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**SENATOR TONI G. ATKINS**  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE EMERITUS

Meeting Date: September 24, 2024  
Agenda Item No. 13  
Batch No. 02

September 20, 2024

The Honorable Board of Supervisors  
County of San Diego  
1600 Pacific Highway  
San Diego, CA 92101

RE: September 24, 2024 Board Meeting, Agenda Item 13: Partnership with UCSD  
Health for Behavioral Health Services at East Campus Medical Center

Dear Honorable Members of the Board of Supervisors:

I am writing to express my strong support for Item 13, the County of San Diego's continued partnership with the University of California, San Diego Health (UCSD Health) to expand Behavioral Health services at the East Campus Medical Center. This crucial initiative represents a significant stride toward addressing San Diego County's mental health crisis, especially for Medi-Cal beneficiaries and underserved populations.

The ongoing shortage of behavioral health services in our region, particularly in psychiatric care, highlights the necessity of enhancing access to specialized treatment. The establishment of a new inpatient behavioral health facility, as well as a Crisis Stabilization Unit (CSU), is a critical step to ensuring that individuals in acute mental distress can receive timely and appropriate care without relying solely on emergency departments.

The partnership between the County and UCSD Health has already demonstrated its potential to strengthen our local behavioral health infrastructure. By continuing to support this project, San Diego County will further solidify its commitment to creating a robust, regionally distributed system of care that meets the unique needs of our community. This project will reduce unnecessary hospitalizations and ensure that patients can access care closer to home, improving outcomes for individuals in need of behavioral health services.

Moreover, the focus on developing academic and workforce training through this partnership will enhance the quality of care and ensure a steady pipeline of well-trained

professionals in the field of Behavioral Health. This will not only benefit our current residents but also support the long-term sustainability and capacity of our healthcare system.

I urge the Board to approve Item 13 and authorize the necessary agreements and appropriations to advance this important initiative. The approval of this project will reflect our county's dedication to providing equitable, high-quality behavioral health services that promote the well-being of all residents.

Thank you for your leadership and consideration of this critical step forward.

Warmly,



TONI G. ATKINS  
Senate President pro Tempore Emeritus  
39<sup>th</sup> Senate District

TGA:jw:

# California State Senate

SENATE MINORITY LEADER BRIAN W. JONES

FORTIETH SENATE DISTRICT



September 20, 2024

San Diego County Board of Supervisors  
County Administration Center  
1600 Pacific Highway, Rm 335  
San Diego, CA, 92101

Dear Chair Vargas and Esteemed Supervisors,

I am writing to express my strong support for the County's partnership with UC San Diego Health to expand behavioral health services at the East Campus Medical Center (ECMC). The proposal to establish a new inpatient behavioral health facility and a Crisis Stabilization Unit (CSU) will significantly strengthen the continuum of care for individuals experiencing mental health crises, particularly for underserved populations across San Diego County.

As San Diego continues to face significant challenges related to homelessness and unmet behavioral health needs, this partnership is especially vital. Many individuals experiencing homelessness are in urgent need of mental health and substance use services, but gaps in care have often left them without the necessary support. By adding a behavioral health hub at UC San Diego Health's East Campus Medical Center, we will address these pressing issues, offering timely interventions that can prevent crises, reduce hospitalizations, and improve overall well-being for vulnerable populations in our region.

In addition to expanding access to critical services, this initiative will integrate teaching and research, providing not only cutting-edge care for patients but also helping to develop the next generation of behavioral health professionals. By providing hands-on training for medical students, residents, and other healthcare professionals, the new behavioral health infrastructure at ECMC will play a pivotal role in addressing the growing workforce shortage in behavioral health. This collaboration will help ensure that San Diego County has a robust and highly trained workforce to meet future mental health needs.

If you have any questions about my support, please do not hesitate to contact me at 858-547-3818. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Brian W. Jones", is written over the printed name and title.

