



August 18, 2020

Jeff Smith and Miguel Marquez  
County of Santa Clara  
70 W. Hedding Street, 11th Floor, East Wing  
San José, CA 95110

Dear Jeff and Miguel,

Silicon Valley Council of Nonprofits (SVCN) fully recognizes that COVID-19 has had and will have unprecedented negative impacts to Santa Clara County's budget; we also realize that in an environment where County programs and staff will experience cut-backs, nonprofit organizations with County funding will not emerge unscathed. We also realize that the current federal and state funding landscape is fluid and unpredictable, which makes County budget planning challenging.

However, we would like to express our disappointment in seeing a number of reductions and eliminations proposed in the Social Services Administration (SSA) and Behavioral Health budgets without advance notice to the nonprofits affected, without consultation with SVCN or other nonprofit representatives, without meaningful transparency into the Administration's rationale behind its budget reduction strategies, and without meaningful input from the community about budget priorities, including whether and to what degree safety-net services should be prioritized for preservation.

It was particularly disappointing that some nonprofit leaders saw that their organizations were slated for cuts for the first time in a budget document on Friday (without the proposed cut amounts even being provided). As we have expressed to SSA in a separate letter, we were also perplexed that the transmittal memo (102302) that listed the proposed terminations and reductions lacked any information whatsoever about potential child impacts and senior impacts; the Board of Supervisors and the public need information about the impacts of safety net cuts on our community to make the best decisions possible.

On behalf of SVCN member organizations and our local nonprofit sector, we again reiterate our requests for transparency and input into the County's budget processes and decisions. We again request that nonprofits, as your partners providing essentials services to our communities in need, are brought to the table to provide input on service priorities, revenue and reduction strategies, and how to engage the community, in a timely manner before the budget reductions that we all understand will occur in November.



So that nonprofits can participate in these conversations in the most meaningful way, we request to be provided with relevant information, including:

- any documents that reflect the Administration's instructions for reductions to the departments as well as the reduction proposals from departments that were and will be submitted to the Office of Budget and Analysis,
- the full list of the nonprofits that are contracted with each department, including contract amounts, General Fund obligation, and any pass-through sources and amounts, by contractor,
- contract utilization review reports prepared by departments for nonprofit contracts, and feedback provided by the Executive Team on such reports, and
- the AB109 Spending Plan for FY20 and FY21.

We acknowledge that the team at the County Office of the Executive is working under trying and difficult circumstances. We know that you are all working hard to serve the community, save jobs, and protect the County fisc. SVCN stands ready as always to work together on these goals.

Lastly, we see that a number of nonprofits will be delivering much needed services to our community because of the Board inventory items that the COE supports, as well as several new or augmented contracts; SVCN is grateful for this support of nonprofits, their staff, and the communities they serve.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kyra Kazantzis".

Kyra Kazantzis  
CEO

cc:  
Behavioral Health Contractors Association  
Community Health Partnership