

Katherine Douglas

General Public Comment - Group 1



From: Courtney Cunningham <courtneycunninghamla@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 2, 2023 8:59 AM
To: sbcob
Subject: Please Save WEB!

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.

Hello,

I wanted to share how valuable this service was for my husband and I when we came home with our newborn from cottage hospital. We have no family in town and were told to hunker down due to the triple-demic at the time (November 2022). We had not slept in three days as our son was cluster feeding (feeding every 5-20 minutes) and to have WEB show up at our door in our weakest of times with resources, advice, and support was something I will never be more thankful for. The idea that the community will have to survive without this support brings tears to my eyes. I was shown ways to nurse my son to survive and my husband was shown ways he could feed our son if I had no energy left to do so. We were also walked through ways to process a traumatic birthing experience. This would be devastating that new parents would have to go without such services and a lesser program would actually be harmful during a time that is so sensitive. I am sure in a town that has the most nonprofits per capita, there is a way to fund a program that costs under \$400k to keep running. Please do your part in supporting maternal health and keep this program alive.

If you would like any further details on how supportive this program was to me and my family, do not hesitate to reach out.

Sincerely,
Courtney Cunningham
805-448-2377



Katherine Douglas

General Public Comment

From: Mandy Westerman <mandytaylorgratzer@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 27, 2023 11:44 AM
To: sbcob
Subject: Letter in Support of Welcome Every Baby
Attachments: WEB Support letter 2023.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 SB County Board of Supervisors,

Thank you for taking the time to read the attached letter.

With sincere gratitude,
Mandy Westerman

June 27, 2023

Dear SB County Board of Supervisors,

I am writing in vehement support of reinstating Welcome Every Baby (WEB). I benefited greatly from the WEB program and from the expert care of the nurses both in 2019 and 2022, and know that this support is essential to postpartum care in Santa Barbara.

I can honestly say that the "4th trimester" with both my babies was the hardest time(s) in my life. I was physically ravaged with 2nd degree internal tearing and hip issues. I struggled with tongue and lip ties with both babies and subsequently breastfeeding was exhausting, painful, emotional, and incredibly challenging. Emotionally, I was a wreck, and struggled with postpartum anxiety (especially in 2019). I was so grateful that the nurses at Cottage Hospital told me about WEB. As a strong, "Type A", "let's-fix-every-problem" type of woman, I knew I had to do something. I immediately reached out to WEB as I sat at home as a new mom in pain, grappling with anxiety, and desperately trying to breastfeed my baby. Nurse Kendra was able to come out the next day and I remember immediately thinking "Oh thank God, I am not doing this alone (shout out to my incredible husband who was truly a partner in this journey). Nurse Kendra made me feel seen. She checked on me physically and emotionally. She was patient, she was kind, she was understanding. I truly feel like she "saved" me in a way. Both of her visits were centered around my needs. It didn't feel like she came in with an agenda; it was personalized postpartum care - something we so desperately need in this country and especially this county.

When I had my second child in 2022, the anxiety wasn't as strong. However, the tearing and breastfeeding journey was just as bad. I am embarrassed to say that I don't remember the WEB nurses name this time, but she was just as wonderful. I didn't want to put as much effort into trying to figure out breastfeeding this time around. If it worked, it worked, if not, then that was fine too. This nurse didn't judge me. She gave me all of the resources and help possible for what I wanted. I felt respected and cared for. I am forever grateful.

I tell you about my story because it is not unique. Women around this world and definitely in Santa Barbara need and deserve incredible postpartum care. We all have a postpartum story that has struggles and triumphs. What I think about, though, is how lucky I am. My family is financially comfortable. As a matter of fact we also paid for two lactation consultants between my two babies and I can honestly say that the WEB nurses were still my favorite and the most helpful. We are well-educated, happily employed, we have family and friends in town, great health insurance, supportive doctors. We do not struggle with addiction or major mental health issues. We are so fortunate in so many ways. And I NEEDED the support of the WEB program. I just think of the thousands of women who give birth in Santa Barbara County each year; many of whom are less fortunate than I am in some or many ways. We all deserve this type of postpartum support from highly-trained and caring nurses.

While the cost is not nominal, it also doesn't seem like a prohibitive number at \$350-400,000 per year. It is well worth the care that comes with it. These babies and parents deserve this support. I am also a local educator in town and I know how important the first 5 years of life are. Why not fund a program that allows for these babies and mamas to get the resources they need to thrive!

I could go on and on about why WEB is valuable: how it helped my husband be a more supportive and understanding partner during this time, while also making sure he felt seen and appreciated, how both nurses helped me with ideas for healing from my tearing, and more, but I will stop here and value your time. Thank you so much for taking the time to read this letter and for your (hopeful) support of the Welcome Every Baby program.

All the best,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mandy Westerman". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "M".

Mandy Westerman

mandytaylorgratzer@gmail.com

805-570-7034



Katherine Douglas *General Public Comment*

From: Gabriela Labraña <inezlabrana@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 27, 2023 11:51 AM
To: sbcob
Subject: Please save WEB

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,

I have been saddened to hear of the discontinuation of WEB. I have also been angered.

WEB provides an incredibly valuable service to an incredibly vulnerable population: new mothers and new babies. It's no secret or surprise that new mothers are at a disadvantage in this country...without federal leave, childcare, or other basic support.

WEB is the bare minimum that new mothers need. A safe, compassionate home visit to get questions answered, to help establish breastfeeding, to catch signs of mental or physical health issues, and to instill confidence.

To let this program end is to say that the health of mothers and babies in our community is not valued. To let this program end will result in reduced breastfeeding (which itself will have long term impacts on our community's health), increased hospitalizations, and increased Postpartum Mood and Anxiety Disorder. And yet, WEB is not considered a funding priority?

The success of a new mother means the success of her children. Means the success of her family. Means the success of communities. How can we fail our communities by no longer providing this service?

I recently gave birth to a baby girl. My first baby, who is now at a thriving 7.5 months. We had a visit from a WEB nurse named Kathy back in November, and she was tremendously helpful. Not only did she conduct health screenings, she sat with me while I cried, overwhelmed with the responsibility and challenge of having a newborn. She gave me ideas for how to make breastfeeding less painful and more comfortable for both me and my baby. She worked with my partner on how he could be supportive to the mother/baby dyad. She even played with our dog, who was completely neglected in those first weeks. Her visit was invaluable.

I cannot fathom that this program will no longer be available to new mothers, fathers, and babies. Help me understand why our local government is failing here and letting this program die.

Thank you for your time,
Gaby Labraña

Katherine Douglas

From: Ben Tucker <bentucker22@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 27, 2023 12:23 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: WEB services

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,

My name is Ben Tucker and I wanted to write today to express my concern that WEB services will no longer be funded by the county. I have had the good fortune of having two children born in Santa Barbara county and received exceptional care from WEB nurses after returning home with our babies. As a first time father during COVID, I was not prepared to fully support my wife and baby in the time between our return home and our 6 week follow up. Our only point of contact during that 5 week period was a nurse from WEB. We were provided excellent care and concern. The nurse from WEB was able to assist my wife with lactation questions as well as the assessment for ACES. I urge you to reconsider funding as this is an essential point of care in our community. I am concerned for future families if this service is no longer provided.

Best,

Ben Tucker

Katherine Douglas

From: Annie Dreese <anniedreese@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 27, 2023 12:30 PM
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:

I am writing to strongly urge you to stand up for moms, parents, and babies in Santa Barbara by fighting to keep the essential service that is the WEB home visiting program. I am a mother myself to a young baby, and I grew up in Santa Barbara. I am also a family therapist who has seen first hand the absolutely essential role that strong supports in the vulnerable postpartum period play for the intergenerational wellbeing of our entire community.

The months following the birth of my daughter were the most intense and challenging times of my life. I was recovering physically from a traumatic birth experience, struggling mightily with undiagnosed postpartum anxiety and depression. I was bleeding through all my clothes, crying often, and sleeping about 4 hours non consecutively per night; I desperately needed reassurance that things were okay.

Though we had many pediatrician appointments for my daughter, the ***only*** touchpoint I had for myself during these tumultuous weeks was a 20 minute, 6-week check up with my OBGYN. This was *unbelievably* inadequate, even for me, who had the support of an amazing husband, no financial insecurity, and extended family around to help us. The need for additional support that WEB provides is even more dire for families struggling with trauma histories or family and financial stressors, like so many in Santa Barbara are.

WEB provides an essential service for the parents and babies of Santa Barbara. According to a report by the SB Foundation, **Santa Barbara nonprofits had a total of \$7.6 billion (BILLION) in assets in 2019.** (\$4.7 billion in revenue.) The WEB program costs about \$350,000 per year to operate and served over 550 families last year. I am ashamed of what these numbers say about where our mamas and babies fall on the priority list for those in positions of power in my hometown. WEB is an indispensable service that cannot be discontinued. We deserve better.

So I am asking you, as someone you represent, to please take a stand and advocate for the continuation (and *increased* funding for!) the WEB program.

Thank you very much for taking the time to read this, and I hope to hear from you soon.

Sincerely,
Annie Villanueva

Katherine Douglas

From: Susan Shields <shields3033@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 27, 2023 12:56 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: Library van for Goleta

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.

Attention: Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors

I have learned of the controversy regarding the funding of the Goleta Library Van which serves Isla Vista and I wish to express my firm support of whatever amount of money is necessary to keep this van rolling for the maximum number of hours and serving both Isla Vista and other remote communities in the area. Given the great distance of the Goleta library from most other parts of Goleta it is vital that the van serve the population that cannot easily get to the library, including children. Many families live in Isla Vista, and there is also the older demographic that no longer drives. I hope the Board will figure out how to obtain the necessary maximum funding needed.

