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# ATTACHMENT

For Item

#3

Tuesday,  
October 19, 2021

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**From:** Lindsey Wade <lwade@hasdic.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 18, 2021 12:58 PM  
**To:** FGG, Public Comment  
**Cc:** Lindsey Wade  
**Subject:** [External] HASD&IC LOS for Item#3 10/19/21  
**Attachments:** HASDIC LOS Item 3 10.19.21.pdf

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Good afternoon,

Please accept the Hospital Association of San Diego & Imperial Counties' Letter of Support for Item #3 on the agenda tomorrow - "A DATA DRIVEN APPROACH TO PROTECTING PUBLIC SAFETY, IMPROVING AND EXPANDING REHABILITATIVE TREATMENT AND SERVICES, AND ADVANCING EQUITY THROUGH ALTERNATIVES TO INCARCERATION: BUILDING ON LESSONS LEARNED DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC."

Best wishes,  
Lindsey

Lindsey Wade  
Senior Vice President

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**Vaccinate ALL 58**  
Together we can end the pandemic.



## HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION of San Diego & Imperial Counties

October 18, 2021

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

**Re: Item #3: *A Data-Driven Approach to Protecting Public Safety, Improving and Expanding Rehabilitative Treatment and Services, and Advancing Equity Through Alternatives to Incarceration: Building on Lessons Learned During the COVID-19 Pandemic***

Dear San Diego County Board of Supervisors:

The Hospital Association of San Diego & Imperial Counties (HASD&IC) supports Item #3, *A Data-Driven Approach to Protecting Public Safety, Improving and Expanding Rehabilitative Treatment and Services, and Advancing Equity Through Alternatives to Incarceration: Building on Lessons Learned During the COVID-19 Pandemic*.

Over the past eight years, the HASD&IC San Diego Community Health Needs Assessments (CHNA) have consistently identified behavioral health as a top community need. Challenges accessing behavioral health services have grown more acute every year. In 2019, the types of care that were identified as most difficult to access included substance abuse facilities, urgent care services for crisis situations, transitional programs, and services (post-acute care services).<sup>1</sup> In a separate Behavioral Health Analysis, hospitals identified 13 critically needed services such as adolescent rehabilitation services, crisis residential treatment programs, intensive outpatient programs, licensed board and cares (with augmented support), detox beds, day treatment programs or partial hospitalization programs, and structured independent living.<sup>2</sup>

HASD&IC strongly supports the research focus on the behavioral health needs of the jail population and the requested analysis to identify “what additional services and supports are needed in the community to support people in non-custodial settings and reduce justice involvement. These supports might include community resources or law enforcement services, supportive housing, mental or behavioral health facilities, substance use facilities or programs, or other entities that we could refer/take people to instead of jail.”

Supervisor Lawson-Remer is bringing forward a data driven board letter that will address the need for San Diego County to analyze its current jail system and explore alternatives to incarceration for individuals who do not pose a public safety threat. No one should be going to jail just because they are homeless or experiencing a behavioral health crisis and no one should be dropped off at a hospital emergency department just because there are no readily available behavioral health services in the community.

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This board letter creates a process to consider alternative treatments that promote public safety in a more cost-effective and humane way. The resulting research and recommendations will allow the County Board of Supervisors to prioritize funding services that are proven to reduce the risk of incarceration for people with chronic health conditions and behavioral health conditions.

Please feel free to contact me ([dalexiou@hasdic.org](mailto:dalexiou@hasdic.org)) or my staff Lindsey Wade ([lwade@hasdic.org](mailto:lwade@hasdic.org)) with any questions.

Sincerely,



Dimitrios Alexiou, FACHE  
President & CEO

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<sup>1</sup> HASD&IC 2013, 2016 & 2019 Community Health Needs Assessments <https://hasdic.org/chna-assessment/>

<sup>2</sup> HASD&IC Behavioral Health Analysis <https://hasdic.org/wp-content/uploads/HASDIC-BH-Analysis-Nov-2018-rev.pdf>