

Agenda Item	Your Name	City of Residence	Comments (1500 character limit)
D.6 Consider authorizing advance payments to non-governmental community-based organizations that provide direct health and human services to residents of Contra Costa County and are experiencing service disruptions caused by COVID-19	Jaime Campos	Bi-Bett Corporation	(Attachment/Letter)
D.6 Consider authorizing advance payments to non-governmental community-based organizations that provide direct health and human services to residents of Contra Costa County and are experiencing service disruptions caused by COVID-19	Mica Gonzalez		<p>As a psychologist who spent 4 years providing home-visiting early intervention services in West Contra Costa County, I have seen up close the pervasive vulnerability of many families. They are struggling with layers of trauma, mental health disorders, alcohol and drug addiction, domestic and community violence, and financial insecurity, just to name a few stressors. And yet I never met a family that didn't strive to improve their lives, to help their babies and toddlers heal and provide them a better future.</p> <p>This is not the time to let these families down. This is the time to ensure that the agencies that serve them are well-funded and able to continue the invaluable work they do with these families.</p> <p>I implore you to keep community agencies like the Early Childhood Mental Health Program in Richmond funded. Do your part to help these parents keep their promise to their children of a better future. Our own children and grandchildren will look back to moments like these and know whether, during times of great strife and uncertainty, we took the courageous action to put children and families first.</p>

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D.6 Consider authorizing advance payments to non-governmental community-based organizations that provide direct health and human services to residents of Contra Costa County and are experiencing service disruptions caused by COVID-19	Hunter P. Harris MD	Oakland	<p>Dear Supervisors of Contra Costa County,</p> <p>As a member of The Early Childhood Mental Health Program Board of Directors, I ask that you adopt the CBO funding solution put forth in the 3/27/2020 memo by Dan Geiger of the Human Services Alliance of Contra Costa. This solution represents no increase in the county budget above what has already been approved and signed into contract. Its adoption will enable ECMHP to remain fully staffed and operational as we must to meet the critical ongoing and COVID crisis related needs of our very vulnerable county clients, mostly young children and their parents. Less robust support at this critical time may well compromise the agency's very survival, a true disaster.</p> <p>Please approve the Alliance's solution today.</p> <p>Respectfully submitted, Hunter P. Harris MD</p>

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D.6 Consider authorizing advance payments to non-governmental community-based organizations that provide direct health and human services to residents of Contra Costa County and are experiencing service disruptions caused by COVID-19	Judy Bendix	Richmond	<p>Dear Supervisors of Contra Costa County, As the President of the Early Childhood Mental Health Program Board of Directors, I ask you to adopt the CBO funding solution described in the 3/27/2020 memo by Dan Geiger of the Human Services Alliance of Contra Costa.</p> <p>The Alliance solution represents no increase in the County budget above what has already been approved and signed into contract. ECMHP must remain fully staffed and operational to help our clients now and in the coming months. Laying off staff to reduce costs during this crisis will destroy a 45-year old organization and the lifeline of direct service to the most vulnerable among us, including very young children and their parents. This is a disaster that can and must be avoided by guaranteeing the maximum allowable monthly payments on the County contract with ECMHP during this crisis.</p> <p>Please approve the Alliance solution today. Respectfully submitted, Judy Bendix</p>
D.6 Consider authorizing advance payments to non-governmental community-based organizations that provide direct health and human services to residents of Contra Costa County and are experiencing service disruptions caused by COVID-19	Bill Polits	Contra Costa	<p>Especially now, it's important that families in Contra Costa County to continue receiving essential services, such as mental health and other support. Keep the social safety net well-funded!</p>
D.6 Consider authorizing advance payments to non-governmental community-based organizations that provide direct health and human services to residents of Contra Costa County and are experiencing service disruptions caused by COVID-19	Lorena Huerta	richmond	<p>Familias Unidas has been providing mental health services for the most vulnerable children, youth, and families in Contra Costa County. The COVID 19 crisis is threatening our viability. We are efficient in what we do. We operate on a shoe string budget. We have shifted our services to help the community and have increased expenses with declining revenue as we know that we cannot bill for many services we provide in the framework of medi-cal. Without a safety net, we will inevitably need to close our doors that will leave a void in supporting low-income families, in particular the Spanish-speaking members of Contra Costa County.</p>

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D.6 Consider authorizing advance payments to non-governmental community-based organizations that provide direct health and human services to residents of Contra Costa County and are experiencing service disruptions caused by COVID-19	Angelica Pruyn	Albany	<p>I am a child and family therapist at Early Childhood Mental Health Program in Richmond. I have been a witness to the ongoing trauma of the immigrant families I serve. Where I was seeing gains in the families that I was serving before Covid-19 spread, I am now seeing regression and a return to crisis mode for these families. I have been given the use of telehealth sessions to try to mitigate the loss of gains the children and families have made. Without this support, I am at a loss for how these families will fare by the end of the Covid-19 spread. I ask that you thoughtfully consider funding our services so that the children and families we serve will have a safe space to work through such a traumatic time. Things will surely take a turn for the worse without our support. Please do the right thing. Many Thanks</p>