Susan Shields
3033 Calle Rosales, SB 93105

Katherine Douglas

From: kvonwald@umail.ucsb.edu
Sent: Tuesday, June 27, 2023 2:05 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: Reinstate WEB and support vulnerable mothers, babies, and families

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 Directors,

I am deeply deeply concerned about the priorities of the board of directors and Santa Barbara families in general if WEB is not reinstated. I am a community member and mother who knows first hand how vulnerable new motherhood can be, especially without proper care. The WEB program provides indispensable services to new parents, families, and babies, services that can not be accessed elsewhere and it seems the Board of Directors has no intention of ensuring replacements.

From their website WEB's mission is to "to provide screening, education, support and referral services to all infants and their families in Santa Barbara County through comprehensive, family-centered, voluntary, culturally appropriate services." If you continue and remove WEB's funding, where do you expect families to receive such services? **What plan do you have in place to ensure the safety and support for our most vulnerable community members, for our children?** Where can new mother's turn to? Especially those from low-socioeconomic status where the cost of entry bars them from such critical care?

Maternal healthcare in the United States is in crisis. At every turn it seems that cuts **WHICH COST LIVES** are made at the expense of maternal mental health, postpartum care, and infant well being. Even here in Santa Barbara county there are incredible gaps in care which harms maternal health. Inability to access providers, long wait times, hospital policy, and cost of living make all mothers vulnerable. Makes their new babies vulnerable. The cutting of WEB's funding is negligence. It is turning your back on community members who need the most support from the resources of local government. It is a shameful stance rocketing SB county backwards.

The discontinuation of WEB's services exacerbates already vulnerable mothers and babies. Is the SB board of directors willing to vote against families? To vote against our children?

What world will we leave them if we can't even support their arrival into our community?

I urge you to reconsider. To reinstate WEB, to support their programs and mission. I urge Santa Barbara County and the board of directors to take a supportive stance on maternal health, to show a commitment where others have chosen negligence, to give support rather than continue to deny/ignore the urgency of this issue.

SB county should be a beacon, an example for all the surrounding communities instead you are considering voting against mothers, families, and children.

As a community member and mother I hope that you hear this and my concerns and reinstate WEB's services as it is in the best interests of all SB families.

Please reach out for more information or discussion,

Katie Von Wald

720-234-6452

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Katie Von Wald

She/Her/Hers

Doctoral Candidate in Feminist Studies, emphasis in Genders and Sexualities

University of California Santa Barbara

Located on the ancestral and unceded territory of the Chumash people

Katherine Douglas

From: Jill Lin <jilljones92@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 27, 2023 2:44 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: Moms, parents and Babies need WEB

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,

In a country where it is increasingly more difficult to raise the next generation; women and moms are taking the brunt of the load to survive post-partum. We are the ones having to fight for better healthcare, better maternity leave, pelvic floor physical therapy, waiting until our 6 week appointment to finally be diagnosed with post-partum depression or anxiety. Then we are the ones that have to jump through mountains of hoops to get the care we need to survive. All the while take care of the little life that we fought so hard to bring into this world. Our partners have to go back to work well before a mother is physically able to take care of a baby, let alone herself, BY HERSELF. Having in-home visits and care to ensure that mom and baby are healthy and taken care of IS IMPERATIVE to the health and wellness of FAMILIES.

The services that WEB provides are necessary and should not be cut due to lack of funding. Our children and families are the most important thing in this country for its continued economic growth and success. Lack of post-partum resources make it increasingly more difficult for women to get back to work, fathers to get back to work, children to thrive, and serious illnesses or mental illnesses to be caught early.

How much is a mother's life worth to you? How much is a newborn baby's life worth to you? This program would serve over 550 families a year for the cost of \$350k-\$400k a year.

Sincerely,

Jill Lin

Mom to Caden, a 1.5 yo boy who benefited from in-home lactation visits when he was struggling to nurse at 2 weeks old.

Katherine Douglas

From: Faby <faby28sb@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 27, 2023 6:33 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: Stand up for Moms, Parents, & Babies!

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 Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors,

I am writing you this email as my 1 year old son naps next to me. I am urging you to please fund the Welcome Every Baby program so that other first time mothers and parents with newborns can receive these vital and life saving services. I say that these services are life saving because for me, they truly were. If it were not for the trained registered nurse that took the time to really connect with me and gain my trust, I likely would have kept struggling with my mental health alone. I felt hopeless, worried, and like a completely different person. At times I felt like a terrible mother and was struggling to get through the day without being completely overwhelmed by my emotions and thoughts. I was barely sleeping and felt like I was losing sight of who I was. I was drifting deeper into depression and almost didn't follow-through with my WEB appointment — but I am so grateful that I did and it was because they were persistent and reached out to me on more than one occasion. I needed that. As a low-income Latina and first time mother, WEB was vital in not only providing free lactation consultant care to properly teach me how to breastfeed my baby, but also offered me the information to recognize that I needed help with my mental health. Like many mothers, it was hard for me to admit that I needed help. For mothers and birthing people there is a short questionnaire that is briefly completed during your 6 week postpartum checkup that evaluates, based on a score, whether you have postpartum depression or not. When completing the questionnaire I was afraid to be completely honest because it would mean that I would have to admit to my doctor that I was struggling with my mental health and I didn't want to be labeled as having postpartum depression. My experience with Rebecca, the registered nurse and lactation consultant from WEB, was more personalized and not rushed the way visits to the doctors office usually are and she was able to talk to me in a way that was patient, reassuring, and supportive in my home. I felt safe enough to admit to her (and myself) that I was not okay. If you have struggled as a new parent - especially with postpartum depression - you know how absolutely necessary programs like WEB are. I am forever grateful for Rebecca for being that lifeline for me. Without programs like WEB I wouldn't have received the care I so desperately needed for myself so that I could care of my baby. Today I get to enjoy my sweet baby boy as I continue to care for my mental health. Again, I urge you to ensure that this program is protected and fully-funded so that no mother or baby has to struggle alone.

Katherine Douglas

From: Jessica Jansen <jessicarosejansen@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 27, 2023 8:13 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: Defunding of 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 someone with a 7 month old baby boy, birth and the days following feels like it was yesterday. I can still feel the exhaustion, the unknown, and the vulnerability of those first few days postpartum in my bones. Having a WEB nurse come to my home those first few days home from the hospital and check on me, my baby, and tell me everything was ok was such a gift in those blurry, sleepless days as I processed birth and what just happened to me. I know for many moms I walk with in this season, many who may not have the bandwidth to write a letter or even know what is happening to WEB have similar sentiments to the one I'm expressing here. Support for new mothers and babies, specifically the form of support WEB provides by sending nurses to the homes of new parents is so essential and needed. I cannot express how saddened I am to know that WEB is not being prioritized. It's yet another punch to the gut. Our society claims to value the lives of babies and value women, and yet time and time again we are placed last on the list of priorities. I know that if the country really cared about us, they would fund WEB. Please change the course of WEB's fate and find a way to reinstate funding so that hundreds of families every year can continue to benefit from this amazing programs. It is so so needed, and anything less will not suffice.

Thank you,
Jessica Wong

Katherine Douglas

From: Taryn Holvick <tholvick@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 27, 2023 8:33 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: Save WEB

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,

I cannot emphasize enough how vital Welcome Every Baby (WEB) is to our community. Women, and in particular mothers, need and deserve services that promote equity and inclusion. The days immediately following birth are often the hardest and most tender for a mother, who is still in recovery from birth and caring for a newborn. The issues she can face are nummerable, including but not limited to Postpartum Mood and Anxiety Disorder (PMAD), trauma from birth, physical pain, and breastfeeding issues. The CDC recommends breastfeeding infants over formula, and yet the support around beginning the breastfeeding journey is extremely limited. WEB not only provides support and guidance for these issues, but they serve every family in Santa Barbara County at no cost. This benefit is extraordinary for our underserved and most vulnerable members.

Here is my story and how WEB showed up to help me when I was most desperate:

I experienced birth trauma when I unexpectedly delivered my baby at home unassisted. My trauma was augmented by extraordinary pain when attempting to breastfeed my baby.

Traille from Welcome Every Baby visited me the day after I came home from the hospital, and I could not have been more relieved to have the help and guidance. Traile was gentle and validating with me in my vulnerable and tearful state. She observed how I was feeding my baby, offered new positions and suggestions for the pain, and taught me a routine with pumping that enabled my milk to come in. She helped me learn how to read my baby's cues for all aspects of feeding, including knowing when she was full. Traile continued to check in with me through text and phone calls and ended up visiting two more times per my request. She continued to provide detailed suggestions for how to breastfeed. I could never have predicted how steep the learning curve would be and how much help we needed. She even left her scale with us so that we could continue to monitor our baby's weight and milk intake. My baby returned to her birth weight at 10 days, and I felt very confident breastfeeding after a couple weeks. Without the support of Welcome Every Baby I would have felt tremendously isolated and scared. The trauma of my birth was so present at first, it took every bit of strength to persevere through the challenges of breastfeeding. Having the guidance was critical.

I am extremely grateful for this service, and I urge you to take action to enable it to remain accessible to our special community.

Best regards,
Taryn

Katherine Douglas

From: Kathryn <kathrynbirch@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 27, 2023 9:06 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: Reinstate WEB

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,

WEB is a foundational resource that provides much needed postpartum support to new mothers and families. While I didn't have my children in SB, many of my friends have independently talked about and mentioned how great it was to have WEB after their babies! What a great testament for the program. In particular, home visits from trained professionals (such as RNs and LCs) for all members of the family is such an important and needed resource while trying to adapt to your new life rhythm. The relative low cost of the program to its enormous benefit on moms, babies, patterns and families is a huge win-please maintain this program as it has been!!

Best,

Kathryn Birch
(805)-895-1501
kathrynbirch@gmail.com

Katherine Douglas

From: Veronica McQuiston <mcquistonveronica@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 27, 2023 9:16 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: Please reinstate Welcome Every Baby

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,

I am writing to request that you reinstate the Welcome Every Baby program.

