



"Citrus Capital of the World"

City of Santa Paula

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January 18, 2023

Kristine Supple
CMHS Director of Population Health
147 N. Brent Street
Ventura, CA 93001

Subject: Letter of Support for the Community Memorial Health System Behavioral Health Integration Center Construction Grant

Dear Ms. Supple:

On behalf of the City of Santa Paula, it is my pleasure to write a letter of support for the proposal being submitted on behalf of the Community Memorial Health System Behavioral Health Integration Center construction grant. In 2022, the County of Ventura Health Needs Assessment identified mental health as the number one issue facing Ventura County residents. The need to provide in person mental health services and access at a Behavioral Health Integration Center is not only needed, but essential for residents of Ventura County and residents of Santa Paula.

Currently, the City of Santa Paula lacks in person access to crisis and behavioral health services, behavioral health treatments, and resources to help those who suffer from mental health issues. Through the construction of a Behavioral Health Integration Center, our residents will be able to seek mental health services such as adult and pediatric psychiatrists, addiction medicine physicians, psychologists, licensed clinical social workers, and even psychology fellows who can enhance the primary care for children, youth, seniors, and persons with disabilities otherwise lacking access to mental health services.

Furthermore, City Council's current Legislative Platform supports these efforts under several sections identified below.

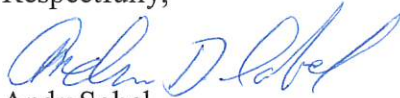
Section 3.A.2. - Support legislation and local, state, and federal programs that reduce the number of people experiencing homelessness by promoting mental health and substance abuse services; providing emergency and transitional housing; expanding permanent affordable/supportive housing; and promoting self-empowerment through counseling, job training, and other supportive services for those who suffer from mental health issues and/or substance abuse.

Section 5.E.1 - Support legislation and grants that provide for the overall wellbeing and physical, mental and emotional health of individuals within the City of Santa Paula including children, youth, seniors, and persons with disabilities.

Section 5.E.5 - Support legislation and policies that promote mental health and substance use disorder services and make resources available that support and assist members of our community.

For these reasons, the City of Santa Paula supports the efforts of the Community Memorial Health System to establish a Behavioral Health Integration Center in Ventura, CA.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Andy Sobel". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Andy" and last name "Sobel" clearly distinguishable.

Andy Sobel
Mayor
City of Santa Paula

Cc: City Council
City Manager