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D.6 Consider authorizing advance payments to non-governmental community-based organizations that provide direct health and human services to residents of Contra Costa County and are experiencing service disruptions caused by COVID-19	Harriet Robin MacLean	Hercules	<p>I am a retired teacher, principal, and district administrator who worked in the West Contra Costa, Oakland, and San Rafael school districts. Regardless of where I worked, there were always overwhelming numbers of traumatized and depressed children and families that the schools were struggling to help. This is how I became a huge proponent of the Community Schools Initiative, where schools partner with all the community supports to serve students and families. With the added stress of COVID-19 effects - school interruption, job loss, potential loss of home, isolation anxiety, increased depression - many nonprofit community groups, charities, food banks and other groups need help to serve our population. I am sure you are aware of the myriad of ways these essential service providers are struggling due to the far-reaching and extremely negative effects of this health care crisis.</p> <p>Please continue to support them in every way at your disposal through these increasingly perilous times. I thank you for the caring you bring to your work as leaders in this community.</p>

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D.6 Consider authorizing advance payments to non-governmental community-based organizations that provide direct health and human services to residents of Contra Costa County and are experiencing service disruptions caused by COVID-19	Dan Geiger	Richmond, CA	<p>I thank the County Administrator and Health Services Department for responding to the needs of community-based service providers as described in the resolution in agenda item D.6 re: advancing 1/12 of contract amounts (or equivalent pro-rated amount) for April, and request that the resolution include March as well, as service levels and cash flow have been impacted this month.</p> <p>I support the Human Services Alliance proposal to maintain the social safety net. We urge the County to take whatever measures possible to expedite payments from Behavioral Health Department</p> <p>Through this crisis, our members are serving your constituents as they face social isolation, anxiety, and heightened distress. I am grateful for your leadership and tireless commitment to the people of Contra Costa County. Thank you.</p>
D.6 Consider authorizing advance payments to non-governmental community-based organizations that provide direct health and human services to residents of Contra Costa County and are experiencing service disruptions caused by COVID-19	M. Cristina Mendoza, MD	Richmond	I think it is important for families in Contra Costa County to continue receiving essential services, such as mental health and education, and respectfully urge the Board to authorize the advanced payments - as other neighboring counties have done - in order to support the non-profit agencies with whom the county has contracted to provide these crucial services.

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D.6 Consider authorizing advance payments to non-governmental community-based organizations that provide direct health and human services to residents of Contra Costa County and are experiencing service disruptions caused by COVID-19	Kim Walz	Richmond	It is necessary to fund agencies and groups of non-profits serving some of the most vulnerable and disadvantaged residents in the county (young children, in our case). All of these non-profits are severely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and resulting measures, and some of them will have to close their doors if the county does not provide financial assistance. (Many of the surrounding counties have already passed assistance measures.)
D.6 Consider authorizing advance payments to non-governmental community-based organizations that provide direct health and human services to residents of Contra Costa County and are experiencing service disruptions caused by COVID-19	Haydee Ortiz	Kensington	It is vital that the most vulnerable residents of Contra Costa county continue to receive mental health support during this time of crisis. Please do the right thing, and help human services organizations continue to do their vital work. Without funding, many will not survive, and the many county residents that depend on these services will be unable to get the help they need, risking worsening mental health issues, and a consequent increase in psychiatric emergencies and hospitalizations.
D.6 Consider authorizing advance payments to non-governmental community-based organizations that provide direct health and human services to residents of Contra Costa County and are experiencing service disruptions caused by COVID-19	Monica McKeown Gallichio	Concord	Lived here off & on for 75 yrs. good city.

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D.6 Consider authorizing advance payments to non-governmental community-based organizations that provide direct health and human services to residents of Contra Costa County and are experiencing service disruptions caused by COVID-19	Amanda Campbell	Richmond	<p>My name is Amanda Campbell. I am the Clinical Director of the Early Childhood Mental Health Program in Richmond. Our organization provides mental health services to children from birth to five. We see children who have been asked to leave preschools because of their behavior. We see mothers and fathers who are trying to stay sober so that they can keep their children. We see grandmothers and grandfathers who are parents a second time around. If this measure is not approved these services will disappear. When the COVID-19 crisis began our staff quickly shifted to telehealth services. I'm sure you can imagine how hard it might be to provide therapy to a three-year-old over video. Despite these difficulties, we have continued to see all of our clients through this crisis and continue to get referrals for new families. Without this financial help we will have to lay people off. If you lay off 2 therapists you then have 30 children and families with no services. When children and families are stuck inside their homes together without support child abuse, domestic violence, and drug and alcohol use increase. Our services have a direct impact on reducing these adverse experiences for children. If you do not approve this measure these children, the most vulnerable of our community, will be left with no support in one of the largest crisis the world has faced.</p>