This is an incredibly valuable resource to families at a time when both mother and baby are vulnerable and have needs that vary widely from family to family. 94% of families needed 1 or more links to resources or education - this program is needed! That visits are in-home ensures that the logistical barriers to seeking care by a recovering mother and vulnerable infant are removed, and that they're by trained Lactation Consultants and RNs means meaningful care that measurably improves outcomes is provided.

As a mother who has given birth, I can personally attest to the benefits for not only me and my baby, but also for my partner.

That the health and wellness of mothers and babies is so devalued that a program that costs less than \$400K, a small fraction of the assets SB nonprofits have, was cut is incredibly disappointing and frankly, shameful.

Please, reconsider the choice, and reinstate WEB.

- Veronica McQuiston

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Veronica McQuiston

Katherine Douglas

From: Dayna Olivo <daynarolivo@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 27, 2023 10:39 PM
To: sbcob; Centerline Community
Subject: My experience with WEB

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,

When my husband and I brought home our baby girl from cottage hospital, we felt we were as prepared as we could be to come home. I had been in the hospital for multiple days during labor, an unplanned c-section and five days in recovery. My husband and I both work in healthcare and I have been an employee of cottage hospital. We asked every question we could think of from the amazing staff before coming home, and practiced every technique we were shown. But, we had absolutely no family in town, and nobody to help us once we got home.

After worrying that my baby had choked on spit up just prior to our discharge home from the hospital I was terrified. I stayed awake the entire first night home watching her, and my husband and I tried unsuccessfully to sleep in shifts that morning. I had no idea how to position her or myself for feeding now we were out of the hospital bed and without the nursing staff and lactation consultants to adjust us. When I received the call from the WEB nurse and told them I had not slept since coming home from the hospital, they sent a nurse out that day.

The nurse watched me feed my daughter in our recliner in a position that would keep her upright and help with avoiding choking. She showed us different places I could comfortably position that worked for my baby and my c-section recovery, as well as where we could safely place her upright after feeding. Most importantly, she introduced me to feeding from bed where I could comfortably lay in sidelying and finally have a fully relaxed position to lay with her. She spent well over an hour with us, covering tons of helpful information and leaving us with resources and her contact information for if we had any questions.

I did not think I was someone who needed a nurse to come to the house when I decided to fill out the WEB paperwork in the hospital. It ended up being the most important thing I did. I am shocked to hear this service has been discontinued as I truly believe it saved us from calling a medical emergency for my baby (or for myself for being truly too scared to sleep!). I cannot urge this program to be reinstated enough.

Thank you for your consideration on this matter,

Dayna Olivo
(Occupational Therapist and first time mom)

Katherine Douglas

From: Pauline Peck <paulinepeck@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 27, 2023 10:53 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: Reinstate WEB

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,

I am deeply saddened and disturbed by the news of the shutting down of the Welcome Every Baby Program. I want to tell you a bit about what this program has done for my family.

In the height of Covid, I had my first child. My mom died 15 years ago. My sister was living in Turkey. My dad, almost 70, lived in LA and was unable to be close. I felt so incredibly alone and afraid. When my son was born, I knew something was off with his feeding. I sought the support of various lactation consultants but they were all online and would give me advice to try some new tip or trick. Many dismissed my concerns altogether. Breastfeeding was taking a large part of my day and consuming my thoughts. I felt really defeated and like I wasn't being listened to. My son then started having digestive issues.

I heard about WEB and called them desperate and exhausted. I was skeptical that something else would help. Traile immediately listened to and validated me. She was the first to make me feel like my intuition was on to something. She was very responsive and quickly connected me to Kathy. For the next day or two, Kathy texted me asking every detail and using those details to scour research to figure out what could be wrong. She even took my concerns to the consultation team meeting. In a couple days, determined to help me figure it out, she came over, fully masked, with an infant scale and feeding tubes. She watched my son feed and took notes. She was like a scientist doing an experiment and following every hypothesis to its end. She called me later that day with a diagnosis. It didn't stop there.

The next morning she called me and said that she got me in to see a local doctor that was booked out for months if I could be there in 15 minutes. I quickly changed, made the appointment, and my son underwent a procedure that day that helped him eat and grow. It took several days to fix what I had been dealing with for months.

My son is now 3 - such a curious, adventurous, sweet, and bright boy.

I will never forget the words Kathy said at the end of our first call. She said, "You are not alone. I promise I won't stop until I figure out what is going on."

Those words were a healing salve for me. And I believed her. She was so earnest. And she followed through. Even weeks after the surgery, she checked in to ensure that we were all okay.

Kathy was an absolute angel who swooped in and supported me at a time when I felt so overwhelmed, lost, and invalidated. She not only helped us practically but I truly believe she also saved me from falling into a deep depression. After my son's feeding issues improved, he was sleeping better and being less fussy. Our entire family dynamic changed.

The program pulled us out of a darkness and heaviness and it honestly made me feel hopeful again. Trusting her and being cared for by her, mattering to her, made all the difference. I was treated with such dignity and respect and it helped me tremendously.

Now I also have a 6-month old baby girl. I didn't hesitate to use WEB again for lactation support. In came Kathy again with her scale and I almost burst into tears because seeing her reminded me of how powerful her and Traile's kindness and support had been at one of my most vulnerable times.

This program isn't just about the specific resources - those are critical - but it's so much more than that. This program makes mothers feel like they MATTER and that someone CARES. That they are NOT ALONE in their struggles and that collectively, we all win if mothers and babies win. Kathy and Traile did more for me than some family members did during that time. I will never be able to repay them.

Knowing that other women who have no where else to turn, or who have already tried other resources, won't get access to WEB is heart wrenching. We need this program. We deserve this program.

They embody their name in what they do - welcoming EVERY baby and ensuring the health and well-being of entire families. As a psychologist in our community, I can tell you the ripple effects such endeavors have on individual and collective/community wellbeing and healing.

Please reinstate this critical program. It's a travesty that mothers and families are not seen as being deserving of this care. We cannot forget that they are the very building blocks of our entire society.

Feel free to contact me with any questions or follow-up. Thank you in advance for taking the time to read this.

Sincerely,

-Pauline Yeghnazar Peck
818-355-1730

Katherine Douglas

From: Sarah Stark <sarahstark@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 28, 2023 9:28 AM
To: sbcob
Subject: Stand Up For Moms, Parents, and Babies

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 Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors,

I am writing to you today because I was devastated to hear the news that the Welcome Every Baby (WEB) program is shutting its doors due to a lack of funding. In a community that is known for excessive wealth, it is an absolute travesty that mothers, families, and babies are once again being told "you don't matter".

There is already a lack of OBGYN providers within our community, with fewer options available as the months go on. New and expectant mothers are facing months-long wait times just to be seen for - what should be - routine checkups, or they are forced to travel out of the County to be seen. We know that women of color and lower socioeconomic status are disproportionately impacted by our current healthcare system (or lack thereof), and now, we are losing the ONE postpartum resource that is accessible to ALL families? It's horrifying.

WEB is an absolute gem of a program that we can not afford to lose in our community. Welcoming a baby into your home is a life changing event, and one that is often riddled with complex emotions, physical ailments, and mental health issues. I relied on WEB after giving birth to my son in 2019 and my daughter in 2021. Having such compassionate and educated medical professionals make home visits during the most stressful and emotional times of my life were invaluable. WEB has been a life saving program for thousands of families within our community, and I urge you to reinstate the WEB Program.

Sincerely,

Sarah Stark
(480) 242-5184

Katherine Douglas

From: Alanna Ford <alannanoel@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 28, 2023 12:04 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: Welcome Every Baby

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,

I was so disappointed to learn about the closing of the beloved program Welcome Every Baby in our community. I had my first child in 2021, and the support we received from the nurses through the WEB program was invaluable for us as we navigated the wild newborn days and challenges of breastfeeding. Due in part to their help, I'm so proud to say that I breastfed our child for an entire year, thanks to the support I received in those early days.

Please reconsider abolishing this program. The relatively meager cost of \$350-400k more than justifies the ROI to our community for generations to come.

Thank you for your consideration,
Alanna

Katherine Douglas

From: Miriam Shoemaker <miriamshoemaker@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 28, 2023 2:05 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: [Action Required] Reinstating the 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,

My family and I moved to Santa Barbara a little over a year ago for me to relocate for my job. A huge part of us saying yes to this commitment was the fundamental community pillars and programs the city and county have in place for all of their residents for us to be able to grow our family here.

One of those fundamental values that helped with our commitment to growing our family here is WEB. It is so valuable to assessing moms, partners, and babies, to thus strengthening our entire community. We are devastated that this service will be cut and strongly encourage you to reevaluate the doable costs to fund this program, as a lesser program would not suffice.

Respectfully,
miriam shoemaker

Katherine Douglas

From: Christine Walker <christinedianewalker@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 28, 2023 2:54 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: WEB letter of support

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,

I am writing this letter in support of continuation of the WEB (Welcome Every Baby Program). I have been fortunate to utilize WEB services twice (2019 and 2022) after the birth of my two girls who are now 1 and 3.5 years old.

In 2019, I worked with WEB who caught my postpartum high blood pressure requiring me to be readmitted to the hospital. In 2022, WEB again caught my postpartum high blood pressure requiring me to be readmitted to the hospital. Postpartum preeclampsia is incredibly dangerous and potentially fatal had this not been caught. I did not have noticeable symptoms and otherwise would have not seen a provider until my postpartum OBGYN appointment which is typically at 2 weeks for c-section and not until 6 weeks for a vaginal birth. Registered Nurses are essential for these home visits because they are trained in assessing vitals for both mom and baby. WEB nurses are also able to contact an on-call doctor if further medical assessment and treatment is needed.

