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March 28, 2024

The Honorable Caroline Menjivar
Chair, Senate Budget & Fiscal Review Subcommittee No. 3 on Health & Human Services
1021 O Street, Suite 6720
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Akilah Weber, M.D.
Chair, Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 1 on Health
1021 O Street, Suite 4130
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: CONCERNS – Child Health and Disability Prevention Transition Process

Dear Senator Menjivar and Assemblymember Weber:

On behalf of the Solano County Board of Supervisors, in coordination with our Solano County Department of Health and Social Services, Public Health division, I am writing to respectfully express our ongoing concerns with the Administration's budget proposal to shift \$13 million of the Child Health and Disability Prevention (CHDP) program budget to the Health Care Program for Children in Foster Care (HCPCFC), and the remainder to the California Children's Services Oversight and Monitoring Initiative as part of the elimination of the CHDP program.

Enacted as part of the Budget Act of 2022, the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) has been tasked with sunseting the CHDP Program as of July 1, 2024, or the date that DHCS certifies that specified transition activities have been completed and implemented, whichever is later. The enabling legislation required DHCS to engage stakeholders to develop a transition plan that meets the required elements, including how HCPCFC will be created as a standalone program and an analysis and plan to retain local health department staff.

HCPCFC embeds public health nurses in local Child Welfare Departments to provide consultation, oversight, and management of the medical, dental, behavioral, and developmental needs of foster youth in out-of-home placement. The elimination of CHDP impacts the services to HCPCFC, which leverages CHDP staff and resources in the administration of the program. Here in Solano County, CHDP staff provide supervision, quality improvement / assurance, medical oversight, training, and clerical support.

Solano Public Health anticipates that more than \$13 million statewide will be needed to retain the administrative and medical support to HCPCFC to ensure foster children are provided with adequate services. Additionally, the elimination of CHDP impacts nearly three full-time equivalent positions. Despite continued requests for DHCS to explore ways to leverage CHDP staff in new ways or existing programs, DHCS has only explored a transition of CHDP staff to the CCS Oversight and Monitoring Oversight Initiative. The skill set of CHDP staff may not be transferable to CCS.

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DHCS is not anticipated to issue its finalized CHDP transition plan until the end of March 2024, just a few months prior to the July 1, 2024, sunset date. This compressed timeline does not allow Solano Public Health adequate time to fully effectuate programmatic and operational changes while maintaining quality services to our jurisdiction's children and youth.

In closing, the Solano County Board of Supervisors, in coordination with Solano County Health and Social Services, Public Health division, respectfully urges the Legislature to request that the Newsom Administration work with CHEAC and county representatives to develop a sound methodology and approach to adequately fund HCPCFC as a standalone program and retain local health department positions.

Sincerely,



Mitch Mashburn, Chair
Solano County Board of Supervisors

CC:

The Honorable Bill Dodd, California State Senator
The Honorable Lori Wilson, California State Assemblymember
Honorable Members, Senate Budget & Fiscal Review Subcommittee No. 3
Honorable Members, Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 1
Honorable Solano County Board of Supervisors
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