

Sevilla, Maria E

From: Mary Anne Foo <mafoo@ocapica.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 10, 2026 2:01 PM
To: COB_Response
Subject: Regarding Agenda Item #10 for September 15, 2026 Board of Supervisors Meeting
Attachments: Letters of Support for OCAPICA Project FOCUS as of 2026-09-04.pdf; OCAPICA FSP Brief.pdf

Attention: This email originated from outside the County of Orange. Use caution when opening attachments or links.

Thank you so much for the opportunity to provide comments to the September 15, 2026 Board of Supervisors' Meeting regarding Agenda Item #10. Attached are letters from partners and clients that were provided to us as well as a brief regarding OCAPICA's concerns about the issue.

Should you have any questions or need further information, do not hesitate to contact me at mafoo@ocapica.org

Thank you so much.

Mary Anne

Mary Anne Foo, MPH
Executive Director
OCAPICA
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www.ocapica.org

Alyssa Vergara, LCSW
1950 E Chapman Ave, Ste. 3
Fullerton, CA 92831

July 15th, 2026

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter as a reflection of my experience working with OCAPICA Project FOCUS Full Service Partnership (FSP) from October of 2023 to September of 2025 as a contract monitor with Orange County Health Care Agency. During that time, I worked closely alongside program management and FSP staff to support client care, and I can attest that the quality of services that they provide are truly singular in the County of Orange.

Not only because of the breadth of services they offer in adherence to the FSP model, addressing not only behavioral health but the social determinants of health. Not only because of the seasoned staff and their professional competency, as their therapists and care managers alike were well versed in trauma-focused and person-centered care. But most importantly because of the cultural and linguistic needs of the Asian Pacific Islander community in Orange County.

There is no other local service-based organization that comes to mind with the knowledge and specificity of OCAPICA in treating children and families of Asian Pacific Islander descent with complex behavioral health needs. I visited the site regularly and bore witness to their programming, including workshops and field trips which were designed and delivered in accordance to cultural values. I attended seasonal celebratory events for clients and their social supports, during which I heard firsthand testimonials on how Project FOCUS changed clients' lives for the better. Last, I often received report of a marked difference upon linkage of care with initially hesitant clients and their families, as their perspectives changed and the stigma of receiving behavioral health services lessened.

I still practice in Orange County and pride myself on knowing community resources better than most. I refer parties to OCAPICA when I see the need for culturally competent behavioral health care for vulnerable youth. I hope that my observations are taken into account.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alyssa Vergara', written in a cursive style.

Alyssa Vergara, LCSW



7/20/26

Letter of Support for OCAPICA Project Focus Wraparound

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to offer my full support for OCAPICA and specifically the Project Focus Wraparound program in Orange County. Over the past year, I have collaborated closely with the Project Focus team in support of a youth receiving mental health services at Western Youth Services. Throughout this time, I have observed consistent professionalism, responsiveness, and a deep commitment to culturally attuned, strengths-based care.

Project Focus Wraparound has played a significant role in stabilizing this young person's functioning and overall well-being. The team's ability to build trust, maintain engagement, and provide individualized support has been instrumental in helping the youth feel valued, connected, and empowered, particularly as a former foster youth navigating complex life transitions. Their services have complemented clinical treatment, reinforced therapeutic goals, and strengthened the youth's natural support system.

OCAPICA's wraparound model demonstrates the type of collaborative, trauma-informed partnership that is essential for positive outcomes in community mental health. I have found their staff to be reliable, communicative, and deeply invested in the long-term success of the young people they serve. Their involvement has made a measurable difference in this case, and I am confident that their continued work will benefit many more young people in Orange County.

Thank you for considering this letter of support. I strongly endorse OCAPICA and the Project Focus Wraparound program as a vital resource for youth and families in our community.

Sincerely,

X *Annette Catanese*

Annette Catanese

Director of Quality Improvement

Annette Catanese, LCSW

Western Youth Services

acatanese@westernyouthservices.org

From: Melissa Abarca <Melissa.Abarca@choc.org>
Sent: Friday, July 10, 2026 3:36 PM
To: Christine Tu <ctu@ocapica.org>
Subject: Re: Project FOCUS Short Prompt Request

Hi Christine,

Project FOCUS has been a great resource for many of our patients and families at CHOC Inpatient Unit. The program provides comprehensive wraparound services that extend beyond the individual patient, recognizing that supporting the entire family is essential to achieving positive mental health outcomes. The patients referred to Project FOCUS require a higher level of support than traditional outpatient services can provide. The program's ability to offer in-home, in-person services helps reduce barriers to care to many families.

Project FOCUS also plays a vital role in our community by providing bilingual and bicultural services that are culturally responsive and tailored to the unique needs of the families we serve at CHOC. Connecting clients to a program where they can receive mental health services in their preferred language fosters trust, improves communication, and ensures care is both accessible and culturally relevant. These services have made a meaningful difference for our patients and their families, and Project FOCUS continues to be an essential partner in helping CHOC provide linkage to long term mental health services.

Thank you,

Melissa Abarca, BS

MHIC Resource Specialist

Cherese Mari Lauhere Mental Health Inpatient Center (MHIC)

1201 W La Veta Ave

Orange, CA 92868

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Variations Psychology

3525 Hyland Ave., Suite 205, Costa Mesa, CA 92626

Phone: 949-873-4617 Fax: 949-209-4544 Email: admin@variationspsychology.com

July 20, 2026

To the Leadership and Review Committee at OCHCA,

I am writing to express my strong support for the ongoing funding of the Orange County Asian and Pacific Islander Community Alliance (OCAPICA) and their specialized program, Project FOCUS. As a Licensed Psychologist and certified Parent-Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT) Trainer, I have worked closely with OCAPICA's clinical team since 2017. Through my role training and supervising their clinicians in PCIT, I have had the unique opportunity to directly evaluate their clinical skill, dedication, and therapeutic efficacy.

In December 2017, I trained an initial cohort of four Project FOCUS clinicians in PCIT, an evidence-based treatment protocol designed for young children experiencing significant emotional and behavioral challenges. Notably, 100% of these trainees successfully engaged and retained their active clients throughout the rigorous, yearlong certification process. This retention rate is clinically significant. Standard client retention in community mental health, particularly within demanding, high-commitment modalities like PCIT, frequently falls as low as 50%. The retention rate achieved by OCAPICA clinicians highlights the deep clinical trust they establish with families and the exceptional capability of their clinical team.

Building on this success, in 2019, I facilitated the advanced training of an in-house OCAPICA clinician to become a certified PCIT Trainer. Through this trainer-of-trainers PCIT training, the in-house trainer concurrently trained and certified two additional staff clinicians under my direction. Their commitment to establishing a sustainable internal training model further demonstrates the agency's high level of clinical leadership and sustainability.

Over the course of my career, I have trained numerous community agencies across Orange County and Los Angeles in PCIT and other evidence-based models. While these organizations demonstrate strong clinical skills for their respective target demographics, OCAPICA stands out as an agency dedicated exclusively to serving the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community, with the unique linguistic capacity to provide these specialized services in Vietnamese, Korean, and other Asian languages. For nearly two decades, they have served as a critical safety net provider in Orange County, utilizing deep cultural humility and earned community trust to overcome the systemic stigma associated with mental health utilization in historically underserved AAPI populations.

Maintaining continuity of care through OCAPICA is vital for the Orange County behavioral health infrastructure. Without Project FOCUS, many vulnerable children and families would lose access to a trusted, culturally competent, and highly effective resource. OCAPICA and Project FOCUS have a demonstrated track record of positive clinical outcomes and adherence to high standards of evidence-based practice. I strongly recommend and fully support the continued funding of OCAPICA's programs to ensure these essential services remain available to Orange County residents.

Sincerely,

Marta M. Shinn, Ph.D.

Licensed Psychologist, PSY 23107

Parent Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT) Trainer

CEO, Variations Psychology

July 17, 2026

To Whom It May Concern:

Re: Support for Continued Funding of Project FOCUS

I am writing to express my strong support for Project FOCUS and its appeal for continued County funding.

I am a general pediatrician at KCS Health Center, a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) in Buena Park that serves a predominantly low-income and underserved population. In my practice, I have referred many children and families to Project FOCUS and have witnessed the profound impact the program has on children with serious behavioral health needs and their families.

Many of the families I care for face significant socioeconomic challenges in addition to their children's medical, developmental, and behavioral health conditions. They often encounter barriers such as financial hardship, language differences, transportation difficulties, and challenges navigating healthcare, educational, and social service systems. These obstacles frequently delay access to appropriate care and increase the burden on families already caring for children with complex needs.

Having Project FOCUS available has significantly strengthened my ability to care for children with complex behavioral health needs. Families receive sustained support that helps them engage in treatment, access community resources, navigate schools and other service systems, and remain connected to the care they need. This level of intensive, family-centered support cannot be replicated during routine primary care visits and is essential to improving outcomes for vulnerable children.

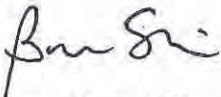
The loss of County funding would have serious consequences for both families and healthcare providers. Without Project FOCUS, many children with significant behavioral health needs would lose access to intensive community-based services that help prevent crises, stabilize families, and reduce unnecessary emergency department visits, psychiatric hospitalizations, and out-of-home placements. Families would face even greater challenges accessing appropriate care, while primary care practices and other healthcare providers would have far fewer resources to support children with complex behavioral health conditions.

I respectfully urge the County to continue funding Project FOCUS so that children, families, and healthcare providers throughout our community can continue to benefit from this vital program. Continued investment in Project FOCUS will strengthen our behavioral health system, improve

access to coordinated community-based services, and help ensure that vulnerable children receive the comprehensive support they need to achieve lasting recovery and success.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this appeal and for your continued commitment to the health and well-being of children and families in our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bora Shin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Bora" and last name "Shin" clearly distinguishable.

Bora Shin, MD

General Pediatrician

7212 Orangethorpe Avenue

Buena Park, CA 90621

Phone: (714) 503-6550

July 22, 2026

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Dr. Theresa Trieu, and I am a school counselor in the Garden Grove Unified School District. Ten years ago, while working as an academic advisor, I had the pleasure of discovering Project Focus and learning about the vital mental health services they provide to youth and families. As a Vietnamese American who grew up in Orange County, I experienced firsthand the lack of resources for Asian youth facing mental health challenges, and I was fortunate to have trusted adults who guided me.

In my current role as a school counselor, I frequently witness the negative impacts of social media and gaming addictions on student growth. Left unaddressed, these issues can lead to chronic absenteeism, school burnout, or delayed adult development. OCAPICA's Project Focus not only supports youth battling these challenges, but also empowers parents with the tools to guide their children. By supporting the whole family, OCAPICA creates a foundation for lifelong success.

Over the past decade, I have regularly referred students and families to Project Focus. I have also invited their team to our school outreach events, where they connect directly with parents to raise awareness about available resources. Mental health remains heavily stigmatized in the Asian American community, making culturally tailored outreach essential for building trust. Seeing OCAPICA's parent team members communicate with families in their native language to bridge these generational and cultural gaps has been invaluable.