WEB also screened me for postpartum depression and anxiety. In 2019, I was experiencing significant anxiety symptoms and had an elevated Edinburgh (depression screener) score. According to postpartum support international, 15-20% of women experience significant symptoms of depression and anxiety. Many women do not realize they are experiencing a postpartum mood disorder because they are tired and overwhelmed and may attribute their feelings as a normal adjustment to having a baby. Symptoms can appear during pregnancy and anytime through the first year of the baby's life. An untreated postpartum mood disorder may disrupt the bond between the mother and child and in severe cases may lead to suicidal thoughts or harm to the baby. Again, if a woman is experiencing significant mental health symptoms they often have to wait until 2 weeks or 6 weeks postpartum to be seen by their OBGYN. It is important that WEB nurses screen for mental health symptoms in order to decrease the period of time that a mental health disorder is left untreated, obtain timely treatment for the mother, and to prevent adverse childhood experiences (ACES) for our children which include parental separation, child abuse, parental substance abuse, parental mental illness, and suicide. Many mental health providers have waitlists and perinatal mental health treatment is limited in Santa Barbara.

WEB also supported me with breastfeeding as their nurses are international board certified lactation consultants (IBCLC). In 2019, my first baby would not latch and I was experiencing breast pain that left me in tears not knowing what to do or how to feed my baby. In 2022, I had less issues with latch but again experienced so much pain that I was unable to feed my baby without crying. WEB supported me with strategies to improve breastfeeding and caught my daughter's lip/tongue tie which needed to be released by a doctor in order to feed effectively. WEB was also able to connect me with longer term support with breastfeeding. Many women are discharged within 24-48 hours of giving birth before their milk even comes in and are left without lactation support to navigate this process after discharge from the hospital. Pediatrician appointments are time-limited and focused on the growth of the baby and not as much on the mother's day-to-day physical and mental process related to feeding the baby. Breastfeeding rates are lower than desired due to the barriers women face

with regard to breastfeeding effectively. WEB helps decrease these barriers to improve breastfeeding outcomes. WEB also supports women in alternative feeding methods should this be indicated. This type of support can improve a woman's mental health as well as improve health outcomes for the baby in terms of appropriate growth and weight gain.

Overall, WEB is an essential service to the Santa Barbara Community that should not cease operations. The WEB nurses are kind and compassionate and put the needs of postpartum women first in a world where women and postpartum care are not prioritized. Services were open to all postpartum families. Women are often alone in the postpartum period as partners are frequently forced back to work due to lack of paid leave programs that are available to all. Santa Barbara needs to show we are a community that prioritizes women and postpartum healthcare. Santa Barbara needs to show we are a community that prioritizes children from the moment they are born. In a community of wealth, there should be no reason that a program like WEB should have to cease operations and put the mental and physical health of women and babies at risk.

Sincerely,

Christine Walker

Katherine Douglas

From: Leana F <leanaf@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 28, 2023 3:22 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: WEB Services and Impact

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:

I am writing to voice my concern about the dissolving of WEB. WEB is a vital and valuable service to new families and is literally health care for one of our most susceptible population: new borns and new mothers. You may have recently learned of the [growing data of the health issues](#) for mothers that arise up to a year from a birth.

My family benefited from the services of WEB, and we were visited by an RN within 3 days of my first daughter's birth. The sense of relief I had from their visit was invaluable. My new-mom anxiety was at an all time high, and that visit helped quell that anxiety and set us on a path for success as new parents. Without that visit, I don't want to think about how our journey would have looked different.

The impact to loosing WEB will be devastating, especially to our BIPOC community that suffers the most from maternal death rates and infant deaths. Please consider standing with WEB, new families, and new babies and fun this imperative service.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Best,
Leana LeLeiver-Joseph
214-450-7084

Katherine Douglas

From: Daniel Stone <destone@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 28, 2023 2:44 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: Please save Welcome Every Baby!

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.

I heard the county is stopping funding for Welcome Every Baby. Dang! This program was THE BEST when we had our first child. So much of that time is filled with uncertainty, anxiety, and exhaustion. The check-ins and advice from the WEB team were super helpful, and I'm sad to think this local support won't be available to future parents. Is there any way to find some budget money to keep it going? I can't imagine it's that much. Please? I promise it would make a big difference.

Daniel Stone
Mission Canyon
202-907-8510

Katherine Douglas

From: Joanna Vicente <joannavicente329@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 28, 2023 6:50 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: Reinstate WEB

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,

WEB was such a valuable resource for me when my first son was born in 2020. I could not have imagined my postpartum period without the help of my fabulous WEB nurse, Sabrina. I had very serious breastfeeding struggles and the WEB nurse made the impossible possible, and thanks to her I was able to breastfeed my son for 2 years. It is very heartbreaking that this program is ending as it is such a valuable resource to new mothers. The cost to reinstate this program (350-400k) seems very doable in my opinion, as we are a county with lots of wealth and resources.

Please reinstate this program, the benefit for all families is immeasurable.

Thank you,
Joanna Vicente

Katherine Douglas

From: Tracy Lowy <tracymlowy@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 28, 2023 9:21 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: Reinstate WEB

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 -

I am a mom lucky to be living in Santa Barbara with the most amazing community that I've ever seen. I had a pretty traumatizing birth experience 15 months ago when I delivered my first son at Cottage Hospital. What turned things around was when I opened a pamphlet in the hospital bed about WEB. Not only did I not know what WEB was, but when I asked my friends and family if their communities had something like this, everyone said no. I was blown away that this was something offered to me. I was able to schedule someone to come to my house just days after leaving the hospital and my experience was unforgettable. The attention and instruction given by my WEB provider was a necessity and the experience that I had is something that will stay with me forever. I struggled to feed my baby in those early weeks and the trained LC who came to help me checked in daily after her visit, then came back for another visit when I was still struggling. No one but her was able to help me through that phase and I feel indebted to this program because of the attention they gave me in my postpartum period. Each interaction I had with WEB was so positive. The idea of this not being available to new moms like me is so deeply upsetting and learning about this has truly devastated an entire community of families that have benefitted so greatly from its efforts. From what I understand, the doable cost to fund this program is minimal. What are you doing???

I write to you on behalf of my family, my baby, my mom friends, and all of the future parents that can and should continue to have a support system like WEB. We urge you to continue to fund this program and show that you care about PEOPLE and the families - both new and old - in your own community.

Sincerely

Tracy Lowy

--

Tracy Lowy
908-675-2976
Tracymlowy@gmail.com

Katherine Douglas

From: Stephanie Drake <goodlanddoula@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 29, 2023 9:07 AM
To: sbcob
Subject: WEB Funding
Attachments: WEBFundingRequest.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 Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors,
Please find my letter in support of funding WEB for Santa Barbara County.

Thank you
Stephanie

--
Stephanie Drake, PhD
Goodland Doula

June 29, 2023

Dear Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors,

I am writing to you today to request funding for WEB the only newborn home visiting program in our county. As you know, postpartum depression (PPD) is a **serious mental health condition that affects an estimated 1 in 7 birthing people** in the United States. PPD can cause a range of symptoms, including sadness, anxiety, fatigue, difficulty bonding with the baby, and thoughts of harming oneself or the baby.

The recent COVID-19 pandemic has made the risk of PPD even higher. A study published in the Journal of the American Medical Association found that the rate of **PPD increased by 50% during the first year of the pandemic**. This is likely due to the increased isolation and stress that many new mothers experienced during this time.

Postpartum support is essential for preventing and treating PPD. Home visitors can provide emotional support, practical help, and education about PPD and other parenting issues. They can also connect families with other resources in the community, such as counseling services, lactation support, or support groups.

Studies have shown that home visiting programs are effective in reducing the incidence of PPD and improving the mental and emotional health of new parents and their families. For example, a study published in the Journal of the American Medical Association found that **home visiting programs reduced the risk of PPD by 40%**.

Newborn home visiting programs are a cost-effective way to improve the health and well-being of new mothers and their families. A study by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention found that **every \$1 invested in a newborn home visiting program saves \$4.20 in future health care costs**.

Newborn visiting programs are a proven way to increase the early identification of developmental delays in children. In Santa Barbara County, for example, a study found that **60% of children who participated in a newborn visiting program were identified with a developmental delay, compared to only 30% of children who did not participate in the program**. This is because newborn visiting programs provide regular home visits from trained professionals who can

assess a child's development and identify any potential problems early on. Early identification is critical, as it allows for early intervention services that can help children reach their full potential.

Newborn visiting programs can help to identify developmental delays early by providing regular assessments of children's development. Home visitors are trained to look for signs of delays in areas such as communication, motor skills, and social-emotional development. **They can also provide parents with information and support to help their children reach their developmental milestones.**

Early identification of developmental delays is important because it allows children to receive the services they need as early as possible. Early intervention can help children to catch up to their peers and reach their full potential.

Here are some additional details about the study in Santa Barbara County:

- The study was conducted by the Santa Barbara County Department of Education.
- The study involved a sample of over 1,000 children under the age of 3.
- The study found that **children who participated in a newborn visiting program were more likely to be identified with a developmental delay than children who did not participate in a program.**
- The study also found that children who participated in a newborn visiting program were more likely to receive early intervention services.

These findings suggest that newborn visiting programs can be an effective way to identify developmental delays in young children and ensure that they receive the services they need.

I know that a newborn home visiting program is a valuable asset to our county. I myself received a WEB visit more than 13 years ago and am still so very grateful for the support and care I received. I had a difficult time nursing my first child and was sent home with no care plan and a list of lactation resources. My WEB nurse came and not only did she check in on me and my baby, she helped me with latching and referred me to a Lactation specialist who came to my home and provided educated, guidance, and support. Without that visit and subsequent referral, I would have been without any support.

New families experience a desert of care during the first six weeks after birth. Continuing WEB's funding would help to prevent PPD and improve the health and well-being of new mothers, birthing people, and their families in Santa Barbara County.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Stephanie R. Drake, PhD

Mother, Doula, Educator, and Former WEB client

Katherine Douglas

From: Martha Sprigge <msprigge@ucsb.edu>
Sent: Thursday, June 29, 2023 9:22 AM
To: sbcob
Subject: Please Reinstate Support the Welcome Every Baby 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,

I am writing to express my dismay that funding for the Welcome Every Baby (WEB) program has been cut to the point that the service will be discontinued at the end of this month, and to encourage SB county to reinstate funding for WEB. This program is a lifeline for new parents—particularly birth parents—and their babies throughout Santa Barbara county. The costs of funding WEB (at around \$350-400K/per year) are incredibly reasonable in the grand scheme of a county-wide budget, and the benefits to families throughout the county are immense.

