



June 16, 2021

Mariana Moore, Chair
Measure X Community Advisory Board
County Administrator's Office
1025 Escobar Street, 4th Floor
Martinez, CA 94553

Dear Ms. Moore,

On behalf of Walnut Creek's Downtown Business Association, we are 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 to develop a comprehensive community crisis response system that can be accessed by **anyone, anytime, anywhere**. Measure X will provide the necessary funding to help make this a reality.

Since July 2020, a representative group of City Managers from the Contra Costa Public Managers Association (PMA) have been collaborating with Contra Costa Health Services (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 is clear to us that individuals involved in these emergency and crisis mental health situations are in need of behavioral health interventions. As a member on the Walnut Creek Homeless Task Force for the past six years, we have observed firsthand the high demand for mental health resources in Walnut Creek. Covid-19 accelerated the need for crisis intervention. 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 Walnut Creek, to helping support and even fund the new system which will also depend on stable funding available through the federal American Rescue Act and the State of California Department of Health Care Services in addition to other sources—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.

Kind Regards,

Kathy Hemmenway
Executive Director
Walnut Creek Downtown

Kerry Inserra
Associate Director
Walnut Creek Downtown

Lead and collaborate with our members, partners and community to promote and enhance downtown Walnut Creek.

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