The impact of their work is undeniable. I recently worked with a Vietnamese American student who was struggling with her LGBTQ+ identity and living with a single father. She had stopped attending school and fell behind academically. Fortunately, Project Focus provided the holistic guidance and support she needed to get back on track, and she successfully graduated last year.

Project Focus offers well-rounded, compassionate, and essential care for both parents and youth. I strongly support their mission and hope they can continue their tremendous work in our community for years to come.

Sincerely,

Dr. Theresa Trieu

School Counselor, Garden Grove Unified School District

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California State Senate

SENATOR
THOMAS J. UMBERG
THIRTY-FOURTH SENATE DISTRICT



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AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

SPECIAL COMMITTEE
INTERNATIONAL SPORTING EVENTS

August 24, 2026

Orange County Board of Supervisors
County Administration North
400 W. Civic Center Drive
Santa Ana, CA 92701

Re: Preserving Culturally and Linguistically Accessible FSP/Wraparound Services for AAPI Youth and Transitional Age Youth

Dear Chair Chaffee and Members of the Orange County Board of Supervisors:

I write as a State Senator with one of the largest Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) population in my district to urge preservation of culturally and linguistically responsive Full Service Partnership (FSP)/Wraparound services for Asian American and Pacific Islander children, youth, transitional age youth (TAY), and their families in Orange County especially the longstanding program operated by the Orange County Asian and Pacific Islander Community Alliance (OCAPICA).

Orange County is home to one of the largest AAPI populations in California, with AAPIs comprising approximately one-quarter of the County's residents. Yet AAPI children and youth remain significantly underserved by the public behavioral health system, with a specialty mental health service penetration rate below 3.3 percent. At a moment when California is making unprecedented investments in behavioral health, we should be expanding access for populations that have historically gone unserved, not narrowing the limited culturally specific infrastructure that already exists.

For nearly 20 years, OCAPICA has operated an FSP/Wraparound program built specifically to serve AAPI children, youth, TAY, and families and to our knowledge, one of only two AAPI-focused FSP/Wraparound programs for children and TAY in California. That capacity took decades to build and cannot be quickly replicated. Meaningful behavioral health access for AAPI families, particularly immigrant, refugee, and limited-English-proficient families, requires more than an available provider: it requires providers who can communicate in the languages families speak, understand cultural attitudes toward mental health, build trust with communities often reluctant to seek treatment, and navigate family and community dynamics effectively. OCAPICA has built exactly this infrastructure, reaching families who might otherwise struggle to access or remain engaged in the behavioral health system at all.

I am very concerned about the potential loss of this specialized capacity, and I respectfully urge the Board to ensure that regardless of the outcome of any individual procurement process, Orange County continues to maintain at least one FSP/Wraparound program with demonstrated linguistic and cultural expertise serving the County's AAPI children, youth, TAY, and families. For a county where roughly one in four residents is AAPI, this should not be treated as optional; it is a core component of an equitable behavioral health system.

The County should also weigh continuity of care carefully. These are youth with significant behavioral health needs whose treatment depends on trusted relationships with clinicians, care coordinators, schools, family members, and community supports. Disrupting those relationships especially for families with limited English proficiency, risks disengagement from treatment and new barriers to care.

California's implementation of Proposition 1 and the Behavioral Health Services Act places growing emphasis on accountability and ensuring that public behavioral health investments reach those with the greatest needs. As these resources are implemented locally, counties should be able to demonstrate that historically underserved racial, ethnic, and linguistic communities are actually benefiting. AAPI youth in Orange County already access specialty mental health services at disproportionately low rates; losing one of California's few AAPI-focused FSP/Wraparound programs would widen that gap further.

I respectfully ask the Board to review the impact of this transition before OCAPICA's FSP/Wraparound services are discontinued, and to ensure that:

- Orange County maintains dedicated FSP/Wraparound capacity for AAPI children, youth, and TAY;
- AAPI families have meaningful access to behavioral health services in the languages they speak;
- Providers serving this population demonstrate cultural and linguistic competency appropriate to Orange County's diverse AAPI communities;
- Children and families currently receiving services are protected from unnecessary disruption in care; and
- State behavioral health resources, including Proposition 1 and BHSA funding, are used to reduce, not perpetuate disparities in access to care.

This is ultimately not a question of preserving one particular program or provider. It is a question of whether AAPI children and families, who make up roughly a quarter of this county's population will continue to have an FSP/Wraparound program designed to meet their cultural, linguistic, and behavioral health needs. Orange County has an opportunity to show that behavioral health transformation can strengthen equity rather than unintentionally eliminate services that underserved communities have relied on for decades.

I respectfully urge the Board to work with OCAPICA and the Orange County Health Care Agency to identify a path forward that preserves AAPI-focused FSP/Wraparound capacity and ensures continuity of care for the children, youth, TAY, and families who depend on these services.

Thank you for your consideration and for your commitment to the behavioral health needs of Orange County's diverse communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "T. Umberg", with a stylized, cursive script.

Thomas J. Umberg
California State Senate, District 34

August 26, 2026

To Whom It May Concern:

Re: Letter of Support for Continued Funding of OCAPICA's Project FOCUS

I am writing to express my strong support for preserving funding for OCAPICA's Project FOCUS. For nearly two decades, this vital program has provided healing, safety, and hope to children, youth, and families navigating severe mental health challenges across Orange County.

In our region, deep-rooted cultural stigma, severe language barriers, and complex intergenerational trauma frequently prevent residents with serious mental illness from accessing standard mental health services. Project FOCUS directly bridges this gap by delivering intensive, family-driven and trauma-informed care in languages including Vietnamese, Korean, Tagalog, Cambodian, and Chinese. Project FOCUS does far more than deliver services, it provides a culturally grounded safety net using a "whatever it takes" wraparound approach that keeps high-risk individuals stabilized, housed, and out of acute crisis.

Eliminating funding for Project FOCUS will leave hundreds of vulnerable young people and families without the critical stabilization they rely on daily. Severing a client's connection to a trusted, bilingual care team risks triggering severe mental health crisis, homelessness, and preventable emergency room visits or hospitalizations.

Culturally competent, linguistically tailored care relies on decades of deep community trust. That foundation cannot simply be transferred to an unfamiliar vendor without causing devastating disruptions to client care. I respectfully urge the County and the Board of Supervisors to protect Orange County's most vulnerable residents by continuing to fund OCAPICA's Project FOCUS and investing in proven, community-based care.

Sincerely,

Kelly Nguyen, LMFT

To Whom It May Concern,

I wanted to take the time to write this letter to share my family's experience with Project FOCUS and OCAPICA/KCS. Their kindness, guidance, and support have made a tremendous difference in our lives, and I hope our story helps show why these services are so important for children, youth, and families in Orange County.

As a Korean immigrant parent, my family struggled for many years to find the help my oldest son needed. Since preschool, every one of his teachers noticed that he had difficulty staying focused in class. As he got older, his teachers continued to express concerns about his attention in the classroom and recommended that he receive an ADHD evaluation, counseling, and possibly medication.

For years, I tried to find help through our medical insurance, and I also reached out to Korean community organizations in LA. Unfortunately, I kept being referred back and forth between the school and the healthcare system. The school told me to work with medical providers, and the medical providers suggested going through the school. Although everyone seemed willing to help, nothing really moved forward. As a parent, I felt helpless because I knew my son needed support, but I didn't know how to get it for him. Until the end of his seventh-grade year, all I could do was encourage him, support him, and hope he could continue doing his best in school.

Earlier this year, my children became eligible for Medi-Cal. During an appointment with our pediatrician, I shared my son's academic struggles and the concerns that his middle school teachers had continued to express. That was when we were introduced to Project FOCUS and OCAPICA/KCS. After waiting for an opening, my son finally began counseling in May.

From the very beginning, I felt like someone finally understood what our family had been going through for so many years. My son's counselors, Yujin Park and Rachael, listened carefully to our concerns, explained every step of the process, and guided us with patience and kindness. They connected us with the right resources and helped us schedule an appointment with a psychiatrist next month for an ADHD evaluation and to discuss treatment options. After searching for answers for so many years, simply reaching this point has given our family hope.

The weekly counseling sessions have already made a meaningful difference in my son's life. Before starting the program, he often felt discouraged because he couldn't keep up with his classmates. He worried that he was always behind everyone else and slowly began losing confidence in himself. His counselors helped him understand what ADHD is and explained that it does not define who he is or what he is capable of achieving. They reminded him that many children with ADHD do very well with the right support and treatment.

Recently, my son told me that he understands himself much better now. Instead of wondering if something is wrong with him, he now knows there is a reason for the challenges he has faced, and that there are ways to help him succeed. Seeing him become more hopeful and confident has meant so much to me as a parent.

Project FOCUS has also helped us prepare for the future. They have already explained what services and accommodations may be available when my son enters high school, what documents we should prepare, and how to advocate for his educational needs. Knowing that we have professionals who will continue to guide us through this process gives our family tremendous peace of mind.

For families like ours, whose first language is not English, navigating both the healthcare and education systems can feel overwhelming. Having counselors who understand our language, culture, and the challenges immigrant families face has made an incredible difference. We never felt judged or ignored. Instead, we felt heard, respected, and supported every step of the way.

For many years, I felt like I was facing this challenge alone. Project FOCUS was the first program that truly helped us move forward. They gave my son hope, gave our family direction, and helped us navigate a system that had felt confusing and overwhelming for years.

I truly hope Project FOCUS and OCAPICA/KCS can continue providing these services to children, youth, and families in Orange County. There are many families like mine who simply need someone to guide them through a complicated system and help them find the support their children deserve. I sincerely hope many more families will have the opportunity to receive the same care, compassion, and guidance that my family has been fortunate to receive.

Thank you for taking the time to read our family's story and for considering your continued support of this valuable program.

Sincerely,

Bona Tokko

tbonbonita@gmail.com

310-339-7209

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Hyein Kim, and I am the parent of a child with Autism.

I am writing to share my family's experience with KCS Health center and to express my sincere hope that KCS will continue to receive the support necessary to serve families in our community.

Last year, my family moved from LA county to OC county. One of my first priorities after relocating was finding a new primary care provider (PCP) and appropriate healthcare services for my children. Like many families moving to a new county, I felt overwhelmed trying to navigate unfamiliar healthcare and support systems while ensuring that my children continued receiving the services they needed. During that process, I was introduced to KCS Health center.

From our very first visit, the staff at KCS welcomed our family with kindness, respect, and professionalism. Their compassion and willingness to help immediately made us feel that we were not facing this journey alone.

As we continued receiving care, we learned about KCS Health center, Project Focus, where my son began receiving behavioral and mental health services. My son has autism and experiences significant challenges adapting to new people, unfamiliar environments, and changes in routine.

He is highly sensitive to his surroundings, and during he has displayed self-injurious behaviors.

