

ATTACHMENT

For Item

#19

Tuesday,
April 9,
2024

PUBLIC COMMUNICATION RECEIVED BY THE CLERK
OF THE BOARD

From: [Mier, David](#)
To: [Vargas, Nora \(BOS\)](#); [MontgomerySteppe, Monica](#); [Desmond, Jim](#); [Anderson, Joel](#); [Lawson-Remer, Terra](#)
Cc: [Aghassi, Sarah](#); [McDonald, Eric](#); [Bergmann, Luke](#); [Collins, Jeff](#); [FGG, Public Comment](#); [Ramirez, Griselda \(BOS\)](#); ["Maysent, Patty"](#)
Subject: [External] UCSD Health Item 19 Letter of Support – Involuntary Behavioral Health Treatment in San Diego County
Date: Monday, April 8, 2024 11:55:17 AM
Attachments: [image003.png](#)
[UCSDH - SB43 Readiness LOS.pdf](#)

Dear Chair Vargas and Esteemed Supervisors, we are sharing the attached letter of support submitted on behalf of UC San Diego Health CEO, Patty Maysent, and in alignment with the collaborative efforts of our Senate Bill (SB) 43 working group representatives, expressing our support for the progress and strategic planning efforts undertaken by the County of San Diego to implement SB 43 effectively.

Thank you for your continued leadership and commitment to this vital cause. We look forward to furthering our partnership in these endeavors.

Sincerely,

David

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April 5, 2024

San Diego County Board of Supervisors
County Administration Center
1600 Pacific Highway, Rm 335
San Diego, CA, 92101

Subject: Support for Updates on Readiness for Changes to Involuntary Behavioral Health Treatment in San Diego County

Patricia S. Maysent
Chief Executive Officer

Dear Chair Vargas and Esteemed Supervisors,

On behalf of UC San Diego Health, and in alignment with the collaborative efforts of our Senate Bill (SB) 43 working group representatives, I express our support for the progress and strategic planning efforts undertaken to implement SB 43 effectively. This legislation represents a critical step forward in evolving our approach to involuntary behavioral health treatment within San Diego County, ensuring a more inclusive and compassionate healthcare landscape.

Our health system is fully committed to enhancing the fabric of our behavioral health services, recognizing the expansion of the “gravely disabled” definition under SB 43 to include severe substance use disorders as a significant advancement. This expansion necessitates a multifaceted approach, including bolstering connections to substance use disorder (SUD) residential and outpatient treatments. Furthermore, we would like to bring to attention the current status of locked inpatient psychiatric units not being able to admit patients with primary SUD diagnosis. This is not only outdated, but continues to stigmatize these patients while creating undue financial burden on our inpatient psychiatric units. Additionally, significant data exist in SUD patients also having co-occurring serious mental illness. In line with this, we advocate for pivotal policy changes that supports and adjusts rates for locked hospital facilities treating patients under SUD and co-occurring diagnoses, ensuring a continuum of care that addresses the complexity of their needs.

Moreover, we stand in full support of initiatives aimed at expanding the capacity and scope of Crisis Stabilization Units (CSUs) and enabling Psychiatric Health Facilities (PHFs) to provide care for these individuals. Currently, CSUs and PHFs cannot bill for primary SUD diagnoses. Effort needs to be made to ensure that they are available to provide care to SUD and co-occurring SMI diagnoses. These policy enhancements will not only broaden the spectrum of available treatment options but will also facilitate a more integrated and efficient care delivery system for those affected by severe SUD.

In conjunction with these efforts, we recognize the essential role of CSUs in our healthcare system and support the necessary expansion of their scope and capacity. By doing so, we can ensure a more robust and responsive behavioral health infrastructure, capable of meeting the increased demand for services and providing a foundation for long-term recovery and stability.

As UC San Diego Health continues to collaborate with county officials and all the community stakeholders, we remain dedicated to contributing our resources and expertise towards the successful implementation of SB 43. Together, we are poised to make significant strides in enhancing the well-being of our community members, particularly those historically underserved, aligning with our collective vision for a just, sustainable, and resilient future for all in San Diego County.

Thank you for your continued leadership and commitment to this vital cause. We look forward to furthering our partnership in these endeavors.

With sincere regards,



Patricia S. Maysent
Chief Executive Officer
UC San Diego Health

CC: Sarah Aghassi, Interim Chief Administrative Officer
Dr. Eric McDonald, Interim Agency Director, HHSA
Luke Bergmann, Director of Behavioral Health Services, HHSA
Holly Porter, Deputy CAO of PSG
Jeff Collins, Director, San Diego County Fire