Brian W. Jones  
Senator 40<sup>th</sup> District

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DEVELOPMENT  
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LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT  
PRIVACY AND CONSUMER PROTECTION  
TRANSPORTATION

September 20, 2024

San Diego County Board of Supervisors  
County Administration Center  
1600 Pacific Highway, Rm 335  
San Diego, CA, 92101

**Subject:** UPDATE ON AND AUTHORIZATION TO EXECUTE AGREEMENTS FOR THE PARTNERSHIP WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO HEALTH FOR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES WITHIN THE EAST CAMPUS MEDICAL CENTER

Dear Chair Vargas and Esteemed Supervisors,

I am writing to express my support for the County's partnership with UC San Diego Health to expand behavioral health services at the East Campus Medical Center (ECMC). The proposal to establish a new inpatient behavioral health facility and a Crisis Stabilization Unit (CSU) will significantly strengthen the continuum of care for our most vulnerable individuals experiencing mental health crises across San Diego County.

As San Diego continues to face significant challenges related to homelessness and unmet behavioral health needs, this partnership is especially vital. Adding a behavioral health hub at UC San Diego Health's East Campus Medical Center will address these pressing needs, offering timely interventions that can prevent crises, reduce hospitalizations, and improve the overall well-being of vulnerable populations in our region.

In addition to expanding these critical services, this work combines superior care for patients it will also provide hands-on training for behavioral health professionals working in the field. This will also be an opportunity to increase jobs for healthcare professionals in the county and help us meet future mental health needs.

I thank the Board for prioritizing this partnership and working with a local institution like UC San Diego to help address our mental health crisis. I look forward to this continued collaboration to expand behavioral health services and ensure equitable access for all San Diegans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. Ward", is written over a horizontal line.

CHRISTOPHER M. WARD  
Assemblymember, 78<sup>th</sup> District



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

TODD GLORIA

MAYOR

September 20, 2024

San Diego County Board of Supervisors  
County Administration Center  
1600 Pacific Highway, Room 335  
San Diego, CA 92101

**Re: Agreements for the Partnership with The University of California, San Diego  
Health for Behavioral Health Services within the East Campus Medical Center**

Dear Chairwoman Vargas and Honorable Supervisors:

As Mayor of the City of San Diego, I am writing in strong support for the County's partnership with UC San Diego Health to expand behavioral health services at the East Campus Medical Center (ECMC). This will significantly strengthen the continuum of care for people experiencing mental health crises, particularly for underserved populations across San Diego County.

As San Diego continues to face significant challenges related to homelessness and unmet behavioral health needs, this partnership is especially vital. Many people experiencing homelessness are in urgent need of mental health and substance use services, but gaps in care have often left them without the necessary support. By adding a behavioral health hub at UC San Diego Health's East Campus Medical Center, we will begin to address these pressing issues, offering timely interventions that can prevent crises, reduce hospitalizations, and improve overall well-being for vulnerable populations in our region.

In addition to expanding access to critical services, this initiative will integrate teaching and research, providing not only cutting-edge care for patients but also helping to develop the next generation of behavioral health professionals. By providing hands-on training for medical students, residents, and other healthcare professionals, the new behavioral health infrastructure at ECMC will play a pivotal role in addressing the growing workforce shortage in behavioral health. This

collaboration will help ensure that San Diego County has a robust and highly trained workforce to meet future mental health needs.

I look forward to continuing our collaboration to expand behavioral health services across the region. Should you have any questions, please contact Dion Akers, Senior Advisor of Government Affairs, at [dakers@sandiego.gov](mailto:dakers@sandiego.gov) or (619) 533-4042.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Todd Gloria". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Todd" and last name "Gloria" clearly distinguishable.

TODD GLORIA  
Mayor  
City of San Diego





September 23, 2024

San Diego County Board of Supervisors

County Administration Center

1600 Pacific Highway, Rm 335

San Diego, CA, 92101

**Subject: UPDATE ON AND AUTHORIZATION TO EXECUTE AGREEMENTS FOR  
THE PARTNERSHIP WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO  
HEALTH FOR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES WITHIN THE EAST CAMPUS  
MEDICAL CENTER**

Dear County Board of Supervisors,

MANA de San Diego strongly support for the County's partnership with UC San Diego Health to expand behavioral health services at the East Campus Medical Center (ECMC). The proposal to establish a new inpatient behavioral health facility and a Crisis Stabilization Unit (CSU) will significantly strengthen the continuum of care for individuals experiencing mental health crises, particularly for underserved populations across San Diego County.

MANA de San Diego is the largest chapter of a national Latina organization. Our mission is to empower Latinas to achieve upward mobility and a better quality of life. Equitable access to healthcare, including behavioral health services, is fundamental to achieving our mission. By adding a behavioral health hub at UC San Diego Health's East Campus Medical Center, we will address these pressing issues, offering timely interventions that can prevent crises, reduce hospitalizations, and improve overall well-being for vulnerable populations in our region.

