

LATE
DIST

Katherine Douglas *Public Comment - Health and Human Services*

From: Lori Lander Goodman <lorig@leapcentralcoast.org>
Sent: Wednesday, April 15, 2026 3:30 PM
To: sbcob
Cc: Joan Hartmann; Laura Capps; Gina Fischer; Daniela Aguirre
Subject: Public Comment - Budget Workshops - DSS Budget
Attachments: Letter to SB BOS - re DSS Budget Cuts.pdf

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 Board of Supervisors,
Attached, please find a letter regarding the budget workshops for the DSS Budget. I am pasting the body of the letter into this email as well. Thank you so much for your consideration.
Lori

Dear Members of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors,

I am writing on behalf of LEAP (Learn. Engage. Advocate. Partner.), formally known as Isla Vista Youth Projects, Inc., to provide public comment regarding the current budget workshops, and specifically the Department of Social Services (DSS) budget. I write with a sense of urgency, and with deep respect for the enormously difficult work you are doing this budget season. I also write with a particular awareness of the moment: April is Child Abuse Prevention Month — a time our community dedicates to affirming our collective commitment to protecting children and strengthening families. It is in that spirit that I bring forward these concerns.

LEAP has been proud to serve as part of a county-wide collaborative of organizations working together to provide vital services for vulnerable children and families across Santa Barbara County — from Isla Vista and Goleta to Lompoc and beyond. The contracts we are writing about today are not isolated line items; they are part of an interconnected system of prevention and support that our community has built together. Cuts to this infrastructure do not simply reduce services — they risk unraveling the safety net that protects our county’s most vulnerable children.

We recognize that this is an extraordinarily challenging budget year, and we truly appreciate the difficult decisions that you and your staff are navigating on behalf of our entire community.

I am especially concerned about cuts to the following:

CANP Contract (Annual Amount: \$546,667)

Our most pressing concern is the CANP (Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention) contract, which does not appear to be listed anywhere in the current DSS budget documents. This contract carries an annual value of \$546,667 and funds prevention-focused services that are at the heart of our work with at-risk children and families. LEAP has been a recipient of CANP funding as part of the county’s collaborative approach to early intervention and child abuse prevention — services that are especially critical given the time of year and the heightened awareness that April brings.

Although we understand that the current contract term is concluding this year, we had initially been told there would be a Request for Proposals (RFP) process for the following year, and later heard that funding might

continue with a reduced amount without requiring an RFP. The absence of this contract from the budget documents entirely is deeply concerning, and we respectfully urge the Board to explore every available pathway for its continuation — whether through an RFP, direct renewal, or other mechanism — so that these irreplaceable prevention services are not lost. Given the other cuts we are facing, it would be a tragic loss of services to the most vulnerable members of our community if this funding were to be cut.

Community Pathways Contract

We also wish to raise our concern about the Community Pathways contract, which appears to be zeroed out in the current DSS budget. While LEAP is not itself a direct recipient of Community Pathways funding, we are deeply invested in its continuation as a member of the collaborative that depends on this infrastructure. Community Pathways is a vital mechanism for the prevention and early intervention of child abuse and neglect across our county — connecting families to resources before crises occur, reducing harm, and ultimately lowering long-term costs to the system. Its loss would be felt by every organization and family in this network.

We understand and respect that every decision this year involves painful tradeoffs, and our intention in writing is not to add to your burden, but to ensure that you have our voice as you weigh these choices. You have heard from us because we believe in this partnership and in your commitment to the wellbeing of Santa Barbara County’s children and families.

As we mark Child Abuse Prevention Month, I urge the Board of Supervisors to please do what you can to ensure that these critical funds are not eliminated. The children and families who depend on these services cannot afford to lose this protection, and our community’s commitment to their safety should not be measured only in times of plenty. I am grateful for your service, your thoughtfulness, and your ongoing partnership with LEAP and with the collaborative doing this vital work across our county.

Sincerely,

Lori

Lori Goodman, MSW
Chief Executive Officer
LEAP (Isla Vista Youth Projects, Inc.)

