

## Julie Dachtler

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**From:** Sara Gavin <Sara.Gavin@CommuniCareOLE.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 9, 2025 6:50 AM  
**To:** Clerkoftheboard  
**Subject:** Public comment, Yolo County Board of Supervisors Mtg 9/9/2025 on agenda item #33

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Dear Clerk of the Board of Supervisors,

My name is Sara Gavin, Chief Behavioral and Community Health Officer at CommuniCare+OLE and I am writing to submit public comment for the Yolo County County's Board of Supervisors Meeting on September 9th, 2025, agenda item #33.

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CommuniCare+OLE is a Federally Qualified Health Center and non-profit community health organization that provides comprehensive medical, dental, behavioral health, and substance use treatment to families across Yolo, Napa, and Solano counties since 1972. In Yolo County, we are one of the leading providers of mental health and substance use services, for Medi-Cal and uninsured community members. For over 35 years, we have proudly partnered with the Yolo County to deliver vital services to our community.

One of the essential community programs we operate with County funding is the K-12 Partnership Program, supported by MHSA, which is currently being considered for rapid reduction. Our K-12 Partnership provides school-based mental health services in collaboration with Davis Joint Unified School District and the Yolo County Office of Education. By placing clinicians directly on school campuses, we reduce barriers like transportation and scheduling, address stigma and ensure students get the support they need where they spend the majority of their time.

While we did expect changes after the passing of Proposition 1, we're concerned about the speed and severity of the proposed cuts mid-year. These reductions would mean fewer mental health clinicians on school campuses, less support for schools, and disrupted care for students currently receiving critical therapy services.

To avoid mid-year disruptions of care, we're asking for more time for planning and to explore other funding options. For example, a portion of this program is funded through the Mental Health *Student Services Act* (MHSSA), a different funding source than MHSA, and we would like to work closely with the County to explore how this funding could be used to bridge services through the end of the school year. This would give us the additional time needed to ensure a smooth transition and avoid any gaps in care mid-year.

Additionally, under the new Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA), there is a mandate that at least 51% of early intervention funds be directed toward individuals 25 years old and younger. Our existing K-12 services align closely with this goal. We believe that, with careful planning and continued partnership with Yolo HHS, we could support in the development of a sustainable path forward that not only preserves but strengthens the school-based services our students and families rely on.

We understand firsthand how changes in funding and policy can significantly impact our community. Because of this, we are strongly advocating for a thoughtful and deliberate approach to implementing these changes, which allows time for agencies to prepare, adapt, maintain continuity of care and explore how alternative funding sources, such as MHSSA and BHSA, can be leveraged now to support services continuing. Doing so can help prevent major disruptions in care and reduce the need to rebuild services later.

With more time and continued partnership with HHSA, we believe we can find a sustainable path forward that protects and strengthens these important services for students. We remain committed to collaborating with the County to ensure that our community continues to have access to critical behavioral health support.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sara Gavin



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Pronouns: She/her/hers

*We would like to acknowledge the land on which our health centers are built and on which we live, work and serve our community. For thousands of years, this land has been the home of Patwin, Miwok and Nisenan people. We are honored and grateful to be here today on their traditional lands. Source: <https://www.yochadehe.org/heritage/land-acknowledgement-statements> and <https://chirpca.org/>*