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D.6 Consider authorizing advance payments to non-governmental community-based organizations that provide direct health and human services to residents of Contra Costa County and are experiencing service disruptions caused by COVID-19	Mary Lynn Sasso	Kensington	Our agencies serve the most vulnerable and at risk population. We serve low income families, children 2-6, single mothers and more. Our work, care and connection with them is essential to their mental and physical well being. This not only supports them but ultimately the whole community. Our doors must stay open. Please take action on this funding. Thank you.
D.6 Consider authorizing advance payments to non-governmental community-based organizations that provide direct health and human services to residents of Contra Costa County and are experiencing service disruptions caused by COVID-19	Marie Kamali	Hercules	People who cannot advocate for themselves need assistance and knowledge where to go for help while maintaining safety protocols.

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D.6 Consider authorizing advance payments to non-governmental community-based organizations that provide direct health and human services to residents of Contra Costa County and are experiencing service disruptions caused by COVID-19	Sami Qreini	Richmond	<p>Please support the continuance of social service delivery to the thousands of Contra Costa residents that rely on it. By ensuring the financial stability of these non-profits, you are averting a health crisis that would reach well beyond this current pandemic. These agencies are serving vital needs of children and families affected by poverty, mental illness, homelessness, racial inequality, violence and trauma. With the help of their services, families are able to stay together, housed, employed, abstinent, and safe every day. Imagine a foster parent trying to help their children cope with trauma and loss without their own support network, such as a therapist or a support group? If county agencies have to close their doors, the ripple effect will be felt for many years to come. Contra Costa non-profits are vital to this community. I urge you to support this proposal.</p>
D.6 Consider authorizing advance payments to non-governmental community-based organizations that provide direct health and human services to residents of Contra Costa County and are experiencing service disruptions caused by COVID-19	Ralph Leighton	Kensington	<p>Please, please, PLEASE keep the money flowing to the Community Based Organizations — their work is needed now more than ever. The stay-at-home orders are MORE reason to support their work, as there is MORE work to do under these challenging circumstances. Please do not pull the rug out from under our most vulnerable neighbors by stopping funding; instead, please continue to honor the payments already allocated — it will be money well spent!</p>
D.6 Consider authorizing advance payments to non-governmental community-based organizations that provide direct health and human services to residents of Contra Costa County and are experiencing service disruptions caused by COVID-19		Kensington	<p>Support should be enabled as soon as possible. Early prevention of spread of COVID-19 is critical.</p>

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D.6 Consider authorizing advance payments to non-governmental community-based organizations that provide direct health and human services to residents of Contra Costa County and are experiencing service disruptions caused by COVID-19	Janisse Sandidge	Hercules	The government employees that serve the public need to be adequately compensated and protected. The board of supervisors in Contra Costa have made questionable decisions in the past that did not reflect the needs of the people and those that serve the people. Front line government workers must have the financial and physical resources available to them so that they may continue to serve my family and others like it. Please use this time to show your constituents that human dignity and respect is what really matters in life, not YOUR financial bottom line.
D.6 Consider authorizing advance payments to non-governmental community-based organizations that provide direct health and human services to residents of Contra Costa County and are experiencing service disruptions caused by COVID-19	Jeffrey Sloan	Richmond	<p>To address these growing needs resulting from schools closures, and "shelter-in-place" restrictions, Early Childhood Mental Health Program (ECMHP), like many others, has quickly transitioned to a telehealth clinical model that allows us to connect with our clients remotely. Our amazing staff has put in hundreds of unbillable hours just with the technical changes, creating amazing therapeutic interventions.</p> <p>Contra Costa County considers Early Childhood Mental Health Program, "essential services" because of the therapeutic support, care, and empathy our clinicians provide to the vulnerable population we serve in an extremely scary and uncertain time. At times like these mental health services save lives, reduce self-harm and harm to others, and provide space for families to heal. Our dilemma is simple, if our revenue from the county, for March, April, and May does not reach our normal average monthly revenue we will be scaling down our services until we either go out of business or scale down to only a fraction of the services we are capable of providing. We are not asking for anything more than what has already been budgeted on our contracts. If the board of supervisors do not act boldly today and keep our nonprofits whole, they and David Twa, Pat Godley, and Anna Roth will be dismantling our community based mental health system at a time when our vulnerable communities need us the most. Act boldly and support the mental health of our most vulnerable communities.</p>