



NATHAN FLETCHER
SUPERVISOR, FOURTH DISTRICT
SAN DIEGO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

August 19, 2020

Andrew Potter
1600 Pacific Highway
San Diego, CA 92101

Dear Mr. Potter:

The following is submitted as a recommendation for a Budget Change to the Chief Administrative Officer's Proposed Fiscal Year 2020-21 Budget:

Health Human Services Agency – Behavioral Health Services

A significant portion of homeless individuals living on our streets have untreated behavioral health conditions and require services in order to remain stable in housing. To help address this need, HHSA began providing on-site behavioral health services using existing County contractors and care coordination at the Convention Center through an MOU with the San Diego Housing Commission (SDHC) since the start of the local COVID-19 pandemic. The SDHC must vacate the location and is working on an exit plan to transition homeless individuals from the Convention Center to permanent housing. Two capital housing projects to serve these individuals are being pursued by the SDHC, yet financing and grants to acquire, rehabilitate and operate the facilities are contingent on services being provided on-site to the residents. This kind of partnership between a city and the County of San Diego could be a model for other new housing projects serving homeless individuals. The County has the unique opportunity to help 400 formerly homeless individuals to get off the street and receive lifesaving care reducing their reliance on other more costly government services by leveraging the SDHC investment of \$100-\$120 million to obtain two capital projects and provide ongoing management of the properties. It is estimated that Medi-Cal reimbursement could cover approximately 30 percent of costs of coordinating and providing services at these two locations. The remaining 70 percent, totaling approximately \$5.4 million, is needed to make the program operational for two years. Any remaining funds would be dedicated to support services at other new supportive housing projects for homeless individuals.

Recommendation:

- 1.) Transfer appropriations of \$5.4 million within the Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA) from Management Reserves in Administrative Support to Services & Supplies

in Behavioral Health Services, funded with one-time State General Funds, for on-site Care Coordination and Behavioral Health Services at new housing projects.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Nathan Fletcher", with a stylized flourish at the end.

NATHAN FLETCHER
Supervisor
Fourth District