

Ramirez, Angelica

Public Comment: Health & Human Serv.
Public Health

From: Mario Espinoza-Kulick <mvespinoza@ucsb.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, April 13, 2021 10:57 AM
To: sbcob; Williams, Das; Hartmann, Joan; Lavagnino, Steve; Nelson, Bob; Hart, Gregg
Subject: Public Comment for 4/14 Budget Workshop
Attachments: April 2021 Budget Workshop Public Comment.pdf; ATT00001.htm

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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 Supervisors Nelson, Hartmann, Williams, Hart, and Lavagnino,

Please see below my public comment for the Budget Workshop meeting tomorrow, 4/14. I have also attached my comment as a PDF to this message.

Thank you.

I am Mario Espinoza-Kulick, a Doctoral Candidate in Sociology at the University of California, Santa Barbara, and a Health Policy Research Scholar with the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. Over the past five years, I have worked as a researcher and community leader with Latinx Immigrant and Indigenous groups throughout the Central Coast region. I write to share my views as a constituent of Santa Barbara County's Fourth District.

In the wake of this pandemic, it is of the highest importance that we make substantial investments in healthcare infrastructure and health equity. My research has shown that existing healthcare systems continually underserve immigrant communities and Indigenous peoples. These disparities impact our public health, leading to preventable illness and death, drive up healthcare costs, and deteriorate our economic workforce's productivity.

Many immigrants are excluded from health insurance programs, resulting in an undue burden on emergency healthcare providers in our communities. The County can help decrease these costs by funding access to free and accessible healthcare services that are not attached to documentation status. Community organizations and churches are critical partners for offering these services as they have already built trusting relationships with communities that tend to avoid government agencies.

In a survey of Latinx Immigrant community members on the Central Coast, nearly 3 in 4 respondents (71%) had avoided healthcare even before the pandemic because appointments were not available. Even when services do exist, language barriers can prevent community members from accessing meaningful care. Our County must invest in Indigenous language interpretation services to make healthcare accessible and other programs, resources, and services offered by the County.

As One County, with One Future, equity must guide our investments in public health and safety net systems that can help to prevent and mitigate the effects of future environmental threats. With increased funding from our local community through cannabis tax revenue and support from federal pandemic recovery sources, now is the time to commit to a budget that serves our most vulnerable community members' needs.

Sincerely,
Mario Espinoza-Kulick, MA, PhD Candidate

April 13, 2021

TO: Supervisor and Chair, Bob Nelson, Fourth District
Supervisor and Vice Chair, Joan Hartmann, Third District
Supervisor Das Williams, First District
Supervisor Gregg Hart, Second District
Supervisor Steve Lavagnino, Fifth District
CC: County Executive Officer, Mona Miyasoto

Dear Supervisors Nelson, Hartmann, Williams, Hart, and Lavagnino,
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Sincerely,
Mario Espinoza-Kulick, MA, PhD Candidate

Ramirez, Angelica

From: Beamon, Daisy <Msb2827@aol.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 13, 2021 4:13 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: Public comment regarding 2021-2022 budget for Public Health
Attachments: Letter for Support Public Health.docx

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Dear Clerk of the Board,
Please include and distribute the attached letter as public comment for the County Supervisors' 2021-2022 budget agenda topic of Public Health scheduled Wednesday, April 14th. Please read this letter into the record when public comment is invited during the budget workshop regarding Public Health.

Thank you,
Daisy Beamon
805-680-7172 (cell)

3705 San Remo Drive, Unit B
Santa Barbara, CA 93105
Msb2827@aol.com

April 13, 2021

Dear County Supervisors:

Re: 2021-2022 budget funding for Public Health

I ask you to make budget decisions that will directly address the disparate impacts of racism on the health of BIPOC communities in our County.

Please refer back to your April 6th Resolution declaring Racism a public health crisis and carefully review the 14 or so public comments concerning that Resolution. The public's comments highlight concerns that the Resolution lacked an action plan, timetable, or specific undertakings to help remedy racism's pervasive health impacts.

I ask you to apply specific ideas presented in the 4/5 Resolution's public comments and fund specific programs to improve racial justice and race-based public health shortcomings. Please reallocate substantial funds from the Sheriff Department's 2021-2022 budget to financially support actions and timetables to increase community-based services that will help make BIPOC communities whole throughout our County. Specifically, reallocate funds to increase community-based Health and Wellness resources.

Also, increase "holistic advocacy" staffing for the Public Defender. "Holistic advocacy" helps focus on mental health, addiction, and other health-related needs that cause people to become justice-involved. Substantially increasing funding these programs will directly help reduce our criminal justice system's disparate impacts on our BIPOC citizens.

Thank you for your consideration.

Daisy Beamon
805-680-7172