Because of these challenges, it has always been difficult to find providers who truly understand the unique needs of children with Autism.

At KCS, my son has received behavioral and mental health support in a safe, welcoming, and understanding environment. Our family has also benefited from parent counseling and guidance, which have helped us better understand his behaviors, improve the way we support him at home, and feel more confident as parents. The staff have consistently taken the time to answer our questions, explain treatment recommendations, and provide valuable information about services and resources available to our family.

Although we have only been receiving services at KCS for a relatively short time, I have already seen meaningful progress. My son adjusted to KCS much faster than he usually adjusts to new people or places. He is more comfortable attending his appointments, appears emotionally more stable, and has responded positively to the supportive environment created by the KCS team. As his mother, seeing these positive changes has given me hope and reassurance that he is receiving care from professionals who genuinely understand and care about his well-being.

I believe these improvements are the result of the dedication, knowledge, and compassion demonstrated by the KCS staff. They do much more than provide appointments. They carefully assess each child's individual needs, involve families throughout the treatment process, educate parents, and provide practical guidance that helps families continue supporting their children outside of the clinic. Their commitment to providing high-quality, family-centered care has made a meaningful difference in our lives.

For families raising children with autism and other developmental or behavioral challenges. Organizations like KCS are far more than healthcare providers.

They are trusted partners who provide stability, guidance, and hope during some of the most difficult moments of parenting. My family has developed deep trust in the KCS team because they consistently demonstrate professionalism, compassion, and an unwavering commitment to improving the lives of the families they serve.

I respectfully ask that you continue supporting KCS Health Center and programs such as Project Focus.

These services make a meaningful difference in the lives of children and families throughout our community.

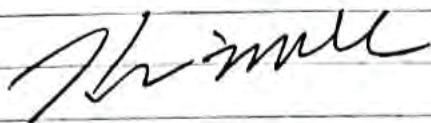
I know there are many families like ours who rely on KCS for essential care, guidance, and support.

Every child deserves access to compassionate, high-quality services that help them grow, learn, and reach their fullest potential. Continued funding and support will allow KCS to continue providing these essential services to families who need them now and in the future.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my family's experience and perspective. I sincerely hope KCS Health Center and Project FOCUS will continue their important mission of serving children, families, and our community for many years to come.

Sincerely,

Hyein Kim parent of a child with Autism.



July, 17, 2026.

제 아들 피터는 10 살 부터 14 살인 지금까지 PROJECT FOCUS 와 함께하고 있습니다.

처음 아이를 정신과닥터에게 데려간 이유는 죽고싶다는 말을 학교에서 했기때문이었어요.

그외에도 팬더믹이후에 생긴 손씻는것에 대한 강박증상으로 손은 너무 많은 손세정제와 비누 사용으로 다 화상입은 것처럼 빨개지고 찢어지고.수업시간에 너무너무 화가나면 발로 책상을 쿵쿵찬다거나 과호흡이 오거나 하기 일수였죠.

너무너무 스트레스를 받을때엔 말로 표현하는것도 힘들어해서 선생님들이 뭘 원하는지를 나타내는 카드를 만들어서 주시고는 손으로 포인트하게 하셨어요.

너무너무 똑똑하고 집에선 편안하게 잘있는 아이가 학교에선 왜 그렇게 극심한 스트레스를 받는지 몰랐었는데 자살이야기를 한후에 바로 정신과의와 만나고 테스트를 해보니 ASD 와 Anxiety 모두 가지고 있는 것으로 나왔죠.

그 후부터는 3 달을 서비스를 찾아헤맸습니다. 리저널센터를 포함해서 집에서 한시간내에 갈 수 있는 모든 센터에 전화했어요. 그 중에서 전화를 바로 받으신건 10 건도 안됩니다.

거의 모든 경우에 음성사서함으로 바로 넘어갔고 그 중에 콜백은 2~3 건 뿐이었어요.

그 와중에 콜백이나 전화를 받더라도 갈 수 있는 자리가 없었어요. 팬더믹이후 수요가 폭발적으로 늘어났기 때문이죠. 점점 지쳐갔고 그러다가 GGUSD 웹사이트에서 OCAPICA 에 대해서 정보를 알게되었고 바로 연락을 했습니다.

처음으로 누군가가 굉장히 밝은 목소리로 전화를 받아주셨어요. 이야기를 들어주시고 가능한 빨리 이벨류에이션을 해주겠다고 하셨죠. 처음으로 희망이보였어요.

이미 의사의 진단서가 있어서 조금 빠르게 진행해주셨고 다른 곳에서는 생각도 할 수 없었던 한국어 가능한 선생님까지 만날 수 있었습니다. KCS 에서 제공하는 PROJECT FOCUS 였어요.

이 프로그램은 그냥 단순한 정신건강증진 프로그램이 아닙니다.

경증의 아이들이 아닌 조금더 세심하게 도와줘야하는 아이들을 위한 프로그램입니다.

그래서 이 프로그램이 없어질수도 있다는 소리를 들었을때 너무너무 놀랐어요.

PROJECT FOCUS 는 강도높은 도움을 필요로 하는 아이들을 위한 프로그램입니다.

같은 문화 언어권에서 아이들을 깊이 이해하고 부모님들과의 원활한 의사소통을 통해 아이들을 돕는 프로그램입니다.

지난 5 년간 아이는 KCS 가 제공하는 PROJECT FOCUS 안에서 스트레스를 조절하는법, 다른 사람과 의사소통하는법, 다른 사람의 감정을 읽는법, 화내지 않고 대화하는법 그리고 제일 중요한 신뢰를 쌓는법을 배웠습니다.

또한 OCAPICA 를 통해 부모교육과 아이를 직접 돌보는 제 정신건강에 도움이 될만한 교육도 함께 진행해주셨습니다. 아이의 상태도 학교 카운셀러와 연계해서 지속적인 상태 공유를 통해 세심하게 살펴주셨고 아이의 스트레스 레벨을 낮추기 위해 504 플랜을 세팅할때도 함께해주셨습니다.

아이가 아직 완전히 프로그램에서 나올정도의 상황은 아니지만 너무 힘들어서 자살하려던 10 살꼬마는 이제 없습니다. 힘들어도 함께 이야기하고 상담하고 나아가는 14 살 짜리 아이가 있을 뿐 이예요.

헌신적인 상담선생님, 케이스 매니저와 부모인 제가 함께 열심히 노력해서 아이와 함께 이루어낸 성과입니다.

이 프로그램이 없어진다면 곧 고등학교를 시작하게 될 제 아이가 다시 자살을 생각하게 될까 너무나 두렵습니다.

부디 헌신적으로 서비스를 제공해온 OCAPICA 와 PROJECT FOCUS 를 계속 유지할 수 있도록 지속적인 펀딩을 부탁드립니다.

Ji young Agnes Kim- Peter Kim's mom



GGUSD Member of Parents Advisory Committee
GGUSD Representative for District level English Learner Advisory Committee
GGUSD Voting Member of Community Advisory Committee
Alamitos Intermediate School PTO Treasurer / Member of School Site Council/ President of English Learner Advisory Committee

My son Peter has been with PROJECT FOCUS since he was 10 years old — he's 14 now.

The reason I first took my child to see a psychiatrist was because he said at school that he wanted to die.

On top of that, after the pandemic he developed a compulsive hand-washing habit, and from using too much hand sanitizer and soap, his hands became red and cracked, almost like they were burned.

When he got extremely upset in class, he would stomp his feet against the desk or start hyperventilating.

When he was under too much stress, he had trouble even expressing himself in words, so his teachers made cards showing what they needed from him, and had him point to them instead.

He was such a bright kid, and so comfortable and fine at home, that I couldn't understand why he was under such severe stress at school — but after he talked about suicide, we saw a psychiatrist right away, and testing showed he had both ASD and Anxiety.

After that, I spent three months searching desperately for services.

I called every center within an hour of our home, including the regional center.

Fewer than 10 of them even picked up the phone.

Almost every call went straight to voicemail, and out of all of those, only 2 or 3 ever called back.

And even when someone did call back or pick up, there were no openings available — demand had exploded after the pandemic. I was growing more and more exhausted, and then I came across information about OCAPICA on the GGUSD website and reached out right away.

For the first time, someone answered the phone with a genuinely warm voice.

They listened to me and told me they would do an evaluation as soon as possible. For the first time, I saw hope.

Since we already had a doctor's diagnosis, things moved a bit faster, and I was even able to meet with a Korean-speaking counselor — something I hadn't even imagined possible anywhere else.

It was PROJECT FOCUS, provided by KCS.

This program isn't just a simple mental health promotion program.

It's a program for children who need more careful, intensive support — not children with mild symptoms.

That's why I was so shocked to hear that this program might be discontinued.

PROJECT FOCUS is a program for children who need intensive support.

It's a program that helps children by deeply understanding them within their own culture and language, and through smooth communication with parents.

Over the past five years, within KCS's PROJECT FOCUS, my child has learned how to manage stress, how to communicate with others, how to read other people's emotions, how to talk without getting angry, and — most importantly — how to build trust.

OCAPICA also provided parent education and training to support my own mental health as the one directly caring for my child.

They also coordinated closely with the school counselor to continuously share updates on my child's condition, watching over him carefully, and they worked with us to set up a 504 plan to help lower his stress levels.

My child isn't yet at a point where he can fully leave the program, but the 10-year-old who was once so overwhelmed he tried to take his own life is no longer here. In his place is a 14-year-old who, even when things are hard, talks it through, gets counseling, and keeps moving forward.

This is the result of a dedicated counselor, a case manager, and me as a parent all working hard together with my child.

If this program is discontinued, I am terribly afraid that my child — who is about to start high school — might once again think about suicide.

Please, I ask for continued funding so that OCAPICA and PROJECT FOCUS, which have provided such dedicated service, can continue.

Ji young Agnes Kim- Peter Kim's mom

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jiyoung Kim". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jiyoung" and the last name "Kim" written in a connected style.

GGUSD Member of Parents Advisory Committee

GGUSD Representative for District level English Learner Advisory Committee

GGUSD Voting Member of Community Advisory Committee

Alamitos Intermediate School PTO Treasurer / Member of School Site Council/ President of English Learner Advisory Committee

My name is Haein Lee, and I have been a Project Focus partner since 2023. However, my journey with this Project Focus started long before then. I first entered this program around 2017, when I was 16 years old. I was a high school student then, and I was having a really hard time with everything going on around me. Starting from my family, my friends, and school, it felt like everyone and everything was against me. However, I was lucky enough to find a program near me that could help me mentally, emotionally, and even financially. After a couple of years in the program, they deemed me fit to graduate, and I thought that I had closed this chapter in my life. Unfortunately, mental illnesses don't go away that easily, and before I knew it, I found myself back in the program in 2023. The staff and everyone else who works here were as friendly and welcoming as they were back then. They were understanding of my situation, and even though I was a bit older than the usual clients they see, it felt like they were welcoming me back with open arms. The services they provided me with felt the same, but improved at the same time.

