



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

TODD GLORIA

MAYOR

September 20, 2024

San Diego County Board of Supervisors  
County Administration Center  
1600 Pacific Highway, Room 335  
San Diego, CA 92101

**Re: Agreements for the Partnership with The University of California, San Diego  
Health for Behavioral Health Services within the East Campus Medical Center**

Dear Chairwoman Vargas and Honorable Supervisors:

As Mayor of the City of San Diego, I am writing in strong support for the County's partnership with UC San Diego Health to expand behavioral health services at the East Campus Medical Center (ECMC). This will significantly strengthen the continuum of care for people experiencing mental health crises, particularly for underserved populations across San Diego County.

As San Diego continues to face significant challenges related to homelessness and unmet behavioral health needs, this partnership is especially vital. Many people experiencing homelessness are in urgent need of mental health and substance use services, but gaps in care have often left them without the necessary support. By adding a behavioral health hub at UC San Diego Health's East Campus Medical Center, we will begin to address these pressing issues, offering timely interventions that can prevent crises, reduce hospitalizations, and improve overall well-being for vulnerable populations in our region.

In addition to expanding access to critical services, this initiative will integrate teaching and research, providing not only cutting-edge care for patients but also helping to develop the next generation of behavioral health professionals. By providing hands-on training for medical students, residents, and other healthcare professionals, the new behavioral health infrastructure at ECMC will play a pivotal role in addressing the growing workforce shortage in behavioral health. This

collaboration will help ensure that San Diego County has a robust and highly trained workforce to meet future mental health needs.

I look forward to continuing our collaboration to expand behavioral health services across the region. Should you have any questions, please contact Dion Akers, Senior Advisor of Government Affairs, at [dakers@sanidiego.gov](mailto:dakers@sanidiego.gov) or (619) 533-4042.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Todd Gloria". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

TODD GLORIA  
Mayor  
City of San Diego