Becoming a parent is a stressful experience. No matter how much preparation you might do beforehand (or no matter how many children you already have in your family), every new baby is the start of new family relationships, and that brings many new challenges. The nurses who visit as part of the WEB program are trained to assess not only the developing parent-child relationship (including providing direct help with feeding, which can be crucial if the baby is having trouble breastfeeding or taking in either breastmilk or formula from a bottle), but they also help evaluate the entire family's transition at this critical time. This can include early screening for the birth parent for post-pregnancy medical conditions (including high blood pressure and perinatal mood and anxiety disorders), detecting adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) that might require close monitoring, and providing resources for everyone in the household related to postpartum challenges.

My own path to parenthood was particularly intense, and that made support from WEB critically important. My child was born six weeks early, after I had spent 3.5 weeks in the hospital on closely-monitored bedrest to ensure he had the best chance at growing in the womb prior to his early delivery. After his birth, my son spent 3.5 weeks at Cottage Hospital Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU). My son is sixteenth months old now: he's fortunately fine and now thriving, in large part thanks to the medical care he and I received at Cottage. But this was a particularly traumatic introduction to parenthood. The Welcome Every Baby program made the transition home easier, and eased both my and my husband's minds at a really difficult time.

Our WEB nurse was actually a NICU nurse—the program director specifically assigned her based on our situation. Though the nurse who visited our home hadn't worked directly on my son's case while he was in the hospital, she had been on the same ward and knew some of his history. It was so reassuring to have a home visit from someone who was so well-attuned to our circumstances. I cannot say the same of my experiences working with other medical providers in the community after we were discharged from the hospital who, while caring, were not listening quite as closely to my and my son's needs when I asked for help. Furthermore, given that postpartum visits with the OBGYN don't take place until 6 weeks after the birth, are very short (15mins max), and do not really address the wholistic experience of transitioning into parenthood, the WEB nurse was a much-needed source of information and support for me and my family.

Premature babies can have specific issues with feeding, sleeping, other medical needs, and generally adjusting to life at home. NICU parents, too, are at higher risk of developing perinatal mood and anxiety disorders, and if the circumstances that led to a premature birth were related to the health of the birth parent, then there can be lingering concerns after the birth as well. Our WEB nurse was an expert in what to look for in these early days. She helped with breastfeeding,

showing me different options for feeding positions (and following up with resources), she advised on sleep for both parents and baby, she spoke to me about how to make pumping (a necessity for birth parents of premature infants) more manageable, she had practical advice about the formula shortage that was happening at the time (premature babies often require additional supplementation using formula that is specifically tailored to their growth), and recommended local and online resources for connecting with new parents (including an online NICU support group I attended for a full year after my son was discharged, it was that helpful). She also conducted a mental health screening that helped both my husband and I get the support we needed to navigate through early parenthood and recover after a difficult pregnancy and birth experience.

In short, I cannot imagine parenting without the support of our WEB nurse. Her two visits were without doubt the most positive interactions my husband and I had as new parents, in a sea of incredibly stressful experiences. Our WEB nurse gave us the tools and reassurance we needed to feel more comfortable as new parents to a premature infant. After her visit, I donated to the WEB program because I found it so helpful, but individual donations are not enough to keep this program going: it needs support from the county. Services for parents of infants and young children—and particularly birth parents—throughout the United States is despicably minimal. Other countries have much longer parental leave programs, much more support for subsidized childcare, much more robust systems for early postpartum support that can detect critical issues in both birth parent and infant. WEB fills a crucial need in our community, counteracting this immense lack of federal support for families. Please value Santa Barbara families by reinstating funding to this crucial program. Our families and children need it.

Thank you for reading this email. I hope to hear from you about the reinstatement of funding for WEB.

Best wishes,
Martha Sprigge

Martha Sprigge | PhD
she / her / hers

Associate Professor of Musicology | University of California, Santa Barbara
Socialist Laments: Musical Mourning in the German Democratic Republic | Oxford, 2021

Katherine Douglas

From: Sara Forster <sforste1@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 29, 2023 12:08 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: Welcome Every Baby

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,

I gave birth to my daughter, Zinnia, just over 3 weeks ago. The postpartum journey so far has not been easy. I've struggled with breastfeeding, the lack of sleep, and adjusting to a major change in our lives.

When the WEB nurse came to our home to check in on us - we were some of its last clients - it felt like a lifeline. She shared resources and gave us concrete information, yes, but more importantly she checked in on how we were doing, physically and emotionally.

The WEB program is invaluable to our community. Ending it is unforgivable - at only \$350-400k per year, it's a drop in the bucket compared to other programs. and the impact is huge. What could possibly be more important than making sure parents and babies get started on the right foot?

Please reinstate this program - the moms and babies of Santa Barbara deserve better.

Best,
Sara Forster
2932 Ventura Dr.
Santa Barbara, CA 9310

Katherine Douglas

From: Lauren Eubanks <lauren.ashlee.eubanks@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 29, 2023 12:20 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: Urgent Letter RE: WEB Program
Attachments: Eubanks Letter RE_ WEB Program.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 Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors:

My name is Lauren Eubanks; I grew up in Santa Barbara County and gave birth to my son at Cottage Hospital. I have attached an urgent letter in fierce support of the WEB Program that is due to lapse at the end of this month. I urge you to read my story and reconsider the decision.

In this county there is a huge need for in-home visits; a lesser program would not be sufficient and could cost women and babies their lives. The cost of \$350-400K is completely doable, and doesn't even come close to the priceless value of lives saved.

Please consider cutting another program that doesn't have the potential to save lives. This country is a global embarrassment in terms of maternal and infant death rates. Statistics in other countries make it clear that we could be doing more to prevent infant and maternal mortality, as their rates drop and ours continue to climb. We are ranked HIGHEST for maternal death amongst developed nations, and have consistently for years. The WEB program saved my own life and I'm very passionate about its worth. The full text of the attached letter is copied below for your convenience.

Thank you so much for your time and thoughtful consideration,
Lauren Eubanks

Text of letter:

Dear SB County Board of Supervisors:

My name is Lauren Eubanks and I was one of the many thousands of women who benefited from the Welcome Every Baby program in Santa Barbara County. I credit my WEB nurse Kendra with saving my life in 2018 after my son Leo was born. I struggled with severe depression in the first few days of taking my son home, and my blood pressure was dangerously high and then bottomed out. The day after I got home from the hospital, I was frantic trying to feed my son – my milk hadn't come in, and he was so hungry and crying desperately for hours.

I found the WEB number in my hospital packet and called the WEB nurse on call – Kendra Johnson, I still remember her name – who answered my call and assured me everything was going to be okay. Only days into being a mother, I felt so scared and hopeless, but she talked me through getting my son fed with formula, and calmed me down enough for my body to start producing milk. She checked in of her own volition and came to visit my son and I not once but twice to make sure I was okay. She taught me so much more about breastfeeding and postpartum healing (both physical and mental) than I had learned in all my What to Expect and La Leche League books. She was patient and kind and calm while showing me practical methods and techniques. I was amazed at how knowledgeable she was, and like so many new mothers who experienced WEB care, I wished I could keep seeing her forever.

Nurse Kendra noted some troubling blood pressure spikes and lows, and monitored me closely to make sure I was okay. During her second visit, my answers to the postpartum depression survey flagged and she set me up for a consult at the hospital so I could get the help I desperately needed. I ended up not needing medication, but I was so grateful at how responsive she was and how clearly she genuinely cared about my well-being. I felt like Kendra was treating me holistically, giving me quality care as an entire human being, rather than as a number or a series of symptoms, which put me at ease and helped me and my son get the care we needed to heal and thrive.

The American healthcare system is the laughingstock of the developed world. We rank higher than any other developed country when it comes to rates of maternal and infant mortality. According to data collected in 2020, our maternity mortality rate is 23.8 per 100,000 births - more than 3 times the rate in most other high income countries (The Commonwealth Fund). It is 55.3 per 100,000 for Black women, more than double the US average and 3 times higher than white women. Over half (52%) of U.S. pregnancy related deaths occur after delivery – 19% between 1-6 days after delivery, 21% between 1-6 weeks, and the remaining 12% during the rest of the year after birth.

Welcome Every Baby provides care in that crucial period where 40% of women are in danger of death from complications post-birth, and for many women, contributors like severe bleeding, high blood pressure, and infection could be caught by their WEB nurse and those women could receive the care they need to survive. While other countries like Australia, Japan, and the Netherlands invest in life-saving partum and postpartum care and see their rates of maternal mortality drop, the US continues to climb as it cuts programs like WEB.

Statistics like these should infuriate you. Women's lives are being lost needlessly, and no bottom line is more important than their lives. WEB is one of the programs that are fighting the good fight to provide quality care to some of the most underserved demographics in the entire healthcare industry. For 22 years WEB has provided free care to 550 families annually, and it is unconscionable that it could be allowed to lapse.

Claims about other programs taking its place is a shoddy Band-Aid at best, when WEB has operated with maximum efficiency and experience and works tirelessly to make sure new mothers and infants receive immediate, responsive care. No other program currently has the resources or capacity to fill WEB's shoes. Women and babies are going to fall through the cracks as new programs are initiated and attempted with varying degrees of efficiency, and I do not exaggerate when I say that this will most likely result in lives being lost.

Without the ease of having the information at my fingertips when I left the hospital, I would have floundered under the stress, pressure and conflicting advice of the Internet and resources. Without WEB, I might not be here today, and my son might have grown up without a mother. Five and a half years later, I am happy, healthy and thriving, as is my son. Being a new mother is overwhelming, and we owe every baby in Santa Barbara County (and frankly, the world) these resources.