Over the many years I've been in this program, I've gone through many different therapists and case managers, but every one of them listened to my situation carefully and helped me with my struggles. If I had trouble with sleeping or eating, they would help me plan out a schedule that they knew I could follow, and if there were days when I went off course, they never berated me. They offered me comforting words and, at the same time, encouraged me without it feeling like they were coddling me. If they saw I was struggling financially, they offered their full support and did their best to accommodate me. Driving lessons are expensive, and my family isn't in the best spot financially, so they told me that I could use their services to be able to get the lessons that I needed. They're also quick to

respond to me if I ever have an emergency, and as someone with a weak immune system, they're extremely understanding when I have to reschedule.

It also helps that many of the therapists and case managers here speak Korean. Although my mother has lived in America for a long time, she isn't that comfortable with speaking English and much prefers communicating in Korean. Because of that, she's never had issues with speaking to the staff here. The same could be said for me. I'm comfortable with speaking in either English or Korean, but there are times when it's easier for me to speak in Korean and other times when it's easier for me to speak in English. Thankfully, the staff has no issue with that, and I feel like I'm able to communicate my thoughts and feelings freely.

An unfortunate issue about South Koreans is that they're known to ignore all kinds of mental health problems. We tend to ignore the problem or bury the feelings so deep that they eventually explode and cause more harm than good. Adults, especially, tend to have a harder time accepting the fact that there might be something wrong with their child, and that includes my own mother. Before I officially joined the program, she had a hard time accepting the fact that I might be depressed and anxious, instead brushing it off and saying I'm just lazy and don't want to work. By joining this program, not only was my own mindset able to change, but hers was able to as well. She became more understanding and supportive of me, and our relationship changed from ignoring each other whenever we could to being able to have casual conversations and joking around together. That is why I believe that it's important that OCAPICA continues to provide these services, so that more people, not just South Koreans, can recognize their symptoms, acknowledge their problems, and be able to move on and be better, instead of being stuck at the same place, unable to grow. We need to have a safe place

where we can spill our thoughts without fear of judgement or being brushed off, and that is exactly the type of place Project Focus is.

The biggest success story I have had to witness while in the program would have to be about myself. When I first joined the program, I was struggling with so many things. My parents' separation, the eventual death of my father, and losing all my friends, all in the span of two years. It felt like I had no one on my side, but Project Focus helped me to realize that there is more to life; that yes, all these terrible things might have happened to me, but that shouldn't be a reason to give up. I was able to nurture a proper relationship with my mother, make new friends who are always there for me, and even decided to go back to school after previously dropping out. If it weren't for this program, I don't know what would've happened to me. This program has helped me become a much better person, so much so that even those around me have noticed. Project Focus was and continues to be my biggest supporter, and I hope that the program sticks around so that others like me can learn and grow to become better versions of themselves.

July 16, 2026

songpoetess@gmail.com

909.618.6480

To whom it may concern:

I am writing this letter on behalf of my family, including our foster daughter of 20 months, Vy Mai. Our welcome into Vy's life came as an unexpected surprise as my husband, Tommy, and I were new foster parents expecting an infant or toddler to come into our lives. When Vy came to us, she had only been in the U.S. for two months, and the layers of support she needed was deeply evident due to cultural and language barriers. Neither my husband nor I spoke Vietnamese, and every act of communication was expressed over Google Translate. I learned rather quickly that the best of intentions are not enough to reach a child's heart who carries the weight and violation of her dignity. The more we tried to forge ahead with love and good intentions, the deeper the struggle became to understand that miscommunication, distrust, and trauma were active barriers in forging attachment.

We were soon introduced to Project FOCUS and the supportive resources that came with the program. Words are not sufficient to describe the relief of having a team come alongside with a proficiency in language and cultural competency. As the caregivers are Vietnamese-speaking, they immediately made inroads to our daughter's true thoughts and struggles, and being able to engage in her heart language felt a little more like "home" for her. There were so many sessions where we came in with all our silent struggles: judgement, alarm, desperation to understand her trauma and cultural values/norms. When we were at an impasse, the level of compassion and patience that Project FOCUS was able to offer was a gamechanger. They became our mediators. They were not only Vy's therapist and healer, but ours as well. We felt supported and heard, and the insights offered to us in our most heated conversations softened us enough to know where to begin a healing conversation. There were many moments when Vy's stress level and dysregulation seemed noticeably calmer after her session with Christine, her therapist, and Tien, her life skills coach. Using art therapy, talk therapy, presence and storytelling, our daughter was able to find the safety, and the words, to empower her enough to start sharing her story and making sense of her trauma.

We have realized that raising any child, but in particular, a child with grief and trauma, needs a village to walk them towards healing. It has been the advocacy and support of Project FOCUS and their innovative ways of collaborating with us for Vy's holistic well-being that have been invaluable. Absolutely essential. We are writing this letter of support for Project FOCUS as a way of speaking forth our gratitude and praise for what they have been able to do for us as a family, and hope they continue to offer their good work for the community.

Sincerely,

Angela & Tommy Lam

Letter of Support for OCAPICA Project Focus

My name is Hailey Nguyen. I am a student at Cal State Long Beach, and I am 19 years old, turning 20 this upcoming September 2026. I was 14 when I first joined Project Focus.

I was a kid who came from a complicated background. I was severely abused, both physically and emotionally, by both of my parents until my father left the picture. My single mother, who did not understand English or understand me, continued the emotional abuse. I became severely depressed, suffering from undiagnosed disorders that only further created a gap between my mother and me. When high school came around, we grew apart, and I began cutting my arms as a way to release the pain I was carrying inside.

Eventually, I admitted everything to a school counselor and was sent to a facility, where I was transferred to a Waymakers residential shelter.

During this entire ordeal, it became even more glaringly obvious that the language barrier between my mother and me was only making things worse. Despite getting help, despite being heard for once, none of it was coming from the person who mattered most.

Then came the time when I had to leave Waymakers. I remember feeling afraid and lost, like I was returning to a cycle where I was doomed to experience the same things all over again. Maybe a part of me even wanted that, just to have another chance to leave a home that felt nothing like home.

That was when I was offered support by a program called Project Focus. I was assigned to a therapist named Emily and a case manager named Rina.

At first, it felt awkward and difficult, but I had always been a bit of a talker. I found myself cracking jokes, ranting, venting, and saying things that were thoughts I had never been able to put into words before. It was all new and scary, but my team walked me through it.

When I had panic attacks outside of sessions, they would be on call with me. When family therapy did not work out, they were there for me. When I had to return to facilities and more shelters, they sat through it all with me.

Rina became my new therapist after Emily left, but she and Liana made the transition feel so much easier. Rina was the one who helped me contact another Waymakers shelter that took in adults.

My team has done so much for me. Rina helped me get financial assistance for gas so I could get to school, grocery money for food, and clothing money when the new school year started. She helped communicate with my mom in Vietnamese, easing the strain caused by the language barrier.

My team and this program matter to me so much because they continue to support me through my adult life as well. I feel safe. I feel supported. I feel loved.

When I was offered a mentor position as a camp counselor at Camp Whittier with YMCA San Pedro, Liana coached me and Rina encouraged me to do it.

I have grown up with this program, and I would not be the person I am today without it.

I speak to the reader today in hopes of reaching them. Project Focus does not deserve to have its funding cut and to be shut down as a result. They have more than 100 clients, some very young and most minors, who depend on them and their staff. That is not to mention their non-English-speaking parents who need their translation services to help support their children.

Project Focus provides resources, support, and so much more. They take in families and make their services accessible to the community. They support a considerably large part of the community here, and honestly, they are the only program I have seen like them that focuses specifically on Asian Pacific Islanders.

I have, sadly, seldom seen or heard of any other group that puts such a strong focus on that minority community, which only makes Project Focus all the more vital.

Project Focus is paving the way for change and for a better world where people can be more accepting and families can be families again. To put an end to their work would be cruel to the youth of this community. It would be a disgusting waste of humanity and potential. It would be denying a better future to who knows how many more people.

So make the right choice. Make the humane choice.

I Stand with Project Focus.

— Hailey Nguyen

My name is Hailey Nguyen. I am a student at Cal State Long Beach and am 19 turning 20 this upcoming September 2026. I was 14 when I first joined Project Focus. I was a kid who came from a complicated background. I was severely abused both physically and emotionally by both parents until my father left the picture. My single mother, not understanding English or me, continued the emotional abuse. I became severely depressed, suffering from undiagnosed disorders that only further created a gap between me and my mother. When high school rolled around, the pain grew far too bad and I began cutting at my arms to release it, hatred for myself brewing in my heart. I eventually admitted everything to a school counselor and was sent to a facility, where I was transferred to a Waymakers Residential shelter. During this whole ordeal, it became more glaringly obvious that the language barrier between me and my mother was only making things worse. Despite getting help, despite being heard for once, none of it was from the person who mattered. Then came the time I had to leave Waymakers. I remembered feeling afraid and lost, like I was returning to a cycle where I was doomed to make the same choices again. Maybe a part of me even wanted that just to have another chance to leave a home that felt nothing like home. That's when I was offered support by a program called Project Focus. I was assigned to a therapist called Emily and a case manager called Liana. At first, it felt awkward and difficult, but I had always been a bit of a talker. I found myself cracking jokes, ranting, venting, and saying things that were thoughts I had never been able to put words to. It was all new and scary but my team walked me through it. When I had panic attacks outside of session they'd be on call with me. When family therapy didn't work out they were there for me. When I had to return to facilities and more shelters they sat through it all with me. Rina became my new therapist after Emily left, but her and Liana made the transition feel so much easier. Rina was the one who helped me contact another Waymakers shelter that took in adults. My team has done so much for me. Liana helped me get finances for gas to get to school, for grocery money for food, for clothing money when the new school years started. She helped talk to my mom in Vietnamese, easing the strain of the language barrier. My team and this program matter to me so much because they continue to support me through my adult life as well. I feel safe, I feel supported, I feel loved. When I was offered a volunteer position as a camp counselor at Camp Whittle with YMLA San Pedro, Liana coached me and Rina encouraged me to do it.

I have grown up with this program and I wouldn't be the person I am today without it. I speak to the reader today in hopes of reaching the m. Project Focus does not deserve to have its funding cut and to be shut down as a result. They have 100+ clients, some very young and most minors, depending on them and their staff. That's not to mention their non-english speaking parents who need their translation services to help support their children. Project Focus provides resources, support, etc and take insurances that make them more accessible to the community. They support a considerably large part of the community here in Garden Grove and honestly they're the only program I've seen like them focusing on Asian Pacific Islanders. I have, sadly, seldom seen or heard of any other group that puts a focus on that minority, which only makes them all the more vital. Project focus is paving the way for change and for a better world where people can be more accepting and families can be families again. To put an end to their work would be cruel to the youth of this community. It would be a disgusting waste of humanity and potential. It would be denying a better future for who knows how many more people. So make the right choice. Make the humane choice.

