



Sheila de la Guerra *Public Comment*

**From:** John Kuelbs <john.t.kuelbs@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 17, 2026 8:21 AM  
**To:** sbcob  
**Subject:** Public Comment: FY 26-27 Budget Workshops - DSS

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Dear Members of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors,

I am writing as a Board Member of Santa Ynez Valley People Helping People to share my support for continued investment in child abuse prevention and early intervention services as you consider the upcoming Department of Social Services (DSS) budget.

I recognize this is a challenging budget year and appreciate the thoughtful and difficult decisions before you. I respectfully ask that you prioritize prevention services, which play a critical role in strengthening families and reducing the need for more intensive and costly interventions later.

Santa Ynez Valley People Helping People is a key partner in delivering these services in our region. Through its work, families are connected to basic needs support, case management, parenting resources, and behavioral health services, often before situations escalate into crisis.

I am particularly 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, totaling \$546,667, is foundational to the prevention infrastructure across our county, yet it does not appear in the current DSS budget documents.

In the Santa Ynez Valley, geographic isolation and limited access to services already create barriers for families. Prevention funding helps bridge that gap and ensures families have access to support when and where they need it most.

As a board member, I have seen the impact of this work on individuals and families in our community. I respectfully urge you to identify a pathway to continue funding for CANP and the collaborative network it sustains.

Thank you for your leadership and your continued commitment to the wellbeing of children and families across Santa Barbara County.

Sincerely,  
John T. Kuelbs  
Board Member, Santa Ynez Valley People Helping People