



January 28, 2025

County of San Diego County Board of Supervisors 1600 Pacific Coast Highway Fourth Floor, Room 402 San Diego, CA 92101 Meeting Date: January 28, 2025

Agenda Item No. 19

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RE: Agenda Item #19, January 28, 2025 – Enhancing Behavioral Health Accessibility: Establishing New Partnerships Across the Continuum of Care and A-72 Waiver - **SUPPORT**

Dear Members of the Board of Supervisors:

The League of Women Voters of San Diego and the League of Women Voters of North County San Diego support the Board of Supervisors' direction to the Chief Administrative Officer to immediately explore partnerships to expand behavioral health options for people with serious mental illness and substance use disorder treatment. The League of Women Voters believes the County's mental health care system must provide comprehensive services for the acutely, chronically, and seriously mentally ill of all ages.

There is well-documented linkage between chronic homelessness and serious mental illness and substance use disorders shown in this 2023 California <u>Statewide Study</u>. This action would address two key County responsibilities: to administer specialty mental health services and to provide for the needs of people experiencing homelessness throughout the unincorporated area.

We also support this action's potential to leverage partnerships for academic clinical training, which further invests in the region's economy and well-being.

We urge the Board of Supervisors to support this action to bring expanded needed mental illness services to the County.

Thank you for considering our input.

Respectfully submitted,

Marian Vega Clancy, President

League of Women Voters North County San Diego

Kim Knox, President

League of Women Voters San Diego