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October 21, 2025

Susan Holt, Director of Behavioral Health,
County of Fresno
1925 E Dakota Ave,
Fresno, CA 93726

SUPPORT FOR DEPARTMENT OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH *BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CONTINUUM INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM (BHCIP) ROUND 2: UNMET NEEDS GRANT APPLICATION*

Dear Susan Holt,

The Fresno County Board of Supervisors is pleased to express strong support for the County of Fresno Department of Behavioral Health (DBH) in their submission of a proposal to the Behavioral Health Continuum Infrastructure Program (BHCIP) 2025 Round 2: Unmet Needs Grant. The Crisis Residential Treatment (CRT) project, located at the northwest corner of Shields and Millbrook in Fresno, CA, will include the construction of a new facility on the Heritage Centre Campus and will be licensed as a Social Rehabilitation Facility.

In January 2022, the Department of Healthcare Services (DHCS) published a study titled Assessing the Continuum of Care for Behavioral Health Services in California, which highlighted significant gaps in the behavioral health care services available to individuals receiving care. Since the study's release, DBH has actively sought ways to narrow the gap in behavioral health services not only for the county but also regionally. DBH submitted applications to DHCS for BHCIP Rounds 1-5 and Bond BHCIP Round 1. DBH's current application for the Bond BHCIP 2025 Round 2 Unmet Needs grant will continue advancing its efforts to improve access to behavioral health services.

DBH is a Fresno County government agency responsible for ensuring services are provided to Medi-Cal members residing in Fresno County who may be experiencing mental health or substance use disorders and additionally provides services to many persons who are indigent/uninsured. DBH provides direct services to children, adults, and families experiencing behavioral health challenges at multiple facilities. DBH services through our system of care include assessment, therapy, medication, case management, crisis intervention, treatment, and other services.

The construction of this new facility will add sixteen (16) beds and crisis residential treatment services to support adults experiencing an acute psychiatric crisis or episode. These services will serve as an alternative to hospitalization. CRT services will provide assessment, plan development, therapy, rehabilitation, collateral, and crisis intervention. The goal is to help individuals restore, preserve, and apply interpersonal and independent living skills while assisting in the development of a personal community support system. The CRT Heritage project aligns with all State criteria, priorities outlined in the Request for Applications, and DBH priorities and will help fill a gap in the continuum of services in the Central Valley.

The addition of this facility into the DBH portfolio will increase DBH's overall capacity to provide adequate and clinically appropriate services for this population, as there is a gap and unmet need for CRT services as an alternative to hospitalization. This new facility will also be co-located with some of the County of Fresno's other 24/7 services on the same campus, which notably includes Adult and Youth Psychiatric Health Facilities (PHF), Adult and Youth Crisis Stabilization Units, and the Department of Social Services' Transitional Shelter Care Facility for youth in foster care. This facility being co-located with the Adult Crisis Stabilization Unit and Adult PHF ensures seamless access into CRT services. This CRT facility will also be open to accepting admissions from nearby counties, thus serving as a regional asset in the heart of the Central Valley.

The Fresno County Board of Supervisors is pleased to support DBH in their submittal of a proposal for the construction of a CRT facility to add capacity and provide the full continuum of services outlined above, with an emphasis on Medi-Cal beneficiaries, which aligns with DBH's ongoing commitment to provide quality, culturally responsive behavioral health services to promote wellness, recovery, and resiliency for individuals and families in Fresno County.

Sincerely,



Ernest Buddy Mendes
Chairman of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Fresno