I Stand with Project Focus

- Hailey Nguyen

July 19th, 2026

I would like to begin this letter by expressing my deepest gratitude to the entire staff at Project Focus, whose collective dedication continues to bring essential and transformative services to our community. You have done so much for youth and young adults like myself within the AANHPI community, and your commitment has never gone unnoticed!

As a long-standing client and partner of this program, I have always felt profoundly grateful for the support I've received. There was a time when I could not step beyond the confines of my room, overwhelmed by irrational fears and uncertainty about my future. In those moments, when I was at my lowest, Project Focus offered guidance, stability, and compassion. Today, I have grown into someone eager to face the complexities of life, even when challenges arise. I can say wholeheartedly that the progress I've made, and the person I am now, is in large part due to the unwavering support and services provided by this program.

I look forward to each session, as they offer a rare moment of pause, a space where I can step away from the turbulence of my daily responsibilities and reconnect with myself. I leave every meeting feeling like I am the most fortunate individual to have the support of my clinician and personal services coordinator, whose care and dedication have made an immeasurable difference in my life.

When I first entered the Project Focus program, the thoughts that filled my mind were ones of dread, hopelessness, and an torturous sense of being stuck in the endless cycles of negativity. I felt defeated by the world and uncertain about how I would even continue moving forward with my life. Although moments of struggle may still arise today, my time with Project Focus has equipped me with essential coping strategies and tools that allow me to navigate challenges with much more resilience and clarity.

The transformation I have experienced is not merely personal. It has even inspired me to contribute meaningfully to the broader community. Motivated by the support and growth I found through Project Focus, I have begun collaborating with peers to develop small grassroots initiatives aimed at strengthening mental-health awareness and solidarity within our AANHPI community. These efforts are a direct reflection of the program's impact: when individuals are empowered, they in turn become catalysts for collective wellbeing. Project Focus has not only helped me reclaim hope and confidence; it has enabled me to become an active participant in building a healthier, more connected community. My experience stands as a testament to the program's effectiveness and the critical importance of sustaining and expanding its services.

I want to once again extend my appreciation to the entire team at Project Focus for providing such crucial and necessary services to the community. Your work has not only supported me, it has fundamentally changed and safeguarded my life in ways immeasurable.

To Whom May It Concern,

Four and a half years ago, when my daughter was a freshman in high school and first started expressing that she was struggling to go to school, I could never have imagined the dark days that lay ahead of us. I can honestly say that these have been the darkest and most difficult years of my life.

Despite having an IEP at school and receiving treatment from psychiatrists, my daughter was unable to attend school. Her symptoms became worse and worse. She began avoiding all sunlight and stayed in her room all day. She desperately wanted to overcome her depression and anxiety, but whenever she felt she had failed, something would trigger self-harm or suicidal thoughts.

Those years have literally been a living hell. During the worst periods of her illness, I prayed every single day, "Please let my daughter stay alive today."

I truly believe that without KCS/Project FOCUS, my family would not have made it through these difficult years. From the beginning, I knew my daughter needed professional help, and by God's grace, I was able to find this program.

The staff became an anchor for both my daughter and me whenever we felt like we were drowning. They stood by us through the most difficult moments. Whenever my daughter's symptoms escalated—even late at night—they answered our calls again and again over the years. They dedicated themselves to meeting with my daughter every week and even attended school meetings to advocate for and support our family.

The Project FOCUS clinician was the person my daughter trusted enough to call whenever she was overwhelmed by suicidal thoughts. I believe that the staff's deep understanding of our culture, our language, and the emotions that are sometimes difficult to express across cultures made a profound difference. Because they shared the same cultural background as our family, they were able to understand my daughter's struggles in a way that went beyond words. Knowing that she had someone she could reach out to during those critical moments gave our family hope and strength.

I truly believe that without this program, my family would not have survived these past years. Today, my daughter is doing so much better. Under her psychiatrist's guidance, she has successfully tapered off her medications. She overcame the symptoms that once controlled her life and stepped back into the world. She was able to successfully transition out of the KCS/Project FOCUS program in June 2026, after receiving support from the program since March 30, 2022, as her condition improved significantly. She also graduated from high school that same month and has begun a new journey toward becoming a hair designer. She is genuinely happy and excited about her future, and she has found a new purpose in life. I truly believe this is a miracle that God has worked through KCS/Project FOCUS.

Looking back now, I can see that those years were part of a journey. But while we were living through that darkness, it never seemed like there was an exit. There were countless times when I wanted to give up. Not only did my daughter struggle, but I was also overwhelmed by despair as I watched her suffer. I cried many times and reached out to the staff of this program for help.

They listened to me, encouraged me, and helped me find the strength to keep going. I cannot bear to imagine where my family would be today if this program had not existed.

I have recently learned that this program is at risk of being discontinued. I sincerely hope that does not happen. This program lifts families when the weight of their struggles becomes too heavy to carry alone. It helps them endure the darkest season of their lives. And when they make it through that season, they are able to return to society as healthy, productive, and hopeful individuals who contribute to their communities.

Please do not take away that hope. Please do not take away the opportunity for other families to experience the same miracle that my family was blessed to receive.

Youngran Joo

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Youngran Joo". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first letter of each word being capitalized and larger than the others.

July 19th, 2026

I would like to begin this letter by expressing my deepest gratitude to the entire staff at Project Focus, whose collective dedication continues to bring essential and transformative services to our community. You have done so much for youth and young adults like myself within the AANHPI community, and your commitment has never gone unnoticed!

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The transformation I have experienced is not merely personal. It has even inspired me to contribute meaningfully to the broader community. Motivated by the support and growth I found through Project Focus, I have begun collaborating with peers to develop small grassroots initiatives aimed at strengthening mental-health awareness and solidarity within our AANHPI community. These efforts are a direct reflection of the program's impact: when individuals are empowered, they in turn become catalysts for collective wellbeing. Project Focus has not only helped me reclaim hope and confidence; it has enabled me to become an active participant in building a healthier, more connected community. My experience stands as a testament to the program's effectiveness and the critical importance of sustaining and expanding its services.

I want to once again extend my appreciation to the entire team at Project Focus for providing such crucial and necessary services to the community. Your work has not only supported me, it has fundamentally changed and safeguarded my life in ways immeasurable.

My name is Jackson, and I am writing to express my support for Project FOCUS. I have been a part of Project FOCUS for almost a year, and it has made a huge difference in my life. When I first started, I was struggling with my mental health and with harming myself when my emotions became overwhelming. My therapist has helped me learn healthier ways to take care of myself and cope with difficult emotions instead of hurting myself. Today, I am proud to say that I have been **19 days without self-harming**, and I truly believe that the support I have received through Project FOCUS has played a big role in helping me reach this milestone. Project FOCUS has also helped me manage the stress of college. Balancing school and my mental health has been difficult, but having someone to talk to, who listens without judgment and gives me tools to cope, has helped me continue moving forward with my education. I honestly don't know where I would be without Project FOCUS. The support I have received has given me hope, helped me grow, and reminded me that I don't have to face my struggles alone. Losing this program would not only affect me, but many other people who rely on it for support during some of the hardest times in their lives. I sincerely hope the County will continue funding Project FOCUS so that others can continue receiving the same life-changing care that I have.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Jackson

July 21, 2026

Attn: To whom may concern

Subject : OCAPICA/KCS(Project FOCUS) 지원을 위한 지지서한

안녕하세요? 저는 Rachel Hong 과 Chloe Hong 두 아이의 엄마입니다.

저의 가족이 받은 도움을 바탕으로, OCAPICA/KCS(Project FOCUS)가 오렌지카운티 지역의 아동, 청소년 및 가족들을 위해 수행해 온 헌신적인 활동과 지역사회에 미친 긍정적인 영향에 깊이 공감하며, 본 기관을 적극적으로 지지합니다. 특히나 문화적·언어적 다양성을 존중하는 서비스를 제공하여 영어에 익숙하지 않은 소외계층에게도 편안하게 서비스를 이용할 수 있도록 지원해 주시는 강점을 가지고 있습니다.

Rachel 은 2021 년부터 2024 년까지 OCAPICA/KCS(Project FOCUS) 의 서비스를 받았으며, Chloe Hong 은 2024 년부터 최근까지 OCAPICA/KCS(Project FOCUS) 의 서비스를 받았습니다.

Rachel 과 Chloe 는 고등학교 시절에 모두 심한 OCD 와 우울증 등의 정서장애, 정신건강 문제로 힘든 시간을 보냈습니다. 학교 생활도 가정생활도 모두 정상적으로 할 수 없는 시기에 OCAPICA/KCS 의 FSP 프로그램을 통해서 저희 가족은 정신건강 서비스, 가족지원 등 정신적, 경제적으로 많은 지원을 받았습니다.

저희 아이들이 불안하고 힘든 시기를 보낼때, FSP Program 을 만나 저희 가족이 포기하지 않고 견딜 수 있도록 심리상담, 가족 상담 서비스, 필요한 병원 지원에 대해 Referral, 경제적으로 많이 힘든 시기에는 Rent 비 지원등, 저희 가족이 포기하지 않고 지탱해 나갈 수 있도록 많은 힘이 되어 주셨습니다. 또한 Emergency 상황에서도 저희가 기댈 수 있는 버팀목이 되어 주셨습니다.

Rachel 은 3 년의 서비스를 받고, 현재는 정신적으로, 육체적으로 건강하게 성장해서, 본인이 원하는 대학에 입학하여 Graphic design 을 공부하는 건강한 성인으로 성장했습니다. Chloe 는 아직도 힘든 시간을 보내고 있으며 OCAPICA/KCS(Project FOCUS) 의 도움이 절실합니다.

현재도 오렌지카운티에는 저희와 같이, 문화적·언어적 장벽, 경제적 어려움, 정신건강 문제 등으로 인해 적절한 서비스가 필요한 많은 아동, 청소년 및 가족들이 많이 존재합니다.

이에 저희는 OCAPICA/KCS(Project FOCUS)의 지속적인 사업 수행과 지원을 적극 지지하며, 앞으로도 오렌지카운티의 아동, 청소년 및 가족들의 건강한 성장과 복지 증진을 위해 중요한 역할을 수행해 나갈 것을 기대합니다.

감사합니다.

어 서분 배상 / Serena

July 21, 2026

Attn: To Whom It May Concern

Subject: Letter of Support for OCAPICA/KCS (Project FOCUS)

Hello, I am the mother of two children, Rachel Hong and Chloe Hong.

Based on the support my family has received, I deeply resonate with the dedicated work OCAPICA/KCS (Project FOCUS) has carried out for children, youth, and families in the Orange County area, and with the positive impact it has had on our community, and I strongly support this organization. In particular, one of its great strengths is providing services that respect cultural and linguistic diversity, allowing even underserved individuals who are not comfortable in English to access services with ease.

