

From: [Jeff Wiemann](#)
To: [FGG, Public Comment](#)
Subject: [External] Letter of Support for Agenda Items #12 Board of Supervisor Meeting 9/24/24
Date: Tuesday, September 24, 2024 7:59:12 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

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

On behalf of Angels Foster Family Network, 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 a Foster Family Agency who focuses primarily on children ages birth to 8, we have seen a dramatic increase in early childhood mental challenges in the children we serve. Having access to and a comprehensive plan is critical for the success of our community.

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.

Jeff Wiemann
Executive Director &

Former Angels Foster Parent



Our Mission: *To passionately and collaboratively care for children five and younger with diverse and exceptional families who dedicate themselves to each child's wellbeing.*

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