



Katherine Douglas *Public Comment, Health + Human Services*

From: Teresa Alvarez <talvarez@carpchildren.org>
Sent: Thursday, April 16, 2026 2:17 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: Public comment on budget workshops, DSS budget
Attachments: doc02878220260416135217.pdf

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Good afternoon,

Please find the attached letter submitted as public comment on behalf of Carpinteria Children's Project in connection with the County of Santa Barbara's FY 26-27 budget hearings, pertaining to the Department of Social Services.

As detailed in the attachment, I strongly encourage the Board of Supervisors to act decisively in preserving funding for essential safety net programs — most critically, the Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention (CANP) contract.

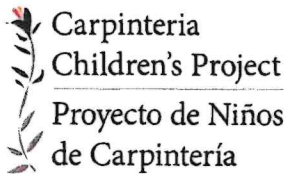
Thank you for your dedication and ongoing commitment to protecting the most vulnerable members of our community.

Gratefully,
Teresa

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Teresa Alvarez, MA
Executive Director
Pronouns She/Her/Ella
P: 805-566-1602
[Carpinteria Children's Project](#)

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April 16, 2026

Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors

105 East Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

**Re: FY 2026-27 Budget Workshop – Department of Social Services (DSS) –
CANP Contract Funding**

Dear Chair and Members of the Board of Supervisors,

I am writing on behalf of the Carpinteria Children’s Project (CCP) to respectfully submit public comment in connection with the upcoming FY 2026–27 budget workshops, and specifically with respect to the Department of Social Services (DSS) budget. I want to begin by sincerely acknowledging the extraordinary difficulty of this budget cycle. The decisions before you are not easy, and I have deep appreciation for the care and thoughtfulness that each of you brings to the process of balancing the needs of our community against very real fiscal constraints.

With that context in mind, I write to bring to your attention a funding concern that is weighing heavily on our organization and the families we serve. The Carpinteria Children’s Project holds a Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention (CANP) contract with the County of Santa Barbara, with an annual contract amount of \$546,667.

The CANP contract supports critical prevention services for some of the most vulnerable children and families in our community. Through this funding, the Carpinteria Children’s Project delivers evidence-based programs designed to prevent child abuse and neglect before it occurs — reducing trauma, keeping families intact, and ultimately decreasing the burden on county systems including child welfare, foster care, and behavioral health.

If this contract were to be reduced or eliminated, the impact on our community would be significant. Vulnerable children and families who depend on these prevention services would be left without support, often at the very moments when early intervention could make the greatest difference. We know that prevention is far more cost-effective than the downstream costs of intervention — and we believe this investment reflects the County’s own values around child safety and family wellbeing.

I understand that every dollar in this budget represents a difficult choice, and I do not raise this concern lightly. I respectfully ask that the Board please do what it can to ensure that the CANP contract — and the critical prevention services it funds — is preserved in the FY 2026–27 budget.

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Thank you sincerely for your service to our county, and for your continued commitment to the health and safety of our most vulnerable community members. We are grateful for all that you do.

With respect and appreciation,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Teresa', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Teresa Alvarez
Executive Director
Carpinteria Children's Project
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talvarez@carpchildren.org