Lori Lander Goodman, MSW
CEO, LEAP
c: 805-705-6998
<https://leapcentralcoast.org/>





Learn • Engage
Advocate • Partner
Aprender • Participar • Abogar • Colaborar

Board Chair
Chuck Flacks
Executive Director
Lori Lander Goodman, MSW

Dear Members of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors,

I am writing on behalf of LEAP (Learn. Engage. Advocate. Partner.), formally known as Isla Vista Youth Projects, Inc., to provide public comment regarding the current budget workshops, and specifically the Department of Social Services (DSS) budget. I write with a sense of urgency, and with deep respect for the enormously difficult work you are doing this budget season. I also write with a particular awareness of the moment: April is Child Abuse Prevention Month — a time our community dedicates to affirming our collective commitment to protecting children and strengthening families. It is in that spirit that I bring forward these concerns.

LEAP has been proud to serve as part of a county-wide collaborative of organizations working together to provide vital services for vulnerable children and families across Santa Barbara County — from Isla Vista and Goleta to Lompoc and beyond. The contracts we are writing about today are not isolated line items; they are part of an interconnected system of prevention and support that our community has built together. Cuts to this infrastructure do not simply reduce services — they risk unraveling the safety net that protects our county's most vulnerable children.

We recognize that this is an extraordinarily challenging budget year, and we truly appreciate the difficult decisions that you and your staff are navigating on behalf of our entire community.

I am especially concerned about cuts to the following:

CANP Contract (Annual Amount: \$546,667)

Our most pressing concern is the CANP (Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention) contract, which does not appear to be listed anywhere in the current DSS budget documents. This contract carries an annual value of \$546,667 and funds prevention-focused services that are at the heart of our work with at-risk children and families. LEAP has been a recipient of CANP funding as part of the county's collaborative approach to early intervention and child abuse prevention — services that are especially critical given the time of year and the heightened awareness that April brings.

Although we understand that the current contract term is concluding this year, we had initially been told there would be a Request for Proposals (RFP) process for the following year, and later heard that funding might continue with a reduced amount without requiring an RFP. The absence of this contract from the budget documents entirely is deeply concerning, and we respectfully urge the Board to explore every available pathway for its continuation — whether through an RFP, direct renewal, or other mechanism — so that

ROOTED IN ISLA VISTA, NURTURING CENTRAL COAST FAMILIES

PO Box 1332, Goleta CA 93116 LEAPcentralcoast.org



Learn • Engage
Advocate • Partner

Aprender • Participar • Abogar • Colaborar

Board Chair

Chuck Flacks

Executive Director

Lori Lander Goodman, MSW

these irreplaceable prevention services are not lost. Given the other cuts we are facing, it would be a tragic loss of services to the most vulnerable members of our community if this funding were to be cut.

Community Pathways Contract

We also wish to raise our concern about the Community Pathways contract, which appears to be zeroed out in the current DSS budget. While LEAP is not itself a direct recipient of Community Pathways funding, we are deeply invested in its continuation as a member of the collaborative that depends on this infrastructure. Community Pathways is a vital mechanism for the prevention and early intervention of child abuse and neglect across our county — connecting families to resources before crises occur, reducing harm, and ultimately lowering long-term costs to the system. Its loss would be felt by every organization and family in this network.

We understand and respect that every decision this year involves painful tradeoffs, and our intention in writing is not to add to your burden, but to ensure that you have our voice as you weigh these choices. You have heard from us because we believe in this partnership and in your commitment to the wellbeing of Santa Barbara County's children and families.

As we mark Child Abuse Prevention Month, I urge the Board of Supervisors to please do what you can to ensure that these critical funds are not eliminated. The children and families who depend on these services cannot afford to lose this protection, and our community's commitment to their safety should not be measured only in times of plenty. I am grateful for your service, your thoughtfulness, and your ongoing partnership with LEAP and with the collaborative doing this vital work across our county.

Sincerely,

Lori Goodman, MSW

Chief Executive Officer

LEAP (Isla Vista Youth Projects, Inc.)