



**Katherine Douglas** *Public Comment, Health + Human Services*

**From:** Lynn Carlisle <lynn@cvfrc.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 16, 2026 1:42 PM  
**To:** sbcob  
**Subject:** Public comment on budget workshops, re: the DSS budget

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Dear Chair Nelson and Supervisors,

In what is clearly a challenging budget year, I and other leaders of Family Resources Centers in our county appreciate the careful attention you are giving to an extremely difficult process. We recognize that you are tasked with making very difficult choices and we are grateful for the opportunity to provide context and additional information about programs that deeply impact the lives of vulnerable children in our county who are at risk of experiencing child abuse and neglect.

I am writing today to urge the board to consider restoring contracts that serve vulnerable children in our county, specifically the:

- » Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention (CANP) (Annual funding: \$546,667);
- » Community Pathways contract.

Together, these contracts provide programs and oversight that significantly strengthen the vital safety net for at-risk children. Child abuse and neglect are not isolated issues. Just as many factors contribute to their occurrence in our communities, a network of interconnected interventions contribute to their prevention and treatment. These contract named help to fund a comprehensive system of care that addresses factors that can give rise to abuse and neglect as well has help to support victims and caregivers. This safety net has taken years to develop, creating a coordinated network of the most experienced clinicians and providers in our county who understand the unique contexts in the communities served to provide, effective evidence-based interventions that prevent and reduce trauma in children and families.

At the Cuyama Valley Family Resource Center, one of the agencies that has received direct program support through the CANP contract, we can share that this funding has helped build resilience in families and protect children in our isolated, rural community. Without this funding, the families we serve will have limited access to this critical programming.

We understand that your Board is facing difficult choices, choices that will impact the lives of vulnerable populations across this county. As you carefully weigh the facts, we urge you to do what you can to ensure that this critical funding continues.

Thank you for your consideration,

**Lynn Carlisle**  
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