

Board of Supervisors Meeting Speech  
June 9, 2026

Chair and Members of the Board,

Good Morning. My name is Margarita Bettencourt. I am a behavioral health clinician for the FSP team at Yolo County Health and Human Services. I'm here today to speak on behalf of the dedicated HHSA employees who are facing the threat of layoffs at a time when they are already stretched to their limits. Our staff are doing everything they can to keep this county's essential services afloat, yet they are being asked to carry workloads that are simply unsustainable. Every day they show up for our community, often at the expense of their own well-being, because they believe in the mission of this agency.

But let's be clear: HHSA is not a cost center. HHSA is a revenue generator. Our clinicians alone bring in an average of \$650 per psychotherapy hour. That is real, measurable revenue flowing directly into the county. These are the very employees who are actively helping reduce the budget deficit, not contributing to it.

Laying off the people who *bring money in* is not a solution to a budget problem. It is a decision that will deepen the deficit, reduce services, and ultimately cost the county far more than it saves. Instead of cutting the workforce that generates revenue, we should be looking at revenue strategies, operational efficiencies, and long-term fiscal planning that strengthen, not weaken our ability to serve the public.

Our staff are exhausted. They are overwhelmed. And yet they continue to deliver high-quality care because they know the community depends on them. But they cannot continue to do more with less. And they should not be punished for the county's structural budget challenges.

I urge you to reconsider any plan that involves cutting HHSA positions. Protect the employees who protect this community. Invest in the workforce that brings in revenue. And commit to solutions that build stability rather than dismantle it.

Thank you.