

## Julie Dachtler

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**From:** Rob Kinder <rkinder@djustd.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 22, 2025 12:41 PM  
**To:** Clerkoftheboard  
**Subject:** In support of Communicare

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Dear Members of the Yolo County Board of Supervisors,

Re: Urgent Support for Continued Mental Health Funding in Schools

I am writing to express my deep concern about the mental health crisis affecting our youth and to urge you to continue funding for school-based mental health programs in Yolo County through the 2025-2026 school year. Disrupting services mid-school year will negatively impact the students, families, and schools supported by this program.

**In my role, I have observed clinicians make direct and meaningful change on several occasions being the main cause of a student's return to school and not dropping out.**

The impact of unaddressed mental health challenges in our schools is not hypothetical — it is visible in rising rates of anxiety, depression, self-harm, and suicide among children and teens. Providing therapy in schools is an important prevention and early-intervention strategy that supports the health of our children and families in Yolo County. School-based treatment increases access, engagement, and positive outcomes for the students who need it most.

Sustainable mental health funding ensures that schools can:

- Provide early intervention and crisis response
- Reduce absenteeism and drop-out rates
- Improve academic performance and classroom behavior
- Promote safe, inclusive, and supportive learning environments
- Support teachers and staff in managing complex student needs

This is not just an educational issue — it is a public health and community safety issue. When we invest in student well-being, we reduce long-term costs related to emergency care, juvenile justice, and social services.

I urge you to protect funding for school-based mental health services in your upcoming budget decisions. Prioritizing the mental well-being of our youth today is an investment in a healthier, safer, and more resilient community tomorrow.

Thank you for your leadership and commitment to the children and families of Yolo County.

Respectfully,

**Rob Kinder | Director**

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