

Katherine Douglas

General Public Comment



From: Frances Thompson <francesfouch@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 27, 2023 10:33 AM
To: sbcob
Subject: Support for WEB Program

Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear SB County Board of Supervisors,

As a recipient of the valuable support provided by the Welcome Every Baby program in late January 2022 after the birth of my first child, I was dismayed to learn that the program will be shut down due to lack of funding.

I'm writing to urge the County Board of Supervisors to find funding for this invaluable service.

My family and I benefitted from the two zoom visits with a WEB nurse. A COVID surge made in home visits impossible, but my WEB nurse Rebecca was available by phone and zoom and was a wonderful support during the early postpartum days.

Rebecca was a wonderful, calm resource for us, helping with suggestions for our breastfeeding journey, as well as being a stable support in those early days between the first and second pediatrician's visits. Life is especially overwhelming in those first few days at home with an infant and it was such a gift to have the appointments with our WEB nurse to bridge the gap between visits with the pediatrician, as well as make sure our family was doing okay.

In addition to the medical advice, Rebecca encouraged us to get connected with local support networks in town, both PEP and Centerline Community, to help in our parenting journey.

I feel so fortunate that I was able to benefit from this guidance and am asking that the county work with its partners to make sure that this program can continue.

Families need support and this program is so critical. It's amazing that trained RNs and Lactation Consultants are accessible for *every* baby and it's critical that this practice continue. When I experienced some challenges in the initial days of breastfeeding, Rebecca offered guidance and resources, some of which I would not have found on my own, especially in the overwhelming early days of postpartum.

WEB is interested in the health and stability of the entire family: birthing person, partner and child. This program does amazing work and deserves to be invested in.

I ask that you find a way to do so for the families of this county.

Warm regards,
Frances Thompson