



June 16, 2021

Dear Measure X Community Advisory Board:

On behalf of the City of El Cerrito City Council, I am writing to endorse the work of the Community Crisis Initiative which is requesting Measure X funding for the development of a comprehensive system to respond to behavioral health crises in our community. The Initiative is a partnership between cities from across the County and Contra Costa Health Services (CCHS) to develop a comprehensive community crisis response system that can be accessed by **anyone, anytime, anywhere.**

Since July 2020, a representative group of City Managers from the Contra Costa Public Managers Association (PMA) have been collaborating with CCHS. Under the sponsorship of this group, a multi-disciplinary team including law enforcement, community advocates, behavioral health staff, people with lived experience, and others looked at existing capacities and created an initial framework where anyone in Contra Costa County can access timely and appropriate behavioral health crisis care anywhere, at any time. This team looked at best practices nationally, regionally, and locally, and held three week-long workshops to test various aspects of the model. **The model includes three components of a comprehensive crisis response system, including a virtual hub (regional call center), crisis response teams and alternate destinations.**

It has become clear to us that individuals involved in these emergency and crisis mental health situations are in need of behavioral health interventions, and this Initiative will provide an alternative to law enforcement response. We fully support the recommendations to develop a comprehensive crisis response system available 24/7 and serving all of the regions and cities in the County. We are committed in the City of El Cerrito to help support and ensure full development of this new system which will only be realized through stable funding made available through federal resources and the State of California Department of Health Care Services in addition to other sources of funding – all intended to support the expansion of a comprehensive mobile crisis system with mental health professionals.

We urge you as the Measure X Community Advisory Board to support this effort as well. Using Measure X funding to support the launch and development will go a long way to making sure that mobile crisis services are conducted in an age appropriate, geographically accessible, and culturally competent manner to all residents of Contra Costa County whatever their insurance status may be. This work is just what Measure X was intended to support, especially since all members of our county and all communities will benefit.

Sincerely yours,

Paul Fadelli
Mayor, City of El Cerrito

cc: El Cerrito City Council
Supervisor John Gioia