

Lisa Driscoll

From: Donna Feingold <DFeingold@alc-ca.org>
Sent: Friday, June 25, 2021 2:36 PM
To: Lisa Driscoll
Subject: Measure X Meeting on 6/23/2021 on Disabilities and Mental Health

Dear Lisa,

Please accept this as my written comments for the meeting this past Wednesday. I am the Executive Director of the Adaptive Learning Center which is a nonprofit located in Concord serving adults with autism and other developmental disabilities to live and work independently in the community.

I would like to echo many of the comments made by Vi Ibarra in her presentation. There is a great need to enhance our workforce and develop training programs as well as enhance wages so that the people we support have access to a qualified and skilled workforce. The work our staff do is essential and living wages should be a priority for them.

I would like to see the county create more jobs and internships for individuals with developmental disabilities. The unemployment and underemployment rate for this group of individuals is staggering at around 70%. We serve many talented and skilled individuals who would make wonderful employees if given a chance.

We need to increase affordable and accessible housing for individuals with disabilities. Rents continue to increase at alarming rates, and it is not possible for the people we support to become self-sufficient without more affordable housing.

It is great that as a nation we are finally focused on equity and inclusion for all. However, it seems that much of that focus is on race and culture which is long overdue, but we must also remember to include individuals with disabilities in these conversations. Mental health services in the Contra Costa County are not very accessible to individuals with autism and other developmental disabilities. If Measure X funds are used to create more mental health and crisis services, I hope that the needs of this population is included as well.

In closing, I urge the Measure X Committee to consider the needs individuals with developmental disabilities in all decisions made on how dollars should be spent with a special focus on the needs of our workforce, housing for those we support, greater employment opportunities for those we support and more accessible mental health services. Thank you very much!

Sincerely,

Donna Feingold

Donna Feingold

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