Meeting Date: August 26, 2025 Agenda Item No. 24 Distribution Date: August 22, 2025 Batch No. 03

From:

To: Desmond, Jim; Supervisor Joel Anderson District 2; MontgomerySteppe, Monica; BOS, District1Community;

Lawson-Remer, Terra

Cc: FGG, Public Comment; La Prensa San Diego; San Diego UT Senior Editor; San Diego UT Community Op Ed;

Times of San Diego; Voice of San Diego

Subject: [External] ADVANCING EQUITY THROUGH AN AD HOC SUBCOMMITTEE (please include with documents for

agenda #24)

Date: Thursday, August 21, 2025 4:20:42 PM

Good Afternoon, Supervisors

Another proposal based on old data. The Financial summary says "Funding will be based on the redirection of amounts set aside for the December 10, 2024, actions that are proposed for recission today." Also claims \$400,000 in costs. This has also surely changed since it was written.

Not sure why this links changes to Medicaid and nutritional programs with the realignment of the Behavioral Health System (BHS) into a standalone department. BHS uses many of the same resources as a hospital, so that BHS and other medical services belong in the same organization.

While the title stresses transformation, this proposal Recommendation b(1) suggests that Behavioral Health Services should be its own department including adjustments to governance, organizational alignment, staffing, and resource deployment "It would seem that this would entail the use of more resources which could have been used to support Medicare and Nutritional Assistance cuts.

This sounds like a government ploy to set up a new department, perhaps to rehire old friends at a cost, and deny full support to the people who need Medical and CalFresh. I urge you to reject this scheme.

Regards,

Paul Henkin