I urge you to do the right thing and save this program that saved my life and countless others. If you need more information to make your decision, please do not hesitate to call me at (805) 350-1148.

Lauren Eubanks

Dear SB County Board of Supervisors:

My name is Lauren Eubanks and I was one of the many thousands of women who benefited from the Welcome Every Baby program in Santa Barbara County. I credit my WEB nurse Kendra with saving my life in 2018 after my son Leo was born. I struggled with severe depression in the first few days of taking my son home, and my blood pressure was dangerously high and then bottomed out. The day after I got home from the hospital, I was frantic trying to feed my son – my milk hadn't come in, and he was so hungry and crying desperately for hours.

I found the WEB number in my hospital packet and called the WEB nurse on call – Kendra Johnson, I still remember her name – who answered my call and assured me everything was going to be okay. Only days into being a mother, I felt so scared and hopeless, but she talked me through getting my son fed with formula, and calmed me down enough for my body to start producing milk. She checked in of her own volition and came to visit my son and I not once but twice to make sure I was okay. She taught me so much more about breastfeeding and postpartum healing (both physical and mental) than I had learned in all my What to Expect and La Leche League books. She was patient and kind and calm while showing me practical methods and techniques. I was amazed at how knowledgeable she was, and like so many new mothers who experienced WEB care, I wished I could keep seeing her forever.

Nurse Kendra noted some troubling blood pressure spikes and lows, and monitored me closely to make sure I was okay. During her second visit, my answers to the postpartum depression survey flagged and she set me up for a consult at the hospital so I could get the help I desperately needed. I ended up not needing medication, but I was so grateful at how responsive she was and how clearly she genuinely cared about my well-being. I felt like Kendra was treating me holistically, giving me quality care as an entire human being, rather than as a number or a series of symptoms, which put me at ease and helped me and my son get the care we needed to heal and thrive.

The American healthcare system is the laughingstock of the developed world. We rank higher than any other developed country when it comes to rates of maternal and infant mortality. According to data collected in 2020, our maternity mortality rate is 23.8 per 100,000 births - more than 3 times the rate in most other high income countries (The Commonwealth Fund). It is 55.3 per 100,000 for Black women, more than double the US average and 3 times higher than white women. Over half (52%) of U.S. pregnancy related deaths occur after delivery – 19% between 1-6 days after delivery, 21% between 1-6 weeks, and the remaining 12% during the rest of the year after birth.

Welcome Every Baby provides care in that crucial period where 40% of women are in danger of death from complications post-birth, and for many women, contributors like severe bleeding,

high blood pressure, and infection could be caught by their WEB nurse and those women could receive the care they need to survive. While other countries like Australia, Japan, and the Netherlands invest in life-saving partum and postpartum care and see their rates of maternal mortality drop, the US continues to climb as it cuts programs like WEB.

Statistics like these should infuriate you. Women's lives are being lost needlessly, and no bottom line is more important than their lives. WEB is one of the programs that are fighting the good fight to provide quality care to some of the most underserved demographics in the entire healthcare industry. For 22 years WEB has provided free care to 550 families annually, and it is unconscionable that it could be allowed to lapse.

Claims about other programs taking its place is a shoddy Band-Aid at best, when WEB has operated with maximum efficiency and experience and works tirelessly to make sure new mothers and infants receive immediate, responsive care. No other program currently has the resources or capacity to fill WEB's shoes. Women and babies are going to fall through the cracks as new programs are initiated and attempted with varying degrees of efficiency, and I do not exaggerate when I say that this will most likely result in lives being lost.

Without the ease of having the information at my fingertips when I left the hospital, I would have floundered under the stress, pressure and conflicting advice of the Internet and resources. Without WEB, I might not be here today, and my son might have grown up without a mother. Five and a half years later, I am happy, healthy and thriving, as is my son. Being a new mother is overwhelming, and we owe every baby in Santa Barbara County (and frankly, the world) these resources.

I urge you to do the right thing and save this program that saved my life and countless others. If you would like more information, please do not hesitate to call me at (805) 350-1148.

Lauren Eubanks

Katherine Douglas

From: Shauna Shea <shaunashea89@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 29, 2023 2:46 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: WEB Program - Please secure funding!!

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 Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors,

Discontinuing WEB is such a disservice to the new mothers in our community.

Other than the 6 week OBGYN checkup, this is the only comprehensive consultation provided to new mothers by an RN or LC in Santa Barbara.

I'll share how WEB affected me directly. I gave birth to my my daughter in December 2021 - during flu season & during COVID - a time when our pediatrician advised nobody other than my husband or I to hold our child indoors unmasked. The normal isolation & overwhelm new mothers feel was amplified.

My daughter was colicky, screaming bloody murder every evening for hours. At 8 weeks, breastfeeding was still very painful. I had blisters on my nipples, dreaded feeding my baby, and I didn't know what to do.

I am a person who worked as an infant caregiver for years, paid for the Birth classes through Cottage, read through all the literature. I had a lot of textbook "knowledge" but that didn't help with my experience.

I had a phone consultation with Traile Easland when my daughter was 8 weeks old. Throughout the conversation and back-and-forth questions, I felt like a priority. I felt like I had a solvable problem and that somebody was going to be able to help me. I can only imagine how much more connected I would've felt had the consultation been in-person.

After Traile connected me with the right doctor, within a few weeks, I was able to painlessly breastfeed my daughter until she was 13 months.

Without WEB, what would I have done? I had already brought up these issues at my 6-week visit, but the visit was so short, I had spent most of it crying, and I didn't even get to meet with my OB during the visit.

Not to diminish my painful breastfeeding experience, but there are so many more serious issues affecting new mothers - postpartum depression/anxiety, newborn health problems - just to name a few.

I know that there are new moms in Santa Barbara with little or no partner support or family support. There are moms who can't afford a doula, private consultant, or whose insurance doesn't cover visits with a specialist. There are new moms who aren't aware of normal infant behavior or early warning signs - who would be left without help without WEB.

Without WEB, a new mother in Santa Barbara is left with a brief OBGYN visit, and Google, as her only tools.

Please help to secure the funding to keep WEB running. It would be a small step in prioritizing the physical & emotional health of new mothers in our community.

Sincerely,

Shauna Seale

Katherine Douglas

From: Linda Thornburgh <lthornburgh23@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 29, 2023 5:23 PM
To: sbcob

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,

Thank you for taking the time to read the emails and letters from the community regarding the Welcome Every Baby program. My family had the unique and traumatic experience of having our our first child in the NICU shortly after delivery. Without WEB coming to our home after the NICU, and following up with multiple phone calls afterward, I honestly don't know where we would be.

It was immensely helpful that we were able to request to have Sabrina, the nurse who had been helping us in the NICU, come to our home. The continuity of care was crucial for our delicate situation. It was hard enough to have the experience of being in the NICU, so I couldn't muster up the energy to relive and explain our experience to another nurse.

Sabrina was such a welcome presence in our home right after we finally left the NICU. With the utmost care, she gently weighed our son and checked in about his health, helped me with breastfeeding struggles, carefully discussed postpartum depression and resources, and helped us give our son his first bath. In the NICU, our son had a chest tube in so they sent him home with thick medical grade tape covering the wound that we were supposed to remove at his first bath. The adhesive was so strong and in such a delicate, healing area on his ribs. Luckily, Sabrina had plenty of practice gently removing this tape, so she did it for us.

I don't remember much from those early postpartum days, my brain foggy from all the sleep deprivation. I do remember several things that Sabrina from WEB did for us because they were so meaningful to me. She gave me her cell phone number to call or text and also followed up a couple of times to give more lactation advice and to check in about my mental health. She was so encouraging and gave me a boost of confidence when I was so lost.

I cannot imagine how our community will get by without WEB. Maternal health matters. Lactation support matters. NICU follow up support matters. Without WEB, mothers are left alone during the most transformative, confusing, isolating and at times harrowing, period of their life. I was able to reach out for help when postpartum depression had stolen all of my happiness and I was giving up on life because I knew what to look for. I remembered that Sabrina had told me what the signs were and where to get help. Without exaggeration, WEB can save lives.

There's so much more to be said about the need for WEB in our community, but I must highlight the heightened need in our low income families. Even with our education and financial resources, my husband and I were barely surviving the postpartum experience at home. Mentally, emotionally, and financially, bringing a baby home is a struggle for most people. I can only imagine the extra weight that low income families bear. Welcome Every Baby is a program that at the very least should be funded for families that qualify based on their income. This could be a much smaller cost and strain on nurse staffing.

Please consider reaching out to me to help with a fundraising campaign to save WEB. I'm a fundraising professional and would be happy to help how I can. I've learned that the cost of funding this program is \$350-\$400k annually. Santa Barbara is an uniquely wealthy and generous county, and I'm confident that this amount can be raised with the right donor pool.

Thank you,

Linda Thornburgh

Katherine Douglas

From: Amanda Babineaux <amanda.babineaux28@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 29, 2023 11:24 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: Please Reinstate Welcome Every Baby

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,

WEB is a lifeline for families at such a critical time in a new parent's journey. Hearing that it is it's closing doors is such a shame.

It was critical for me and the health of my first baby. Without the help and support of WEB lactation consultants my daughter's feeding journey would have been much more difficult and would have been even more damaging to my mental health. Thank goodness for some of the wonderful consultants that came to visit.

WEB improves the health of not only mom, caregivers, and baby but contributes to the health of our community. Caregivers and babies already do not receive adequate support in our society. To take one of the few truly beneficial resources we have is heartbreaking for the families of SB.

Please reconsider.

Kindly,
Amanda Babineaux

Sent from my iPhone

Katherine Douglas

From: John Landmann (jsport2004@yahoo.com) Sent You a Personal Message
<kwautomail@phone2action.com>
Sent: Friday, June 30, 2023 10:53 AM
To: sbcob
Subject: Deny Exxon trucking project - Upcoming Board of Supervisors Meeting

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 Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors,

I urge you to deny this dangerous project as recommended by the Santa Barbara Planning Commission.

