

**COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
TUESDAY, MARCH 24, 2026**

MINUTE ORDER NO. 26

**SUBJECT: RECEIVE UPDATE AND PRESENTATION FROM THE AD HOC
SUBCOMMITTEE ON SOCIAL SAFETY NET AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH
SYSTEMS TRANSFORMATION (DISTRICTS: ALL)**

OVERVIEW

On August 26, 2025 (24), the San Diego County Board of Supervisors established the Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Social Safety Net and Behavioral Health Systems Transformation (Ad Hoc Subcommittee) and directed it to advise the Board on two priority areas: developing a coordinated Countywide response to anticipated federal changes to public benefits eligibility systems, and guiding the multi-year transformation of Behavioral Health Services (BHS) into a standalone organizational structure.

Since its establishment, the Ad Hoc Subcommittee has remained actively engaged, with staff from respective Board offices meeting with County of San Diego (County) staff to provide strategic guidance, monitor progress, and ensure alignment with the Board’s direction. This consistent engagement has enabled early identification of enterprise-wide focus areas, support for operational readiness planning, and coordinated development of assessments related to both federal public benefits changes and BHS structural transformation.

To prepare for this work, County staff executed a contract with Precision Health Strategies on January 15, 2026, securing specialized expertise to conduct an in-depth assessment of the operational, fiscal, and equity impacts of H.R. 1 on the County and inform strategies to prepare for potential changes to Medi-Cal, CalFresh, and other social safety net eligibility systems. This collaboration has provided critical technical capacity to evaluate federal requirements, model potential impacts on County service delivery, and support the development of a coordinated Countywide response. This work was presented at the Ad Hoc Subcommittee meeting on February 11, 2026.

Today’s item requests that the Board receive an update from the Ad Hoc Subcommittee with a focus on the foundational work that is underway to support a cohesive, equity-focused transformation of the County’s safety net service system, and to provide the full Board with the information provided to the Ad Hoc Subcommittee on February 11, 2026.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

CHAIR TERRA LAWSON-REMER AND VICE CHAIR MONICA MONTGOMERY STEPPE

Receive update and presentation from the Social Safety Net and Behavioral Health Transformation Ad Hoc Subcommittee.

EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT

Starting on April 1, 2026, counties will evaluate CalFresh applications and renewals under new rules that remove eligibility for certain groups of lawfully present noncitizens, including asylees and refugees. Current estimates show that this change could lead to a loss of CalFresh benefits for approximately 13,000 current San Diego County CalFresh customers over the next year. In addition, starting on June 1, 2026, new or renewing CalFresh “Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWD)” will have to meet work requirements to get or maintain eligibility for benefits. Based on December 2025 enrollment data, it is estimated that approximately 93,500 individuals will be subject to

the ABAWD work requirement during the first year of implementation. Today's item supports the County of San Diego's (County) ongoing commitment to equitable access to essential safety-net services. By evaluating potential impacts of federal eligibility changes and strengthening coordination across departments, the County is working to ensure that all residents can continue to access timely and reliable services.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT

Today's item supports the County of San Diego's long-term sustainability goals, specifically by promoting just and equitable access to essential supports and safeguarding community well-being. Coordination across departments and analyses underway under the leadership of the Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Social Safety Net and Behavioral Health Systems Transformation collectively ensure the County is more prepared to respond to the emerging needs of the community in response to changes in social safety net eligibility requirements.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact associated with this recommendation to receive an update and presentation. 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 from the Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Social Safety Net and Behavioral Health Systems Transformation which would return to the Board for consideration and approval.

BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT

N/A

ACTION:

Noting for the record this item was heard on March 25, 2026; The Board of Supervisors received an update and presentation from the Social Safety Net and Behavioral Health Transformation Ad Hoc Subcommittee.

ABSENT: Anderson

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