

PRESS RELEASE

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In-Depth Review of True North Behavioral Health Campus Project Gains Support from Shasta County Health and Human Services Agency

SHASTA COUNTY – Shasta County Health and Human Services Agency (HHSa) Director Christy Coleman today announces her support for the Behavioral Health Continuum Infrastructure Program (BHCIP) state grant application for the True North Behavioral Health Campus proposed for Shasta County. Director Coleman shares this statement:

Shasta County is at a pivotal moment in shaping the future of behavioral health in our community, and as the director of the Health and Human Services Agency, I take that responsibility seriously. This includes careful assessment of local BHCIP opportunities, which aim to fill critical gaps in the state's behavioral health care system.

Over the past several weeks, my team and I completed a deeper review of the financial models, payor mix, Medi-Cal impact, staffing implications, and regional commitments related to the campus. Through that process, we gained important clarification and a fuller understanding of the project, particularly around the financial components, medical clearance capacity, and how the campus supports state and federal requirements.

With that more complete picture, I recognize that my Oct. 24 presentation to the Shasta County Board of Supervisors, opposing a Letter of Support for the True North proposal, reflected only partial information. As the person responsible for protecting Shasta County HHSa from budgetary overruns, the information gaps seen then weighed heavily in my initial assessment. Having now received the additional information needed, I am confident this project aligns with the best interests of Shasta County and our broader region.

True North's proposal would keep clients in care closer to home, rather than placing them far from their support systems. This would offer a meaningful shift for our residents and for our system of care. In addition, it would allow Shasta County to leverage federal match dollars for behavioral health care.

There are still important conversations ahead, and HHSa will continue engaging with True North's collaborators at Signature Healthcare, Shasta Health Assessment and Redesign

Collaborative, Arch Collaborative, and our regional partners, between now and the BHCIP's spring grant award timeline. HHSA's goal is to ensure that, should the project be funded, we are aligned on operational needs, financial safeguards, and a collaborative path forward.

For this reason, I have issued a formal Letter of Support for the True North Behavioral Health Campus to Signature Healthcare, as part of the grant application process. HHSA remains committed to working in good faith with our regional partners to strengthen crisis response, expand behavioral health treatment, and bring needed resources into our community.

We are strongest when we work together, and the True North Behavioral Health Campus project has reminded me how essential unity and collaboration are to meeting our community's behavioral health needs.

Shasta County HHSA has a long history of leadership and collaboration in the rural North State across health and human services, and we look forward to rebuilding unity, trust, and collective progress as we move forward together.

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