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Katherine Douglas *Public Comment, Health + Human Services*

**From:** Alana Walczak <awalczak@calm4kids.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 16, 2026 12:27 PM  
**To:** sbcob  
**Subject:** Public Comment: FY 26-27 Budget Workshops - DSS  
**Attachments:** BOS Budget Letter April 2026.pdf

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Good afternoon,

On behalf of CALM, please accept the attached letter as public comment regarding the County of Santa Barbara's budget hearings for FY 26-27, specifically related to the Department of Social Services budget. As outlined in the attached, I urge the Board of Supervisors to take action to ensure continued funding for critical safety net services, especially the Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention (CANP) contract.

Thank you for your leadership and continued commitment to serving the most vulnerable in our community.

Sincerely yours,  
Alana

**Alana Walczak**  
President & CEO  
1236 Chapala Street | Santa Barbara, CA 93101  
805.965.2376 phone | 805.253.1659 fax  
[awalczak@calm4kids.org](mailto:awalczak@calm4kids.org)

I invite you to explore our website: <https://calm4kids.org/>



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April 16, 2026

Dear Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors,

I am writing to you regarding the budget workshops for next fiscal year, and specifically the proposed Department of Social Services (DSS) budget. I recognize this is an especially challenging budget year, and I sincerely appreciate the difficult decisions you are being asked to make.

As you move through this process, I respectfully urge you to keep in mind the critical role that community-based organizations play in partnership with DSS, particularly in delivering child abuse prevention and early intervention services, areas that have already experienced significant reductions at the state level.

As you may know, many of CALM's partnership programs with DSS were cut in September 2025. As a partner with DSS, particularly with Child Welfare Services, these reductions had a tremendous impact, especially in Mid and North Santa Barbara County. Because they occurred after the start of the fiscal year, they necessitated workforce reductions at CALM for the first time in decades.

I am concerned about the Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention (CANP) contract, a collaborative partnership among Family Service Agency, People Helping People, Cuyama Valley Family Resource Center, LEAP, and CALM. This contract, in the amount of \$546,667, provides a **critical safety net** for child abuse prevention and early intervention services, connecting families to basic needs support, parent skill-building, and therapy. Our data underscores the importance of this work, with consistently high utilization rates, particularly for therapy services.

Notably, this funding, which represents one of the few remaining government-supported sources for child abuse and neglect prevention services in our community, does not appear in the current budget documents. **Given the importance of this work, I respectfully ask that you do what you can to ensure continued funding for these essential services.**

Thank you for your time, thoughtful consideration, and continued commitment to serving our community during this difficult budget year. If you have questions, please feel free to contact me at (805) 965-2376.

Sincerely yours,

  
Alana Walczak  
President and CEO

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SANTA MARIA

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