In addition to expanding access to critical services, this initiative will integrate teaching and research, providing not only cutting-edge care for patients but also helping to develop the next generation of behavioral health professionals. By providing hands-on training for medical students, residents, and other healthcare professionals, the new behavioral health infrastructure at ECMC will play a pivotal role in addressing the growing workforce shortage in behavioral health. This collaboration will help ensure that San Diego County has a robust and highly trained workforce to meet future mental health needs.



**MANA**  
DE SAN DIEGO  
A National Latina Organization

MANA de San Diego has a longstanding relationship of trust and collaboration with UC San Diego Health. Their commitment to providing high-quality, compassionate care makes them a strong candidate for this partnership. We urge the Board of Supervisors to approve this essential partnership, which will significantly enhance the well-being and health equity in our community.

Thank you for your leadership and consideration.

Sincerely,

Inez González Perezchica, Ed.D.

Executive Director





September 23, 2024

San Diego County Board of Supervisors  
County Administration Center  
1600 Pacific Highway, Rm 335  
San Diego, CA, 92101

**Subject:** UPDATE ON AND AUTHORIZATION TO EXECUTE AGREEMENTS FOR THE PARTNERSHIP WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO HEALTH FOR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES WITHIN THE EAST CAMPUS MEDICAL CENTER

Dear Chair Vargas and Esteemed Supervisors,

I am writing on behalf of San Ysidro Health to express our strong support for the County's partnership with UC San Diego Health to expand behavioral health services at the East Campus Medical Center (ECMC). The proposal to establish a new inpatient behavioral health facility and a Crisis Stabilization Unit (CSU) will significantly strengthen the continuum of care for individuals experiencing mental health crises, particularly for underserved populations across San Diego County.

As San Diego continues to face significant challenges related to homelessness and unmet behavioral health needs, this partnership is especially vital. Many individuals experiencing homelessness are in urgent need of mental health and substance use services, but gaps in care have often left them without the necessary support. By adding a behavioral health hub at UC San Diego Health's East Campus Medical Center, we will address these pressing issues, offering timely interventions that can prevent crises, reduce hospitalizations, and improve overall well-being for vulnerable populations in our region.

In addition to expanding access to critical services, this initiative will integrate teaching and research, providing not only cutting-edge care for patients but also helping to develop the next generation of behavioral health professionals. By providing hands-on training for medical students, residents, and other healthcare professionals, the new behavioral health infrastructure at ECMC will play a pivotal role in addressing the growing workforce shortage in behavioral health. This collaboration will help ensure that San Diego County has a robust and highly trained workforce to meet future mental health needs.

We applaud the Board for prioritizing this innovative partnership and project. We look forward to continuing to collaborate in support of expanded behavioral health services and ensuring equitable access for all San Diegans.

Thank you for your leadership and consideration.

Respectfully,

Kevin Mattson



MAKING IT HOME

Los Angeles/Long Beach  
Orange County  
San Diego County  
San Jose/Santa Clara County  
Santa Barbara/Central Coast

[www.epath.org](http://www.epath.org)

September 23, 2024

San Diego County Board of Supervisors  
County Administration Center  
1600 Pacific Highway, Rm 335  
San Diego, CA, 92101

Dear Chair Vargas and Esteemed Supervisors,

I am writing on behalf of PATH to express our strong support for the County's partnership with UC San Diego Health to expand behavioral health services at the East Campus Medical Center (ECMC). The proposal to establish a new inpatient behavioral health facility and a Crisis Stabilization Unit (CSU) will significantly strengthen the continuum of care for individuals experiencing mental health crises, particularly for underserved populations across San Diego County.

As San Diego continues to face significant challenges related to homelessness and unmet behavioral health needs, this partnership is especially vital. Many individuals experiencing homelessness are in urgent need of mental health and substance use services, but gaps in care have often left them without the necessary support. By adding a behavioral health hub at UC San Diego Health's East Campus Medical Center, we will address these pressing issues, offering timely interventions that can prevent crises, reduce hospitalizations, and improve overall well-being for vulnerable populations in our region.