Rachel received services from OCAPICA/KCS (Project FOCUS) from 2021 to 2024, and Chloe Hong has received services from OCAPICA/KCS (Project FOCUS) from 2024 up to recently.

Both Rachel and Chloe went through a difficult time during high school, struggling with severe OCD, depression, and other emotional and mental health issues. During a period when they could not function normally at school or at home, our family received extensive mental and financial support — including mental health services and family support — through OCAPICA/KCS's FSP program.

During the anxious and difficult times our children went through, the FSP program helped our family hold on and not give up — through psychological counseling, family counseling services, referrals for necessary medical support, and rent assistance during times of severe financial hardship. They gave us a great deal of strength to keep going without giving up, and they were a pillar we could lean on even in emergency situations.

After three years of services, Rachel has now grown into a mentally and physically healthy adult, has been accepted into the university, and is studying graphic design. Chloe is still going through a difficult time, and the help of OCAPICA/KCS (Project FOCUS) remains urgently needed.

Even now, there are many children, youth, and families in Orange County, just like ours, who are in need of proper services due to cultural and linguistic barriers, financial hardship, and mental health issues.

For these reasons, we strongly support the continued operation and funding of OCAPICA/KCS (Project FOCUS), and look forward to the important role it will continue to play in promoting the healthy growth and well-being of children, youth, and families in Orange County.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Serena (Rachel and Chloe's mother)

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing this letter in the hope of shedding light on OCAPICA and why its continuance is indispensable to the community. Having been part of the program for approximately five years, I've personally witnessed the impact OCAPICA has had on the Asian and Pacific Islander community, specifically within the Vietnamese population in Orange County.

The support services that OCAPICA has provided include mental health workshops, one-on-one behavioral health counseling, workforce preparation, youth mentorship, and much more. These services offered at OCAPICA have raised my expectations for quality. Their efforts to provide tailored support along with the staff's quick and empathetic responsiveness shows compassion in the quality of their service.

Having received the full spectrum of services offered by OCAPICA, I can wholeheartedly say they shaped and developed me into the person I am today. OCAPICA came into my life at one of my lowest points and guided me to one of its highest. It shows that they follow through with actions to empower individuals and honor their commitment to our community.

It is important for OCAPICA to keep providing these services to the children, youth, and families across Orange County. OCAPICA goes beyond mental health advocacy. It uplifts our community by helping those challenged with financial hardship, housing instability, and language barriers to be able to grow, heal, and adapt. For some, this place serves as a safe space to voice concerns about their day-to-day struggles. Without this vital resource, many would be left to navigate these burdens alone.

Thank you for taking the time to read my statement and supporting an organization dedicated to changing lives for the better. I urge you to please keep supporting OCAPICA so they can continue helping our community.

Sincerely,

Graduate of OCAPICA

致 Orange County Board of Supervisor,

我们是来自中国的一个家庭，我的孩子，男孩 11 岁，被确诊为自闭症多动症，给我们家庭带来了很大的痛苦，严重影响孩子的学习和成长。由于我们不会讲英文也包括孩子，我们家庭是从 2025 年 11 月开始与 OCAPICA/ProjectFOCUS 合作的，这里的工作人员有会讲中文和英文，我们每周都会预约带着孩子来到这里进行语言和社交和行为训练，我的孩子在这期间有很严重的攻击行为，先后三次被送到儿童急诊医院，我们及时和 OCAPICA/ProjectFOCUS 工作人员联系沟通，得到了很多帮助，慢慢地通过工作人员的心理疏导和行为规范，我的孩子有了明显的行为改善，真心感谢工作人员的耐心帮助。我的孩子现在在特殊学校上学，我们每周还会给 OCAPICAProjectFOCUS 的工作人员沟通，孩子在学校学习和在家里的情况。在 2025 年五月份，我们预约了新的精神科医生，由于填写很多英文表格和孩子的 IEP 相关资料，是这里的工作人员帮我们翻译中文协助我们填写申请表格。6.3 号 OCAPICAProjectFOCUS 工作人员还帮助我们去预约孩子的家庭医生，亲自和我们一起去家庭医生办公室帮助我们给医生沟通孩子的病情，这对我们这个不会讲英文的家庭帮助真的很大，如果没有 OCAPICAProjectFOCUS 的帮助和支持我们会遇到很多困难，再次感谢你们。

Hello, I am writing this letter to support Project FOCUS. When I got the news that their funding is at risk, I was stricken with complex feelings. I have been receiving service from Project FOCUS for nine months now. When I had my first few appointments, it was clear to me how professional and serious they were about my mental health. This is truly the first time in my life where I have felt stable, concentrated, and ready to cross bridges I did not want to before. Not only do they help me with processing certain emotions, they also help me with daily life and making long processes seem smaller. Without my therapist and case manager, I would not be where I am today. I really do appreciate them as well as the program. It is very important that people especially of color who may come from a hard upbringing have resources such as Project FOCUS as they directly help with processing trauma, managing conditions, building healthy relationships, and more.

EXPERIENCE WITH FOCUS PROGRAM.

WHEN MY FAMILY FIRST CAME TO THE FOCUS PROGRAM IN GARDEN GROVE, WE WERE FACING SOME CHALLENGING TIME IN OUR DAUGHTER'S LIFE. SHE STRUGGLED WITH ANGER MANAGEMENT, EMOTIONAL REGULATION, AND EXPRESSING HER FEELINGS IN A HEALTHY WAY. FOR ME AND MY WIFE, IT WAS ALREADY HARD DEALING WITH OUR YOUNGER DAUGHTER WITH AUTISM, AND MY OLDER DAUGHTER IT WAS HARD TO WATCH HER BECOME OVERWHELMED BY EMOTIONS SHE COULDN'T OR DIDN'T KNOW HOW TO CONTROL IT. WE FELT HELPLESS BECAUSE WE DIDN'T ALWAYS KNOW THE RIGHT WAY TO SUPPORT HER. THE STRESS AFFECTED OUR ENTIRE FAMILY'S LIFE. WE KNEW WE NEEDED HELP FROM PEOPLE WHO TRULY UNDERSTOOD WHAT MY DAUGHTER NEEDS.

FROM THE MOMENT WE JOINED FOCUS, MY DAUGHTER'S TEAM: HUY, DANG, EILEEN, MAY, AND, JOUE MADE US FEEL WELCOMED, SUPPORTED, AND UNDERSTOOD. THE STAFF TOOK THE TIME TO GET TO KNOW OUR DAUGHTER AS AN INDIVIDUAL RATHER THAN FOCUSING ONLY ON HER CHALLENGES. THEY RECOGNIZED HER STRENGTHS, UNDERSTOOD HER UNIQUE NEEDS, AND CREATED AN ENVIRONMENT WHERE SHE FELT SAFE, ACCEPTED, AND ENCOURAGED TO GROW. THEIR PATIENCE, COMPASSION, AND DEDICATION GAVE A PEACE OF MIND THAT SHE WAS IN A SAFE PLACE AND MADE HER COMFORTABLE.

OVER TIME, WE BEGAN TO SEE MEANINGFUL CHANGES IN OUR DAUGHTER. SHE BECAME BETTER AT RECOGNIZING HER EMOTIONS AND EXPRESSING HERSELF WITHOUT IMMEDIATELY BECOMING ANGRY OR FRUSTRATED. ALTHOUGH, SHE STILL DOES, SHE NOW HAS A HEALTHIER WAY TO COPE OR CONTROL HERSELF WITH DIFFICULT SITUATIONS, AND HER EMOTIONAL OUTBURSTS HAVE BECOME LESS

FREQUENT AND LESS INTENSE. OUR FAMILY EXPERIENCED HAS BEEN MORE PEACEFUL AND POSITIVE INTERACTIONS AT HOME. SEEING HER MAKE THIS PROGRESS HAS BEEN ONE OF THE GREATEST BLESSINGS FOR OUR FAMILY.

FOCUS DIDN'T JUST HELP OUR DAUGHTER THEY HELPED US BECOME BETTER PARENTS. THEY TAUGHT US PRACTICAL STRATEGIES TO UNDER HER BEHAVIORS, COMMUNICATE MORE EFFECTIVELY, AND RESPOND WITH BETTER RESULTS. THEY GAVE US TOOLS THAT WE CONTINUE TO USE EVERY DAY, HELPING US CREATE A MORE STRUCTURED, SUPPORTIVE, AND LOVING ENVIRONMENT AT HOME. THEIR EXPERIENCE AND KNOWLEDGE HAS HELP US TO WORK TOGETHER AS A FAMILY INSTEAD OF FEELING LIKE WE WERE FACING THESE CHALLENGES ALONE.

ONE THING THAT I NOTICED AND IMPRESSED ME ABOUT FOCUS IS HOW GENUINELY THEY CARE ABOUT MY FAMILY. EVERY INTERACTION MADE US FEEL HEARD, VALUED, AND SUPPORTED. THEIR TEAM CONSISTENTLY DEMONSTRATED PROFESSIONALISM, KINDNESS, AND A TRUE PASSION FOR HELPING MY FAMILY. BUT, OTHER STAFF THAT I SEE, ALSO TREAT THE OTHER CHILDREN IN THE SAME MANNERISM.

MY WIFE AND I ARE TRULY VERY GRATEFUL FOR EVERYTHING THE TEAM AND FOCUS PROGRAM HAS DONE FOR US. THEIR SUPPORT HAS MADE A FOREVER IMPACT ON OUR DAUGHTER'S DEVELOPMENT AND OUR FAMILY AS A WHOLE.

I BELIEVED EVERY PARENT. RAISING A CHILD WITH BEHAVIORAL, EMOTIONAL, OR DEVELOPMENTAL CHALLENGE COULD BENEFIT FROM A PROGRAM LIKE FOCUS. PARENTING A CHILD WITH ANGER OR EMOTIONALLY EXPRESSING THEMSELVES IS DIFFICULT AND CAN SOMETIMES FEEL OVERWHELMING, BUT HAVING KNOWLEDGEABLE AND EXPERIENCED PROFESSIONALS WHO PROVIDE GUIDANCE, TOOLS, KNOWLEDGE, SUPPORT, AND EXPERIENCES PAST RECORD CAN MAKE AN INCREDIBLE DIFFERENCE. FOCUS NOT ONLY HELPS MY CHILD DEVELOP IMPORTANT LIFE SKILLS BUT ALSO STRENGTHENS MY KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING BY GIVING ME THE HELP, SUPPORT, AND TOOLS THAT I NEED TO HELP MY DAUGHTER'S FUTURE.

FOCUS, TRULY CHANGED OUR LIVES FOR THE BETTER, AND I WHOLEHEARTEDLY RECOMMEND THIS PROGRAM TO ANY FAMILY SEEKING COMPASSIONATE, KNOWLEDGEABLE, AND RELIABLE SUPPORT. THEIR WORK GOES FAR BEYOND PROVIDING SERVICES. THEY HELP BUILD STRONGER CHILDREN, PARENTS, AND FAMILIES!

