



MAYOR REX RICHARDSON
CITY OF LONG BEACH

January 20, 2026

The Honorable Jesse Arreguín
1021 O St, Suite #6710
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Letter of Support for SB 479 (Arreguín)—Homeless Adult and Family
Multidisciplinary Personnel Teams**

Dear Senator Arreguín,

On behalf of the City of Long Beach (City), the City is in strong support of SB 479, which would allow for greater collaboration across jurisdictions and relevant agencies serving individuals experiencing homelessness. Homeless Adult and Family Multidisciplinary Personnel Teams (MDTs) have been a valuable tool for counties to improve the coordination of housing, behavioral health, and supportive services for individuals experiencing homelessness by allowing participating agencies to share relevant confidential information across the team that is critical to identifying, assessing, and linking homeless adults and families to services.

Established in 2018, MDTs have been successful in expediting the identification, assessment, and linkage of homeless individuals to housing and supportive services within a county. With limited time and resources, MDTs have helped providers make informed decisions in the field to best serve an individual experiencing mental health challenges.

The City's Community Crisis Response (CCR) Team uses an MDT model to respond to a subset of mental health-related 911 calls across Long Beach. Their work has revealed opportunities to enhance systems navigation and coordination across homeless services, behavioral health services, social service providers, law enforcement, and other organizations that support social needs and basic quality of life concerns. Teams such as CCR have the potential to improve outcomes for individuals in crisis with shared access to data from all systems of care affecting the individual. Multiple providers, especially related to data sharing. SB 479 would be a valuable benefit to MDTs and would provide opportunities for these teams to enhance efficiency, reduce duplication, streamline services, and ultimately reduce costs while improving community health outcomes.

Additionally, the upcoming implementation of the Behavioral Health Services Act on July 1, 2026 will require that systems of care move beyond siloed approaches and toward integrated services, shared accountability, and data-informed decision-making across systems. SB 479 presents a vehicle for which these systems can align efforts, reduce duplication, and strengthen population-level outcomes through improved collaboration across county agencies, Managed Care Plans (MCPs), and service providers.

The DHCS BHSa policy framework creates a blueprint for moving beyond current siloed approaches and building a foundation of true integration across behavioral health, homeless service systems and Continuums of Care, and local health jurisdictions. SB 479 would facilitate and fast-track the state's efforts to move beyond current silos and toward integrated services, shared accountability, and data-informed decision-making across systems.

SB 479 would clarify the ability of the three cities that operate their own local health jurisdiction, Long Beach, Pasadena, and Berkeley to create their own MDTs. Cities have taken an increasingly larger role in addressing the growing homelessness crisis and are able to respond effectively to local challenges and opportunities. The City has a strong relationship with surrounding counties and looks forward to the additional information and resource sharing SB 479 will facilitate. For these reasons, the City supports SB 479.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rex Richardson", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Rex Richardson
Mayor of Long Beach