In addition to expanding access to critical services, this initiative will integrate teaching and research, providing not only cutting-edge care for patients but also helping to develop the next generation of behavioral health professionals. By providing hands-on training for medical students, residents, and other healthcare professionals, the new behavioral health infrastructure at ECMC will play a pivotal role in addressing the growing workforce shortage in behavioral health. This collaboration will help ensure that San Diego County has a robust and highly trained workforce to meet future mental health needs.

We applaud the Board for prioritizing this innovative partnership and project. We look forward to continuing to collaborate in support of expanded behavioral health services and ensuring equitable access for all San Diegans.

Respectfully,

Jennifer Hark Dietz  
Chief Executive Officer  
PATH

**SCOTT H. PETERS**  
50<sup>th</sup> DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
Washington, DC 20515

**COMMITTEE ON  
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MANUFACTURING CRITICAL MATERIALS  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT  
& INVESTIGATIONS  
**COMMITTEE ON THE  
BUDGET**

September 22, 2023

Chairwoman Nora Vargas  
San Diego County Board of Supervisors  
County Administration Center  
1600 Pacific Highway, Rm 335  
San Diego, CA, 92101

Dear Chair Vargas and Esteemed Supervisors,

On behalf of the Office of Congressman Scott Peters, I write to express our support for the County's partnership with UC San Diego Health to expand behavioral health services at the East Campus Medical Center (ECMC). The proposal to establish a new inpatient behavioral health facility and a Crisis Stabilization Unit (CSU) is poised to significantly strengthen the continuum of care for individuals experiencing mental health crises, particularly for underserved populations across San Diego County.

As San Diego continues to face significant challenges related to homelessness and unmet behavioral health needs, this partnership is especially timely. Many individuals experiencing homelessness are in urgent need of mental health and substance use services, but gaps in care have often left them without the necessary support. By adding a behavioral health hub at UC San Diego Health's East Campus Medical Center, we create the opportunity to address these pressing issues and offer prompt interventions that can prevent crises, reduce hospitalizations, and improve overall well-being for vulnerable populations in our region.

In addition to expanding access to critical services, this initiative aims to integrate teaching and research, by providing hands-on training for medical students, residents, and other healthcare professionals, hence ensuring that San Diego County has a robust and highly trained workforce to meet future mental health needs.

To that end, the Office of Congressman Peters is thrilled to offer our complete support for this innovative partnership.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Scott Peters".

Scott Peters  
Member of Congress



# The Chicano Federation

September 24, 2024

San Diego County Board of Supervisors  
County Administration Center  
1600 Pacific Highway, RM 335  
San Diego, CA 92101

**RE: UPDATE ON AND AUTHORIZATION TO EXECUTE AGREEMENTS FOR THE PARTNERSHIP WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO HEALTH FOR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES WITHIN THE EAST CAMPUS MEDICAL CENTER**

Dear Chair Vargas and Esteemed Supervisors,

I am writing on behalf of Chicano Federation of San Diego County to express our strong support for the County's partnership with UC San Diego Health to expand behavioral health services at the East Campus Medical Center (ECMC). The proposal to establish a new inpatient behavioral health facility and a Crisis Stabilization Unit (CSU) will significantly strengthen the continuum of care for individuals experiencing mental health crises, particularly for underserved populations across San Diego County.

As San Diego continues to face significant challenges related to homelessness and unmet behavioral health needs, this partnership is especially vital. Many individuals experiencing homelessness are in urgent need of mental health and substance use services, but gaps in care have often left them without the necessary support. By adding a behavioral health hub at UC San Diego Health's East Campus Medical Center, we will address these pressing issues, offering timely interventions that can prevent crises, reduce hospitalizations, and improve overall well-being for vulnerable populations in our region.

In addition to expanding access to critical services, this initiative will integrate teaching and research, providing not only cutting-edge care for patients but also helping to develop the next generation of behavioral health professionals. By providing hands-on training for medical students, residents, and other healthcare professionals, the new behavioral health infrastructure at ECMC will play a pivotal role in addressing the growing workforce shortage in behavioral health. This collaboration will help ensure that San Diego County has a robust and highly trained workforce to meet future mental health needs.

We applaud the Board for prioritizing this innovative partnership and project. We look forward to continuing to collaborate in support of expanded behavioral health services and ensuring equitable access for all San Diegans.

Thank you for your leadership and consideration.

Sincerely,

Liz Ramírez  
Chief Executive Officer  
Chicano Federation