THANK-YOU GUYS FOR EVERYTHING YOU GUYS HAVE DONE FOR ME AND MY FAMILY!

My Family's Experience with the FOCUS Program

When my family first came to the FOCUS program in Garden Grove, we were facing some challenging times in our daughter's life. She struggled with anger management, emotional regulation, and expressing her feelings in a healthy way. For me and my wife, it was already hard dealing with our younger daughter with autism and my older daughter it was hard to watch her become overwhelmed by emotions she couldn't or didn't know how to control it. We felt helpless because we didn't always know the right way to support her. The stress affected our entire family's life. We knew we needed help from people who truly understood what my daughter needs.

From the moment we joined FOCUS, my daughter's team : Huy, Lianna, Dang, Eileen, May, and Julie made us feel welcomed, supported, and understood. The staff took the time to get to know our daughter as an individual rather than focusing only on her challenges. They recognized her strengths, understood her unique needs, and created an environment where she felt safe, accepted, and encouraged to grow. Their patience, compassion, and dedication gave a peace of mind that she was in a safe place and made her comfortable.

Over time, we began to see meaningful changes in our daughter. She became better at recognizing her emotions and expressing herself without immediately becoming angry or frustrated. Although, she still does; she now has healthier ways to cope or control herself with difficult situations, and her emotional outbursts have become less frequent and less intense. Our family experienced has been more peaceful and positive interactions at home. Seeing her make this progress has been one of the greatest blessings for our family.

FOCUS didn't just help our daughter, they helped us become better parents. They taught us practical strategies to understand her behaviors, communicate more effectively, and respond with better results. They gave us tools that we continue to use every day, helping us create a more structured, supportive, and loving environment at home. Their experiences and knowledge has helped us to work together as a family instead of feeling like we were facing these challenges alone.

One of the things that I noticed and impressed me about FOCUS is how genuinely they care about my family. Every interaction made us feel heard, valued, and supported. Their team consistently demonstrated professionalism, kindness, and a true passion for helping my family. But other staff that I see; also treat the other children in the same mannerism.

My wife and I are truly very grateful for everything the team and FOCUS program has done for us. Their support has made a forever impact on our daughter's development and our family as a whole.

I believe every parent raising a child with behavioral, emotional, or developmental challenges could benefit from a program like FOCUS. Parenting a child with anger or emotional expression is difficult and can sometimes feel overwhelming, but having knowledgeable and experienced professionals who provide guidance, tools, knowledge, support, and experience past record can make an incredible difference. FOCUS not only helps my child develop important life skills but also strengthens my knowledge and understanding by giving me the help, support, and tools that I need to help my daughter's future.

FOCUS truly changed our lives for the better, and I wholeheartedly recommend this program to any family seeking compassionate, knowledgeable, and dedicated support. Their work goes far beyond providing services—they help build stronger children, parents, and families.

Thank you guys for everything you guys have done for me and my family.

Letter of Support for Project FOCUS

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing in strong support of Project FOCUS and its appeal regarding the County's recent funding decision.

My name is Lala Truong, and I was employed at OCAPICA from March 2017 to March 2019 and again from June 2024 to June 2025. Project FOCUS was my first professional experience after graduating from the University of Southern California with a degree in Political Science. As a recent graduate, I was hopeful and inspired to find a workplace where I could apply my education while pursuing my ultimate career goal—to make a meaningful difference in the lives of others. During my time with Project FOCUS, I was able to accomplish that and so much more than I ever imagined.

Working with Project FOCUS gave me the opportunity to serve my fellow Asian American community firsthand. Through this work, I gained a deeper understanding of the unique challenges and unmet mental health needs that many individuals and families face. I witnessed how Project FOCUS provided culturally responsive, compassionate support, education, and resources to community members who often struggled to find services that understood their language, culture, and lived experiences. The program consistently met people where they were, helping them navigate their mental health journeys with dignity and respect.

On a personal level, I often wished that a program like Project FOCUS had existed during my own teenage years when I was struggling with my mental health. Knowing firsthand how isolating those experiences can be, it was incredibly meaningful to be part of a team dedicated to ensuring that others did not have to face those challenges alone. Every service we provided was rooted in genuine compassion, empathy, and a commitment to empowering participants. We cared deeply about every interaction and worked to equip individuals and their families with the knowledge, skills, and resources they needed to continue their mental health journey with confidence.

From my experience, Project FOCUS fills a critical gap in our community. The program creates a safe, welcoming environment where individuals receive guidance, encouragement, and access to culturally and linguistically appropriate mental health services. For many members of our diverse Asian American communities, language and cultural understanding are not simply helpful—they are essential. It is through this cultural competence and multilingual expertise that practitioners are able to effectively build trust, communicate clearly, and connect participants with the support they need. Without programs like Project FOCUS, many individuals and families would face significant barriers to accessing quality mental health care.

I respectfully urge the County to reconsider its funding decision and approve Project FOCUS's appeal. Continued funding will ensure that this invaluable program can continue providing life-changing services to the communities that depend on it. I have witnessed the impact of Project FOCUS both professionally and personally, and I firmly believe its work is essential to the health and well-being of our community.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Lala Truong

To Whom It May Concern,

I've been with Project FOCUS for about a year and a half, and I honestly can't imagine where I'd be without it. They've supported me through so many different parts of my life, and I've grown so much because of them.

When I first joined, I struggled a lot with managing my emotions, balancing work and life, and just figuring out how to navigate adulthood. Since then, I've become so much more confident and have been able to accomplish goals that I never thought I could. One of the biggest things I've gained is knowing that I don't have to go through everything alone.

Project FOCUS has been there for me during multiple mental health crises and gave me the support I needed to avoid being hospitalized again. They also helped me move into my apartment, organize and furnish it, taught me how to budget, and even provided financial support when I needed it. After being out of school for two years, they gave me the confidence to enroll again and start working toward my future.

One of my favorite memories is the healthy cooking workshops. We learned how to make simple, nutritious meals together, and I still make many of those recipes today. It's such a small example of how Project FOCUS doesn't just help in moments of crisis—they teach skills that continue to make a difference every day.

What makes Project FOCUS so special is that they truly care. They create a safe, welcoming environment where I always feel understood and supported, and they've helped me in ways that no other program has. If Project FOCUS wasn't here, I honestly don't know how I would navigate everything on my own.

I truly hope Project FOCUS continues to receive funding because this program has changed my life, and I know it will continue changing the lives of so many other young people like me.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Annie Tran

Hello, my name is Hieu Le and Project FOCUS has been supporting me for the past 4 years. This program is so incredibly important and vital for numerous families in the Asian and Pacific Islander community living in Orange County, especially with the topic of mental health being a serious taboo in Asian cultures. OCAPICA has the knowledge and nuanced understanding of this that other mental health providers do not have. They offer support in multiple languages, including Vietnamese, which has helped my mom develop a deeper understanding of mental health.

When I first entered Project FOCUS in 2022, my mental health was at its worst. I felt hopeless for the future and couldn't imagine myself living long enough to see it. My grades began to slip in 10th grade. I was passively suicidal and had seriously considered giving up once. Project FOCUS supported me so unconditionally and did everything they could to help me realize that my future is worth seeing. I finally started to feel okay again and motivated enough to graduate from high school. I attended Cypress College for two years and will be transferring to Cal State Fullerton this fall to pursue psychology in hopes of supporting other people with their mental health. I know how to drive a car now and I'm learning what it means to be an adult, something I once believed I would never live long enough to see. I wholeheartedly believe that I would not be here writing this letter if it weren't for Project FOCUS and their genuine persistence in helping me.

If funding is cut for Project FOCUS, other young people like me and families like mine would be robbed of this outstanding service. They would not have this opportunity to improve their mental health and would lose the specialized knowledge Project FOCUS has in supporting AAPI communities. I'm so proud to be a part of this community and I hope future people in need of mental health support get to experience OCAPICA's services.

Re: Urgent Request to Reconsider Funding for OCAPICA's Project FOCUS

Dear Orange County Board of Supervisors,

I am writing to you today as a concerned citizen and member of the Asian American community in Orange County, about the program Project Focus run by OCAPICA and the possibility of the dissolution of this program. When it comes to the division of funding, I am sure there may be many "more important" issues to be considered, but I implore you to consider the possibility that a mental health program can be just as important and as necessary and vital as other hot topics that could be considered "more important" to the eyes of the board. In this day and age, the mental health of our youth has become increasingly more visible to the eyes of the public. Mental health awareness has grown, and the availability of mental health care in the United States and especially California has become increasingly widespread. This has been an incredible step forward in our collective global history, for a topic that is often extremely stigmatized and yet impacts every single person on Earth. However despite the steps being made in our progress, we still have many more steps to take. I believe that providing more low income and as close to free as possible health care, but especially mental health care, is an extremely vital step in taking care of our communities, and setting us on the right path forward as a county who takes care of its community and wants to progress.

While it is true the topic of mental health and the access of mental health care in America has taken leaps and bounds, we are still far from providing equal access opportunities for mental healthcare for all. Often one of the biggest barriers when it comes to receiving mental healthcare in the US is due to financial struggles and the high costs of both mental and regular healthcare in America. Not everyone is fortunate enough to have insurance or the income necessary to access mental healthcare, and in a situation where typical physical care and mental healthcare are being chosen between, one may often be forced to prioritize physical healthcare over mental healthcare when I believe they are both extremely important and necessary. You cannot seek care for your body if you are dead, and without mental healthcare, the rates of suicide and self harm often increase drastically.

When it comes to mental healthcare in the Asian American community in particular, the rates of Asian Americans seeking out or being able to access mental healthcare is already a staggeringly low number, so to possibly take away one of those means of healthcare to an already overlooked population is incredibly damaging to the community. Aside from numbers, within the Asian American community and many Asian households, the stigmatization of mental health is extremely high. Mental health is one of those things that is often not talked about and overlooked, pushed aside in favor of a perfect image to the world. If you struggle with mental health problems, you are often demonized or looked down upon, seen as weak or fundamentally wrong in many ways, made even worse if you seek out care for said mental health. This sort of mindset is what leads mental health to be incredibly overlooked, unaddressed, and ignored within our communities. But it is an issue that should not be overlooked. Mental health impacts

everyone much more than we realize. It is a fundamental part of the human experience, a fundamental part of how our brains are wired and how humans operate regularly. It is a core part of being human, and to overlook that means to overlook an extremely vital human struggle, and to turn a blind eye away from those who are actively struggling and will continue to do so, should Project Focus and other programs like it lose funding.

