

Good morning Board of Supervisors,

I am writing you today to provide some background information on why I signed the letter supporting the collaboration of the Behavioral Health and Public Health departments, once the current HHSA agency is dissolved. The previous four years have given me the unique opportunity to work in both fiscal departments and program administrative roles for Behavioral Health and Public Health.

The incredible programs that both of these departments provide to our community overlap because of the nature of their services, to the extent that I sometimes wonder why certain programs fall under the Behavioral Health umbrella, as opposed to Public Health, and vice versa.

I have heard about various surveys, shared by the Union, that have expressed Public Health's preference of following a tri-department model – while I do not recall participating in this survey, I wholeheartedly disagree with this sentiment and in my understanding the sample size of responses did not clearly relay a majority of Public Health staff.

Collaboration is the key to success. Public Health and Behavioral Health have worked tirelessly to support each other throughout the COVID-19 response. This collaboration has strengthened the relationships between both of the teams, with the leadership of Jenine Miller. I have been engaged with the Logistics and Fiscal aspects of this pandemic from the very beginning of March 2020, and I truly believe that our county's Public Health response would not have been as strong as it was without the support from the Behavioral Health Management and their Fiscal team.

Thank you for the time and consideration that has gone into creating the strongest model for the future of the HHSA agency, especially the attention given to both Public and Behavioral Health departments. They are such a huge aspect of our everyday lives, especially during these unprecedented and trying times – our community deserves every moment of time, and every ounce of effort that we can give to making their Public Health and Behavioral Health departments the most effective and efficient entity possible. It would be my opinion that a collaboration between Public and Behavioral Health departments is the efficient model to meet our communities needs.

Sincerely,

Chris Borgna

>>> Dianne Laster 6/4/2021 1:14 PM >>>

Good Afternoon,

Thank you for taking the opportunity to sign the letter supporting the Behavioral Health and Public Health collaborative model.