

Resolution No.:

Meeting Date: 1-23-2024

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO IN SUPPORT OF PROPOSITION 1, REBUILDING CALIFORNIA'S MENTAL HEALTH SYSTEM

WHEREAS, Mental illness affects 1 in 5 individuals in the United States and without treatment individuals can experience debilitating impacts such as unemployment, substance abuse, homelessness, inappropriate incarceration, and poor quality of life; and

WHEREAS, San Diego County has one of the largest homeless populations in the United States, with approximately 40% of unhoused individuals experiencing mental health illnesses. For those that don't have access to care, the impacts can be staggering; and

WHEREAS, in San Diego County, overdose deaths rose and nearly doubled over a 4-year stretch between 2018 and 2022; and

WHEREAS, these statistics reflect a system that doesn't respond to the needs of our community, until it's in crisis; and

WHEREAS, over the last three years the County of San Diego has taken unprecedented action to invest in behavioral health staffing, prevention, diversion, and long-term community support for the most vulnerable, but the County needs more resources to help unwind decades of poor decision-making regarding mental health, substance abuse and homelessness; and

WHEREAS, it's imperative that the County continue to support long-term solutions moving from a crisis model to patient centered care model. Instead of waiting for individuals to become ill, it should work toward front end services that meet people where they are at; and

WHEREAS, Californians will have a direct opportunity to transform and rebuild our mental health system and modernize programs to meet the needs of our communities; and

WHEREAS, California's Proposition 1 "Treatment not Tents," will refocus billions of dollars to prioritize individuals that have the greatest mental health needs, are living in encampments or suffering from substance abuse issues; and

WHEREAS, infrastructure such as 11,150 new treatment beds and supportive housing, create 26,700 outpatient treatment slots, and \$1 billion for veteran housing will be set aside, along with recruiting and training of 65,000 mental health workers;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the County of San Diego supports Proposition 1, "Treatment not Tents," aiming to rebuild California's mental health system.

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY
Claudia G. Silva, County Counsel
BY: Caitlin Rae, Assistant County Counsel