

From: [Bob Stonebrook](#)
To: [FGG, Public Comment](#)
Subject: [External] Supporting Item 12: CREATING A CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND TRANSITION AGE YOUTH BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CONTINUUM FRAMEWORK FOR SAN DIEGO COUNTY
Date: Sunday, September 22, 2024 11:16:16 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)

County of San Diego
Board of Supervisors



Item 12 is an important and necessary step to improving youth (and adult) behavioral healthcare in San Diego County. The work being done should encompass all youth regardless of insurance type and expectations should be set that resulting strategies will improve key metrics like:

- Rates of youth suicide should decrease
- Rates of youth substance abuse should decrease
- Rates of anxiety/depression should decrease
- Wait times to access behavioral healthcare should decrease
- Children Now Children's Report Score should be B+ or better
- Improved school attendance
- Improved graduation rates
- Reduced school suspensions
- Reduced youth crime rates

And while this important project advances, urgent work must continue on the two big behavioral health elephants: lack of facilities and lack of staffing.

Best regards,

Bob Stonebrook

 [760-281-3242](tel:760-281-3242)
 bob@nanssproject.org





September 23, 2024

Subject: Supporting Item 12: CREATING A CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND TRANSITION AGE YOUTH BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CONTINUUM FRAMEWORK FOR SAN DIEGO COUNTY

On behalf of San Diego Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, I am writing to **express our support** for the County of San Diego's proposal **to create a Children, Youth, and TAY Behavioral Health Continuum Framework** across the 0 to 25 age continuum that is based on data analytics and considers stakeholder insights and current challenges within the broader behavioral healthcare system.

The County has already taken bold action to move our behavioral health continuum from a model of care driven by crises to one centered on continuous care and prevention. The primary focus so far has been on adding capacity and recalibrating the County's Continuum of Care to service the behavioral health needs of adults. With this progress well underway, the County is now poised to **turn its attention to the child and youth behavioral health crisis** and to build upon the work done for adults.

Since 2010, nearly every indicator of mental well-being among children and youth has deteriorated. Ensuring access to prevention and intervention services and to primary care clinicians and behavioral health specialists are critical components of any plan to address the local youth behavioral health crisis and to support children and youth as they navigate these challenges. Interagency collaboration (including BHS, Child and Family Well-being, School Districts, Juvenile Justice, and Regional Center) will continue to be important. It will be vital to include representation from different parties, including the child psychiatry community, in the planning process. We specifically recommend backfilling funding losses for early childhood mental health services and continued support for integrated behavioral health care. In addition, as we recommend promotion of supportive and preventive public health initiatives by other governmental programs that impact youth and family mental well-being, like Parks and Rec, Public Libraries, etc.

We believe this proposed policy can play a vital role in addressing the children and youth behavioral health crisis by identifying service gaps and innovative ways to shore up the County's system of care across the entire lifespan.

Therefore, we urge your support for this proposal and to vote 'yes' on this item at the September 24th, 2024, Board of Supervisors meeting.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Charmi Patel Rao'.

Charmi Patel Rao, MD, DFAACAP

President, San Diego Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry



Autism Society San Diego

September 20, 2024

Dear Board of Supervisors:

Subject: Supporting Item 12: CREATING A CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND TRANSITION AGE YOUTH BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CONTINUUM FRAMEWORK FOR SAN DIEGO COUNTY

On behalf of Autism Society San Diego, I am writing to **express my strong support** for the County of San Diego's proposal **to create a Children, Youth, and TAY Behavioral Health Continuum Framework** across the 0 to 25 age continuum that is based on data analytics and considers stakeholder insights and current challenges within the broader behavioral healthcare system.

The County has already taken bold action to move our behavioral health continuum from a model of care driven by crises to one centered on continuous care and prevention. The primary focus so far has been on adding capacity and recalibrating the County's Continuum of Care to service the behavioral health needs of adults. With this progress well underway, the County is now poised to **turn its attention to the child and youth behavioral health crisis** and to build upon the work done for adults.

Since 2010, nearly every indicator of mental well-being among children and youth has deteriorated. The impacts are now countywide with residents in the East region concerned with the lack of access to services and residents in the North region concerned with rising levels of anxiety, depression, and substance use.

Ensuring access to prevention and intervention services and to primary care clinicians and behavioral health specialists are critical components of any plan to address the local youth behavioral health crisis and to support children and youth as they navigate these challenges. As members of the autism community, we know firsthand the need for quality and timely behavioral health intervention services.

We believe this proposed policy can play a vital role in addressing the children and youth behavioral health crisis by identifying service gaps and innovative ways to shore up the County's system of care across the entire lifespan.

Therefore, I urge your support for this proposal and to vote 'yes' on this item at the September 24th, 2024, Board of Supervisors meeting.

Sincerely,

**Shahriar Afshar, Executive Director
Autism Society San Diego**

**Joe Ireland, President
Autism Society San Diego**

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