



# Sacramento County Mental Health Board

---

September 8, 2021

Behavioral Health Director  
7001-A East Parkway, Suite 400  
Sacramento, CA 92354

**To: Ryan Quist, PhD**

**Re: Feedback on Sacramento County Budget Priorities for Fiscal Year 2022-23**

The Sacramento County Mental Health Board appreciates the opportunity to provide feedback on what this advisory body recommends as budget priorities for FY 2022-23. We acknowledge and support the increased transparency and public input into the county budget that the process is designed to provide, and we look forward to our continued participation in future years.

In response to your request, please find the Mental Health Board's recommendations in order of priority for Sacramento County Budget Priorities for Fiscal Year 2022-23:

1. **General Health and Human Services**, including health services and human assistance; services for older adults; public health and supporting the COVID-19 response; and efforts to create health equity.
2. **Mental Health Services**, including support for school-based mental health services and other services for youth and transition-aged youth including peer and peer mentor services; support for initiatives that increase the capacity to provide mental health services; support for

community-based mental health alternatives; assisted outpatient treatment services; and peer programs.

3. **Housing**, including supporting low and middle-income housing, affordable housing, and housing for currently unhoused people.
4. **Homelessness Services and Initiatives**, including the homeless encampment initiative and trauma-informed services for people experiencing homelessness.
5. **Alternatives to 911, Incarceration and the Traditional Criminal Justice System**, including developing and promoting alternatives to incarceration and the traditional criminal justice system; and supporting alternatives to calling 911 for response to mental health crises.

This information was compiled from a survey that was sent to Mental Health Board Members, the results of which were discussed at a Special Meeting on September 8, 2021. For your information, in addition to these top priorities, members also mentioned Public Safety and Justice, General Government and Support Services, Land use and Development and Transportation, Utilities, and Parks.

We also wanted to share observations from our experience in case they might be helpful in improving the process going forward. The Mental Health Board found aspects of fulfilling this request challenging because of limited detail given about the type of information sought and because no example categories were provided. This raised question about whether responses should be at the level of a project, department, or something else. For future requests of this nature, some additional clarity in this area would be helpful.

Respectfully submitted,



Loran Sheley, Chairperson  
Sacramento County Mental Health Board