

Ramirez, Angelica

General Public Comment - Group 1

From: Christian Patterson <cpatterson@sbceo.org>
Sent: Monday, January 31, 2022 11:28 AM
To: sbcob
Subject: Letter of Support Regarding Antigen Tests for Early Childhood Facilities
Attachments: LPC Support Letter.pdf

Importance: High

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,

Attached is a letter of advocacy for antigen test kits for the early childhood community. I was directed to send this letter to you for distribution to the County Supervisors before tomorrow's meeting.

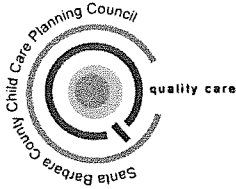
Thank you,

Christian Patterson
Manager, Early Care & Education



Santa Barbara
County Education Office
SERVICE & LEADERSHIP

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Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors
105 Anapamu St.
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, Children's Resource and Referral, Child Care Planning Council, and Community Care Licensing have remained open to provide support for families and children in care. These agencies have worked diligently during this fluid and dynamic situation to adapt to meet the needs of Child Care Professionals, working families and children. Child Care Providers have relied on Child Care Agencies such as Local Planning Council, Children's Resource & Referral and Community Care Licensing to provide the guidance and tools necessary to ensure the health and safety of the early Child Care community.

One situation which has greatly impacted the early Child Care community is the lack of COVID-19 Antigen Test Kits available to our families in care. With continual program closures and lengthy quarantine times, families are struggling. The shortened quarantine time of 5 days has extended to Child Care for all children who can mask. For this shorter quarantine time to apply, families need to be able to utilize an Antigen Test on the 5th day and produce a negative result. While PCR tests are more readily available, these tests show whether an individual has been COVID-19 positive within the last 90 days. An Antigen Test produces results which show whether an individual is currently infectious. With the lack of Antigen Tests available, the 10-day quarantine stays in place and leaves families unable to return to work and Child Care Providers unable to serve that child or at times, classroom.

Our County Agencies are appreciative of the support we have received thus far in the form of PPE and COVID-19 tests to help children remain in classrooms, however, the quantity received is a fraction of the supplies needed to support our families and children. Santa Barbara County Child Care Programs serve over 12,000 children. Our local Child Care Agencies have received a total of 720 COVID-19 kits, just 6% of our total Child Care population, to delegate out to the community. The challenge now falls on our local Child Care Agencies to develop a plan for how to best delegate the few tests we have to the facilities which serve the most children while knowing that a large portion of our Child Care community will continue to struggle.

We appreciate all the support we have received during the pandemic and know that community resilience remains a priority to all agencies throughout the county. We value the advocacy work our local government officials continue to do for the early Child Care community during the COVID-19 pandemic. To continue to serve our families and children effectively, we ask for your support in working to obtain the COVID-19 Antigen Tests we need to allow children to return to care and families to return to work.

Sincerely,

Christian Patterson

Child Care Planning Council Coordinator

Ramirez, Angelica

From: patrick boyle <cpemalibu@verizon.net>
Sent: Monday, January 31, 2022 3:15 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: Reduce jail size and increase community-based alternatives.

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 County Supervisor,

I write to express my strong support for changes to reduce the jail size and increase community-based alternatives so our jail holds only those who need to be there to protect the public.

1. Delay approval of final design and construction funds for any design contract services until the County obtains and has results from an expert jail population projection analysis. Urge our Supervisors to wait until the jail population analysis is available before voting to commit millions of taxpayer dollars.
2. Assure public input and transparency: establish specific opportunities for all stakeholders, including the public, to consider together options for the best use of the south county jail property.
3. Treat all jail residents humanely. Redesign the jail to allow for direct supervision. Provide opportunities for officers trained as mentors to work directly with residents, rather than remote. Research shows that this improves health and job retention for correction officers as well as helping residents. All units in the campus need access to an outdoor yard and a day room for socialization, reducing costly staff overtime escorting residents from cells to exercise spaces, classrooms, etc. Plans should also include pre-release transition housing with work-related day passes for those who will soon be reentering the community.
4. To help narrow the jail population to just those needed to secure public safety, provide improved jail intake assessment teams. At jail intake, the assessment team consists of the Sheriff's Intake Staff, Probation Risk Assessment, and Public Defender Holistic Advocacy. CLUE Criminal Justice Workgroup's research found the assessment team needs leadership and a coordinated effort rather than a disjointed silo approach. Focusing on Holistic Defense rather than on the criminal act prior to arraignment, will reduce the jail population by only incarcerating those who need to be there.
5. Create a live coordinated data system that displays available community alternative beds and services. CLUE Criminal Justice Workgroup's research shows that assessment teams, officers, deputies, and other stakeholders do not currently have an online, accessible system showing available community-based alternatives to jail. A live coordinated data resource that identifies alternative available placements for non-violent offenders will better serve assessment teams, clients and our community.

I ask you to commit to a more humane structure, replacing cells with more open living spaces and in-person supervision where mentoring by corrections staff can occur.

Sincerely,
patrick boyle

Date: January 31, 2022