



MEASURE X FUNDS TO BOLSTER THE ADDICTION TREATMENT SYSTEM

TO: MEASURE X COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD
FROM: JAIME CAMPOS
SUBJECT: MEASURE X FUND ALLOCATION
DATE: 7/27/21
CC: BI-BETT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

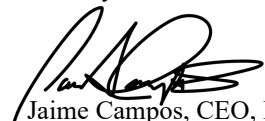
Dear advisory board -

Thank you for your service on the Measure X advisory committee as you aim to steer usage of funds in a fair and equitable way based on county needs. We realize that the committee members are composed of individuals representing a broad range of service offerings for Contra Costa community members including child and family services, workforce specialists, housing, real estate experts and a few others.

Because the committee is lacking representation of Substance Use Disorder (SUD) treatment providers during a time when we are experiencing an opioid overdose epidemic and mental health crisis, we would like to request your support. As you are likely aware, the Department of Health & Human Services has deemed the opioid epidemic as a public health emergency. 70,630 people died from an overdose in 2019¹ with preliminary CDC data showing that 2020 had even more concerning statistics given the 92,183 overdose deaths in that year,² a disturbing figure suggesting that the COVID-19 pandemic is significantly impacting our community's health and wellness as it relates to high-risk drug use. Taking a closer look at California's statistics from the 2020 year, our 9,142 overdose deaths are a staggering 43% increase over the prior year's overdose statistics,³ while Contra Costa itself shows increasing year-over-year prescription & synthetic opioid overdose rates along with increasing opioid related ED visits.⁴ Beyond drug use alone however, we know that high risk drinking behaviors have increased nationwide as well.⁵

All of the data point to an urgent need to bolster our SUD treatment system of care in Contra Costa County. Contra Costa relies on Medicaid programs which fund treatment stays for certain individuals however these resources are limited. Measure X funds are an excellent way of enhancing treatment resources during a time of unprecedented need. Therefore, we would strongly encourage your board to consider allocation of Measure X monies which support and enhance SUD treatment services in the County in an effort to add resources, capacity and new service lines which improve access to treatment for our vulnerable population.

Thank you -



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¹ HHS (2020). 2019 National Survey on Drug Use & Health

² CDC (2021): 12 month ending provision counts of drug overdose deaths: United States.

³ CDC (2021): 12 month ending provision counts of drug overdose deaths: California.

⁴ CDPH (2021): California Opioid Overdose Surveillance Dashboard.

⁵ Grossman, E. R., Benjamin-Neelon, S. E., & Sonnenschein, S. (2020). Alcohol Consumption during the COVID-19 Pandemic: A Cross-Sectional Survey of US Adults. International journal of environmental research and public health, 17(24), 9189.
<https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph17249189>

