Imperial Counties



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO  
HEALTH AND HUMAN  
SERVICES AGENCY

130  
**LIVE WELL  
SAN DIEGO**



# CMHACY

California Mental Health Advocates  
for Children and Youth



at

**Asilomar Hotel and Conference Grounds**

**[Registration](#)**

**[Book your room in the CMHACY Block](#)**

**[2024 Conference – CMHACY](#)**