In addition to the significant and unavoidable risks of spills from trucking the oil, the purported benefit of producing oil from the offshore platforms and processing it on the Gaviota coast would bring with it unacceptable risks of offshore oil spills, air pollution and toxic fire and smoke risks that were not analyzed in the EIR, which focused narrowly on trucking impacts.

The recent oil spill off of Orange County underlines the severity of these risks. In addition, ExxonMobil's facilities were the largest sources of air pollution in the county and contained dangerous and toxic materials in an area that has burned by wildfire twice in the 6 years since the facilities have been shut down. We were fortunate that oil and dangerous gases were not present at the site during the recent Alisal fire, which burned onto ExxonMobil's property.

It is not just that the trucking routes are along sections of road with above average accident rates, there have been specific and recent instances of oil tankers on this route spilling oil into rivers and starting fires. In fact, on October 11 -- the same day as the Alisal fire -- an oil tanker crash near Orcutt caused a fire in Eucalyptus trees.

Thank you for denying this dangerous and unacceptable oil trucking project.

Sincerely,

John Landmann
4090 Rosenda Ct
San Diego, CA 92122
jsport2004@yahoo.com
(209) 951-0383

This message was sent by KnowWho, as a service provider, on behalf of an individual associated with Sierra Club. If you need more information, please contact Member Care at Sierra Club at member.care@sierraclub.org or (415) 977-5673.

Katherine Douglas

From: Sonia Botello <sonia.botello@yahoo.com>
Sent: Saturday, July 1, 2023 8:50 AM
To: sbcob
Subject: 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

My name is Sonia Botello to understand my postpartum journey I need to explain my current life situation. My fiancé resides in Mexico who is unable to travel to the USA and I live with my parents.

On January 4, 2023 I became a mother to a healthy baby boy via c-section at SB Cottage Hospital. During my hospital stay I was cared by many OBGYNs, nurses and lactation consultants yet more than half of them dismissed my questions and concerns. My discharged nurse encouraged me to sign a form and explained that I would benefit from additional help.

I arrived home on Sunday January 8th which was a day filled of fear, sadness and anxiety as I thought about everything that could go wrong with my C-section recovery. I cried all afternoon and quickly began to isolate myself from my family. Later that day I received a message from WEB and scheduled a visit for the following day.

Nurse Kendra arrived to our home on a very raining morning with all the compassion and love in the world. I was expecting a nurse visit but I was blessed to get a therapist, social worker, lactation consultant and a friend all mixed into one.

Kendra focused the beginning of her visit getting to know me as a person and my family dynamic. She reassured me with all my physical concerns and explained my c section recovery in great detail.

Kendra assessed my baby boy head to toe then checked his reflexes and weight. Most importantly she reviewed his sleeping habits which helped us to create a safer environment for him.

After covering all her nursing topics Kendra became the best lactation consultant I have ever had. She took the time to walk me step by step while listening to all my obstacles. She taught and demonstrated various breastfeeding techniques until I found a position that worked well. She even checked my home breast pump and educated me on the option of renting a breast pump similar to the one I used in the hospital.

Kendra spent the rest of her visit focused on additional resources that were applicable to my situation. She discussed medical, WIC, postpartum therapy groups and counseling services. She reminded me that I'm not the only mother that's having a hard transition.

I learned so much from Kendra's home visit but her help didn't stop there. She continued to message and call me since she was concerned about postpartum depression. Her phone calls became my mini therapy sessions that I didn't realize I needed so much.

Thanks to her help I was able to overcome the hardest decision of stopping my breastfeeding journey so I can focus on my own recovery. I was so hard on myself throughout the process and Kendra was always available to assist me in anyway possible.

I will forever feel grateful that she never imposed her opinion or judgement on me during the hardest phase of my life. She is the reason why I am mentally present and able to enjoy being a mother. I have no words to explain how thankful we are for being part of WEB and meeting Kendra.

Sent from my iPhone

Katherine Douglas

From: Sonia Botello <sonia.botello@yahoo.com>
Sent: Saturday, July 1, 2023 9:20 AM
To: sbcob
Subject: WEB program personal experience

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

My name is Sonia Botello to understand my postpartum journey I need to explain my current life situation. My fiancé resides in Mexico who is unable to travel to the USA and I live with my parents.

On January 4, 2023 I became a mother to a healthy baby boy via c-section at SB Cottage Hospital. During my hospital stay I was cared by many OBGYNs, nurses and lactation consultants yet more than half of them dismissed my questions and concerns. My discharged nurse encouraged me to sign a form and explained that I would benefit from additional help.

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Kendra assessed my baby boy head to toe then checked his reflexes and weight. Most importantly she reviewed his sleeping habits which helped us to create a safer environment for him.

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I learned so much from Kendra's home visit but her help didn't stop there. She continued to message and call me throughout my postpartum journey. Her phone calls became my mini therapy sessions that I didn't realize I needed so much.

Thanks to her help I was able to overcome the hardest decision of stopping my breastfeeding journey so I can focus on my own recovery. I was so hard on myself throughout the process and Kendra was always available to assist me in anyway possible.

I will forever feel grateful that she never imposed her opinion or judgement on me during the hardest phase of my life. She is the reason why I am mentally present and able to enjoy being a mother. I have no words to explain how thankful we are for being part of WEB and meeting Kendra.

Sent from my iPhone

Katherine Douglas

From: Casey Summar <casey@caseysummar.com>
Sent: Saturday, July 1, 2023 11:10 AM
To: sbcob
Subject: Welcome Every Baby (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:

I was dismayed to hear that the Welcome Every Baby (WEB) program has been terminated due to lack of funding.

I benefited from the WEB program after the birth of both of my sons in 2020 and 2022. While my deliveries, recoveries and breastfeeding journeys were fortunately very smooth, I cannot overstate how critical it was to have the WEB touchpoint in the early days postpartum and can only imagine how it may literally be lifesaving in more challenging circumstances.

Both of my visits were via video call and gave great support with lactation specifically and also included advice on everything from sleep to parenting to relationship with my partner. But more importantly, the WEB nurses were the only people who asked me how I was doing and gave me the opportunity to check in with my own health for a moment when everything else in my life was focused on caring for the baby. I remember literally crying tears of joy during both calls because it felt so nice to connect one-on-one with a compassionate person who was interested in my well-being.

So perhaps it wasn't just "fortunate" that my postpartum journeys were smooth, but thanks in large part to the amazing support that WEB provided.

I urge you to reconsider cutting funding for this program. I can think of very few things more important to support in our community than the health and well-being of moms and babies.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Warmly,
Casey

Casey Summar
casey@caseysummar.com
615-429-2141

Katherine Douglas

From: Courtney Cunningham <courtneycunninghamla@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 2, 2023 8:59 AM
To: sbcob
Subject: Please Save WEB!

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.

Hello,

I wanted to share how valuable this service was for my husband and I when we came home with our newborn from cottage hospital. We have no family in town and were told to hunker down due to the triple-demic at the time (November 2022). We had not slept in three days as our son was cluster feeding (feeding every 5-20 minutes) and to have WEB show up at our door in our weakest of times with resources, advice, and support was something I will never be more thankful for. The idea that the community will have to survive without this support brings tears to my eyes. I was shown ways to nurse my son to survive and my husband was shown ways he could feed our son if I had no energy left to do so. We were also walked through ways to process a traumatic birthing experience. This would be devastating that new parents would have to go without such services and a lesser program would actually be harmful during a time that is so sensitive. I am sure in a town that has the most nonprofits per capita, there is a way to fund a program that costs under \$400k to keep running. Please do your part in supporting maternal health and keep this program alive.

If you would like any further details on how supportive this program was to me and my family, do not hesitate to reach out.

Sincerely,
Courtney Cunningham
805-448-2377

Katherine Douglas

From: Anahita Holden <anahitaholden@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 4, 2023 1:59 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: Regarding the 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,

I was heartbroken to hear the recent news regarding the WEB program coming to a close. I am writing with our community of mothers pleading for effort and care to be put into supporting this program so that it may continue after all. Not only do I work with mothers struggling during the postpartum period as a clinical psychologist in my private practice, but I myself was one of these mothers only a few months ago. My WEB nurse saved us emotionally and pragmatically speaking, when my son was having difficulty having enough milk intake due to my low milk supply and his tongue/lip tie that was not discovered during our stay in the hospital. Our WEB nurse not only supported us with an incredibly helpful initial visit, but also texted with me in the middle of the night when my baby was distressed due to being hungry, and rushed over with a package of formula the next morning, when the grocery stores had not opened yet. Please, please consider putting the care and attention in that this program deserves, as all of the families in our community deserve to have access to this form of care. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Warmly,
Anahita

--

Anahita Navab Holden, PhD
Licensed Clinical Psychologist, PSY 30468
Somatic Psychotherapy
1227 De la Vina St.
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
www.anahitaholdenphd.com
(805)699-6657
Pronouns: She, Her, Hers

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Katherine Douglas

From: Emily Baum <emilybaum1@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 4, 2023 11:24 AM
To: sbcob
Cc: Supervisor Das Williams; Hart, Gregg; Hartmann, Joan
Subject: D1 Funding for a County Farmworker Resource Center

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 Santa Barbara County Supervisors,

Please authorize the Santa Barbara County Public Health Department to apply for state grant funding to create a local Farmworker Resource Center. We owe an immense debt of gratitude to our farmworker community for their service as essential workers throughout the COVID-19 pandemic and their vital work every day to put food on our tables. The Ventura County Farmworker Resource Program has been a successful model that has helped to improve working conditions for local farmworkers. The program provides an accessible place for farmworkers to receive assistance in navigating public agencies, receive information on wage and hour laws, health and safety laws, resolve workplace disputes and pursue other legal rights. This success has opened the opportunity for state grant funding to expand this program to three other California counties and we hope that Santa Barbara County can be one of them.

