

**COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 05, 2023**

**MINUTE ORDER NO. 25**

**SUBJECT:     ADVANCING REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS EDUCATION AND PURSUING  
LITIGATION TO SHUT DOWN FAKE AND FRAUDULENT CRISIS  
PREGNANCY CENTERS (DISTRICTS: ALL)**

**OVERVIEW**

On November 7, 2023 (30), the Board of Supervisors considered this item. The motion to adopt the recommendations failed due to a tie vote, and the Board did not continue the item. Pursuant to Rule 2(g) of the Board of Supervisors Rules of Procedure, the item was placed on the agenda for the next regular meeting.

In September 2023, legal action was initiated by California State Attorney General Rob Bonta against two California “Crisis Pregnancy Centers.” These centers, notorious for their unethical practices, were accused of using deceptive methods to dissuade women from pursuing abortion. The blatant misinformation, presented as “medical advice,” is just one of the tactics deployed by these so-called medical providers.

According to news reports, San Diego County has as many as 16 “Crisis Pregnancy Centers” that unknowing residents could be using to their detriment. These centers misleadingly offer free consultations for services, but then present individuals with anti-abortion information and actively try to stop individuals from terminating their pregnancy. San Diego County residents are at risk of being harmed emotionally and physically by “Crisis Pregnancy Centers.” We must ensure our residents are properly informed about the dangers of these fake reproductive health centers.

Today’s action requests the Board of Supervisors (Board) take action to amplify important programs launched by the state of California in the wake of the overturning of *Roe v. Wade*, and direct the County Chief Administrative Officer to develop a public education campaign plan to make communities aware of deceptive “Crisis Pregnancy Centers,” and share information about vital reproductive health services from reputable and qualified providers such as Planned Parenthood by making the information available to the public through California Senate Bill (SB) 245 and Medi-Cal.

This action will be another step in ensuring that there continues to be broad public access to vital reproductive healthcare services, and that an individual’s right to choose is not jeopardized.

**RECOMMENDATION(S)**

**SUPERVISOR TERRA LAWSON-REMER**

1. Direct the County Counsel, in consultation with the Chief Administrative Officer, to bring back recommendations to the Board regarding options for initiation of litigation against, including but not limited to shutting down such centers, whether in Closed or Open Session, as appropriate.
2. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to create and implement a public education campaign plan that potentially include billboards and social media ads, to (a) increase local awareness around “Crisis Pregnancy Centers,” and (b) educate the public about resources available under California Senate Bill (SB) 245, as well as reproductive services for Medi-Cal recipients.

3. Authorize the Agency Director for Health and Human Services to apply for additional funding opportunities, if available, to fund efforts to increase awareness around reproductive health services.

### **EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

When safe and legal access to abortion and reproductive care is limited, restricted, or jeopardized-people of color, immigrants, young individuals, and people with low incomes are often the first to be impacted. It is imperative that the County of San Diego be at the forefront in defending and protecting the right to abortion and reproductive care and increase public awareness about what services are available within our local communities.

### **SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

The plan will seek to use environmentally sustainable forms of advertising and outreach, such as digital communications and billboards, rather than mass mailings or leaflets.

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

Funds for this request are included in the Fiscal Year 2023-24 Operational Plan for the Health and Human Services Agency. If approved, this request will result in estimated one-time costs of \$500,000. HHSA will use existing appropriations to fund costs. The funding source is existing one-time General Purpose Revenue. At this time, there will be no change in net General Fund cost and no additional staff years.

### **BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT**

N/A

### **ACTION:**

This item was withdrawn at the request of Vice-Chair Terra Lawon-Remer.

State of California)  
County of San Diego) §

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true and correct copy of the Original entered in the Minutes of the Board of Supervisors.

ANDREW POTTER  
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors



**Signed**  
**by** Andrew Potter