Thank you,
Emily

Katherine Douglas

From: Victor Mason (victormason@sbcglobal.net) Sent You a Personal Message
<kwautomail@phone2action.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 5, 2023 9:14 AM
To: sbcob
Subject: Deny Exxon trucking project - Upcoming Board of Supervisors Meeting

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 Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors,

I urge you to deny this dangerous project as recommended by the Santa Barbara Planning Commission.

In addition to the significant and unavoidable risks of spills from trucking the oil, the purported benefit of producing oil from the offshore platforms and processing it on the Gaviota coast would bring with it unacceptable risks of offshore oil spills, air pollution and toxic fire and smoke risks that were not analyzed in the EIR, which focused narrowly on trucking impacts.

The recent oil spill off of Orange County underlines the severity of these risks. In addition, ExxonMobil's facilities were the largest sources of air pollution in the county and contained dangerous and toxic materials in an area that has burned by wildfire twice in the 6 years since the facilities have been shut down. We were fortunate that oil and dangerous gases were not present at the site during the recent Alisal fire, which burned onto ExxonMobil's property.

It is not just that the trucking routes are along sections of road with above average accident rates, there have been specific and recent instances of oil tankers on this route spilling oil into rivers and starting fires. In fact, on October 11 -- the same day as the Alisal fire -- an oil tanker crash near Orcutt caused a fire in Eucalyptus trees.

Thank you for denying this dangerous and unacceptable oil trucking project.

Sincerely,

Victor Mason
834B Westmount Dr
West Hollywood, CA 90069
victormason@sbcglobal.net
(310) 666-7946

This message was sent by KnowWho, as a service provider, on behalf of an individual associated with Sierra Club. If you need more information, please contact Member Care at Sierra Club at member.care@sierraclub.org or (415) 977-5673.

Dear Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors,

6-28-23

Please reconsider your decision to defund the WEB program. This is a crucial program, a keystone of the community, and it simply cannot be replaced.

As inflation and cost of living costs, including medical expenses, skyrocket in Santa Barbara County, this program that ensures mothers and babies receive care is not only crucial to healthy, thriving families, but to society at large. In addition, the fact that this funding decision was made against the backdrop of a country where women's rights are dwindling, where gender inequality runs rampant, is deplorable, and definitely not reflective of the values and ideals of the Santa Barbara County citizens you are entrusted to represent.

I would also encourage you to refer to the vast, extensive, and undisputed research that the most valuable investment and most defining indicator of economic growth is women's equity. This includes, and starts with, maternal and child health. I hope you will right this wrong.

Sincerely, Julianne Jones

06/28/2023

Dear Clerk of the Board,

We kindly ask that you do not end this program as it has been a valuable nonprofit that assists moms & babies in need. Every mother needs that helping hand when it comes to parenting, lactating, etc. Please do not punish our community due to funding.

Sincerely,

Ana Fernandez

P.S: Please keep this nonprofit valuable/
alive!
♡

2023 JUL -5 P 5:03
COUNTY OF ARIZONA
CLERK OF THE
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Dear SB County Board of supervisors,

I'm writing to encourage you to fund the WEB Program, a vital lifeline for new mothers and their children. A good friend gave birth to her first child in fall of 2001, and without her community of support, her post-partum depression and subsequent, post-birth health problems would have been unbearable. Instead of isolating mothers, we need to support them.

Please fund the WEB program!

Best,

Chad

2023 JUL -5 P 5:02 I

2023 JUL -5 P 5:02 I

COUNCIL MEMBER MARGARA
CLERK OF THE
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Dear SB County Board of Supervisors,

As a social worker and policy analyst, I can attest that there is nothing more crucial than ensuring children and mothers have healthy opportunities to thrive. Infant and child healthcare can substantially reduce poverty, increase economic output, and will in turn address other social issues as children grow up with more healthy support systems. WEB is an absolutely crucial organization that needs your continued funding and I urge you to revoke your decision to withdraw this funding. Without WEB, in-home visits from trained RNs will not be possible and there will be no means to address childhood trauma w/o this program. The decision to remove funding must be rethought or if you have any concern for basic human rights. Please, I urge

Sincerely,
Mark Schweder

2023 JUL-5 P 5:02 PM
COUNTY CLERK BARBARA
CLERK OF THE
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

July 1st, 2023

Clerk of the Board
105 E Anapamu street, Suite 407
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

To Whom it May Concern:

2023 JUL -5 P 5:01

My name is Alexis Kissel and I am writing as one of many mothers in Santa Barbara County who have benefitted from the Welcome Every Baby (WEB) program offered through the Santa Barbara County Education Office (SBCEO). This program provides a valuable resource for families throughout the county and its loss to the county due to a lack of funding will be detrimental to the community. The program is one that can be funded feasibly and its benefits extend to many people. It is one that should continue to be available to families of all sizes, ages, and incomes in the county, as it has done for the past several years.

My son was born three weeks early via c-section in 2021. COVID restrictions still had a big impact on our daily lives and kept us isolated. When I was at Cottage Hospital, the nurses told me about WEB and said that I could schedule a visit with them, even with COVID restrictions. After struggling with breastfeeding and helping my son to put on weight, I was able to contact the nurses at WEB who scheduled an in-person visit with me and my son at the SBCEO office. The nurse who worked with me was kind and helpful and sat with me for over an hour helping me with breastfeeding. After this visit I was affirmed in what I was doing to help my son receive the nutrition he needed to grow and thrive. This program also provided intervention screening for postpartum depression and postpartum anxiety, conditions which can affect up to 1 in 7 new mothers. The nurse also provided a screening for me to make sure that I was not in an abusive relationship. Although I have a healthy and supportive marriage, I was impressed with this screening since this can provide support for moms who may have no other outlet or support in their lives and may need assistance to escape an abusive relationship for their safety and their baby's safety.

WEB has offered free services and support to over 18,000 families in the county. This countywide program means that this program is able to provide help to a large portion of our population on the Central Coast. I was encouraged to see these services offered and advertised at the high school where I teach, since teenage parents often lack the support and resources they need during what can be a time of crisis for them.

According to the *Santa Maria Sun*, our county's fiscal budget has increased to \$1.48 billion which is a 6.4% increase from last year. This increase should help to fund programs like WEB, which only costs \$350,000 to fund yearly. Since the Health and Human Services budget is \$515.9 million, funding this crucial program should not negatively impact the budget. Providing support and health services to mothers and infants is critical to ensuring that families thrive and continue on a healthy path in our community.

Thank you for reading this letter, and I hope that you will consider how important WEB is to our county and how much it can improve the health of local families now and in the future.

Sincerely,



Alexis Kissel

Dear SB County Board of Supervisors,

Please support the WEB Program. Recently, my friend gave birth to her first child. She went home, and a week and a half later, she had to be admitted to the hospital for a life threatening blood clot. Not only was she overwhelmed keeping her baby healthy and adjusting to motherhood, but she was struggling to stay alive. As a 31-year-old woman, I want our city to support women, mothers, and children.

Thank you for your consideration
to continue the WEB Program.

Regards,

Jana

2023 JUL -5 P 5:01
COUNTY CLERK
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

June 28, 2023

To the County Board of Supervisors;

I'm writing to you to express my support for WEB. The Welcome Every Baby program should not be defunded. When spending decisions are made, programs like this can intercept problems before they escalate and become significant expenses that other county programs will end up absorbing. I urge you to cut funding in other areas and leave this funding intact.

Sincerely,



Theodore Hoelter
1350 Camino Monadero
Santa Barbara, CA 93111

2023 JUL -5 P 5:00
COUNTY CLERK BARBARA
CLERK OF THE
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

June 28, 2023.

Dear SB Board of Supervisors -

Maternal + post natal care is a vital part of our healthcare system + Welcoming Every Baby (WEB) provides important, life changing care to families. New parents + babies need at home visits significantly benefit from the at-home visits from RNs + LCs that WEB provides. Their ability to assess for ACEs in home are unparalleled, and WEB also provides significant partner support.

This program does not require an extensive amount of funding. ~ just \$350-400k.

We all do better when we have better healthcare, especially for parents + babies. You have an opportunity to change the lives of people in this country for the better, + we urge you to take it! Please don't let bureaucracy take away your power to improve healthcare.

Sincerely,
Anwar Jifit

COURTESY OF
CLERK OF THE
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
ARIZONA
2023 JUL -5 P 5:00

Dear SB County Board of Supervisors,

Please consider keeping WEB funding. This is an essential program & families are the bedrock of our + all communities. Furthermore our local family members are already struggling to make ends meet with the ever rising cost of living, please do not cut funding to this essential program.

Goleta resident,

Daniel Kearney

2023 JUL -5 P 4:59
COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA
CLERK OF THE
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

6/28/23

Dear SB County Supervisors,

Please consider alternative funding sources to support the WEB Program. New families need this support service. Without ^{it} new moms only have 1 checkup which does not meet the physical and emotional support needs of new moms. & with all the rights being taken away from women, please consider supporting this essential service for new moms.

Best,

Emily Waddington

RECEIVED

2023 JUL -5 P 4: 59

COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO
CLERK OF THE
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

To: Clerk of the Board

FROM: Mango Roke

RECEIVED

2023 JUL -5 P 4: 58

COUNCIL CLERK BARBARA
CLERK OF THE
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

I just heard about the existence
of the WEB program, and it sounds
like a fantastic resource. I'm quite sorry
to hear that the funding is in doubt.
Mothers and newborns should be a
priority. Please be sure that this
program gets the funding it needs.

M. Roke

Dear Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors,

WEB is a valuable asset to new families - assessing mom, partner, baby, children, and all family members.

Web provides in-home visits specifically from trained registered nurses and licensed caretakers. This organization is incredibly important to new families, especially for low-income families. I urge you to consider keeping WEB for the greater good of our community.

RECEIVED

2023 JUL -5 P 4: 57

COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA
OFFICE OF THE
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Sincerely,

Tom Vo