Project Focus in particular is meant to assist the youth in our community, something that is also overlooked. Mental health crises in America have become more widespread and have gained awareness, but what about the mental health of our youth, our children? If we want to assist the mental health of adults, we also have the opportunity of addressing it at its source, to aid our children so they no longer have to suffer in their future. For many children in America but especially Asian American children, it is much harder to seek mental healthcare than it is as an adult. Due to the stigmatization of mental health in said communities, the barriers for children who need mental health care are incredibly high. This results in higher and higher numbers of children who have mental health crises, who struggle with depression and suicidal thoughts and tendencies, who could be at risk to themselves or others. Project Focus is a program that is made to address this issue, to help solve the problem at the root rather than addressing the problem after it grows too large to control. With preventative measures to help our children, we can help them grow into happier, healthier adults with a better possibility of life in the future. And this is not even acknowledging how revolutionary and life changing this program is for the lower income youth of our community, the ones who are often most heavily impacted by mental health crises and who need the care but are unable to access it. By cutting off this program, it sends a message to the community that you do not care for the well being and personal lives of the youth. There are so many children and young adults out there who desperately need this care, and those who are in the program already who would be devastated by the loss of this care. This is a program that can save lives, to prevent crises from growing, or stop them at the source entirely. It is more important than most people realize, and an immeasurable valuable resource to so many.

I am writing all this on behalf of a close friend of mine who has been in this program for years, and I can see the drastic differences with and without this program. My friend has struggled with her mental health for most of her life, and before the program was incredibly depressed and suicidal, and was at a danger to herself constantly. I was always concerned for her, and knew of multiple instances in which she nearly took her own life. If it wasn't for Project Focus providing her with the mental health care she needed, sometimes I do think she might not have been here with us today. For most of her life she received minimal to no mental health care and suffered immensely because of it. After receiving therapy and treatment through the program, even I as an outsider could see a drastic difference. While it doesn't erase her struggle with mental health, she is able to manage it much better and stand stronger as an individual. I can breathe easier knowing that she is in a much better place, and that she has a place to turn to and to seek help from when

things are difficult. Thanks to the program, I am more reassured that the life of my friend and many like her are much more stable and secure. Project Focus can help save lives, and it improves and saves the lives of so many of the youth in our community. Mental healthcare is and should be a fundamental human right, just as any healthcare should be, and it is an issue that can no longer be overlooked. It is vitally important that the board remembers that if we do not invest in our communities, someday we will have no community left to serve at all. Thank you for your time and for your consideration, and I hope this will urge you to reconsider the future of the program and what is at stake.

Sincerely,
Augustine Huey, a concerned resident of Orange County

LETTER OF SUPPORT AND REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

OCAPICA Project Focus Full-Service Partnership (FSP) Program

Date 8/23/26

Dear Board of Supervisors:

I am writing as a community member who has personally received services from **OCAPICA** and experienced the difference that culturally and linguistically responsive care can make. I respectfully ask that the recent grant award decision for the **Project Focus Full-Service Partnership (FSP) Program** be reconsidered.

My experience with OCAPICA has given me a perspective that I believe is important for those making funding decisions. Mental health services are not truly accessible simply because a program exists. For many individuals and families, especially those from diverse cultural and linguistic communities, services must also be provided in a way that feels safe, respectful, understandable, and culturally relevant.

OCAPICA has demonstrated its ability to do this.

The staff and services at OCAPICA have helped create an environment where community members can communicate in their preferred language, be understood within the context of their culture, and receive support without feeling that they have to explain or defend who they are. That level of cultural understanding builds trust—and trust is essential when someone is experiencing a mental health crisis or struggling to remain stable in the community.

For individuals enrolled in an FSP program, **continuity and consistency of care are especially important**. Many participants have complex and ongoing needs and may already have difficulty trusting service providers or engaging with the behavioral health system. Changing providers or moving services to an organization that does not have the same cultural and linguistic capacity can create additional barriers to care. It can lead to confusion, disengagement, loss of trust, missed appointments, difficulty communicating needs, and, ultimately, poorer outcomes.

This concern is not about whether another organization is capable of providing behavioral health services. Rather, it is about whether that organization can provide the **same level of culturally and linguistically competent care to the specific communities served by OCAPICA**.

There is a significant difference between offering services to a community and having the cultural knowledge, language capabilities, relationships, and trust necessary to effectively reach and serve that community.

OCAPICA has developed those relationships over time. Its connection to the community allows individuals who may otherwise be reluctant to seek behavioral health services to feel comfortable asking for help. For some community members, being able to communicate with a provider in their preferred language and with someone who understands their cultural background is the reason they are willing to participate in services in the first place.

The Project Focus FSP Program also provides an important **whole-person approach**.

Individuals may need assistance with mental health treatment, housing, healthcare, benefits, family support, transportation, employment, crisis intervention, and other essential resources. OCAPICA's ability to coordinate these supports while maintaining cultural and linguistic responsiveness is a significant strength of the program.

As someone who has personally benefited from OCAPICA, I am concerned that awarding this funding elsewhere could result in the loss of a service model that community members have come to trust and depend upon. The potential disruption is particularly concerning for individuals who are already vulnerable and who may face substantial barriers to accessing care.

I therefore respectfully urge the decision-makers to **reconsider the grant award and evaluate the unique qualifications of OCAPICA's Project Focus FSP Program**, including its demonstrated cultural and linguistic competency, established community relationships, ability to engage underserved populations, and commitment to continuity of care.

Funding should not be based solely on whether an agency can provide a service in general. It should also consider **who the agency is equipped to serve, how effectively it can reach that population, whether clients can meaningfully engage in care, and whether the services reflect the cultural and linguistic needs of the community.**

OCAPICA has earned the trust of people like me. That trust is an important resource, and it should be recognized as part of the value of the Project Focus FSP Program.

I respectfully ask that you listen to the voices of the community members who have experienced these services firsthand and reconsider the funding decision. Continuing to support OCAPICA's Project Focus FSP Program will help ensure that individuals and families in our community have access to behavioral health services that are not only available, but **accessible, culturally relevant, linguistically appropriate, compassionate, and effective.**

Thank you for considering my perspective and for your commitment to improving behavioral health services in our community.

Sincerely,

Daniel Pae

LETTER OF SUPPORT AND REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION OCAPICA Project Focus Full-Service Partnership (FSP) Program

Date 08/18/26

Dear Board of Supervisors:

I am writing as a community member who has personally received services from OCAPICA and experienced firsthand the importance of culturally and linguistically responsive mental health care. I respectfully urge the Board of Supervisors to reconsider the recent grant award decision for the Project Focus Full-Service Partnership (FSP) Program.

OCAPICA provides more than mental health services. It provides care in an environment where individuals feel understood, respected, and safe. For many community members, being able to communicate in their preferred language and work with staff who understand their cultural background is essential to building trust and engaging in treatment.

Continuity of care is especially important for individuals receiving FSP services. Many participants have complex and ongoing needs. Changing providers could disrupt established relationships, create confusion, cause individuals to disengage from services, and result in the loss of trust that has taken years to build.

This is not simply about whether another organization can provide behavioral health services. It is about whether that organization can provide the same level of cultural understanding, linguistic accessibility, community connection, and trusted care that OCAPICA has established.

OCAPICA's relationships within the community are a significant part of its effectiveness. Its whole-person approach also helps individuals address not only mental health needs, but housing, healthcare, benefits, transportation, employment, family support, and crisis intervention.

As someone who has personally benefited from OCAPICA, I believe these strengths should be recognized in the funding decision. The voices and experiences of the people who rely on these services should matter.

I respectfully ask the Board to reconsider the grant award and recognize OCAPICA's unique qualifications, established community trust, and commitment to providing culturally relevant, linguistically appropriate, compassionate, and continuous care.

Please consider not only which organization can provide the service, but which organization is best positioned to reach, engage, and support the people who need it most.

Thank you for considering my perspective and the needs of our community.

Sincerely, Farid Tejeda

My name is Jakyung Hong and my daughter's name is Ashlyn Weon.

I am a resident of Orange County and the parent of a teenager whose life and family were saved over the past nine months through the support of Project FOCUS.

I am writing this petition with a deep sense of urgency regarding the potential discontinuation of Project FOCUS—an indispensable resource for youth and families in our community. I earnestly request your support in ensuring that this vital program continues to operate.

During her sensitive teenage years, my daughter immigrated to the United States and faced severe emotional distress caused by cultural differences and the intense pressure of college admissions. Consequently, she suddenly began refusing to attend school and developed severe depression and social anxiety, isolating herself from others. As parents, watching our child suffer without knowing how to help was agonizing and left us feeling utterly hopeless. It was at this critical moment that Project FOCUS reached out to our family.

The Project FOCUS team provided support that sets them apart from standard counseling services:

Deep Cultural Competence: They possessed a profound understanding of the unique cultural dynamics of immigrant families and the emotional gaps youth experience while navigating American society.

Comprehensive Dual-Support Model: By providing individual counseling for my daughter alongside tailored guidance and support for us as parents, they taught us how to truly understand and communicate effectively with our struggling teenager.

Family Restoration and Renewed Hope: Over the past nine months, my daughter has gradually regained emotional stability, and our damaged parent-child relationship has healed, restoring harmony to our home. Most importantly, my daughter, who had once shut herself off from the world, has gained the courage to slowly begin preparing for her college education and future.

Finding a youth-specialized counseling service in Orange County that seamlessly integrates clinical expertise with cultural understanding is extremely rare.

If Project FOCUS services are discontinued, it will not simply be the end of a program; it will have devastating consequences for vulnerable families:

Risk of Relapse: Youth who are just beginning to recover will lose their emotional safe haven, greatly increasing the risk of relapse into severe anxiety and isolation.

Disruption of Care and Future Progress: The interruption of continuous care could lead to academic abandonment and prolonged social isolation.

Crisis for Immigrant Families: Families facing language and cultural barriers will be left with nowhere to turn, plunging them back into despair and caregiving crises.

Project FOCUS was not just a counseling program for my daughter and family—it was a lifeline that restored our home and gave my child a future. If this essential service is discontinued due to budget cuts or other circumstances, the burden will fall directly on the vulnerable youth and families of our community.

I sincerely and earnestly urge you to maintain funding and support for Project FOCUS so that our young people can grow into healthy members of society and families can remain whole.

Thank you for your time, dedication, and consideration.

Sincerely,

Jakyung Hong

Partner is diagnosed with Catatonic Schizophrenia in 2016. The Partner came to Project FOCUS in 2017. Partner was mute and only nodded for yes or no when he first came to Project FOCUS with heavy dosage of medication. Through treatment, partner has been able to express himself more appropriately/fully with reduction in medication. Pt can now carry a full conversation with others and provide elaborated responses. Pt also has developed a stronger relationship with his family members, and now can initiate and maintain conversations with peer at school. Pt is now in continuing adult education program and is able to balance his school and home responsibilities. Pt's daily functioning has improved as shown by Pt being able to cook, clean, and do chores on his own. Through treatment, Pt has a better understanding of his mental health dx and maintains overall well-being by using learned coping skills to manage his negative symptoms (e.g. taking frequent walks). Due to Pt's progress and successes with his care plan goals, Pt, Mo and treatment team have agreed to Pt's graduation from the program in 2025.

Please see his letter of support below.

From: Gabriel Castillo <castillo.gabriel96@icloud.com>

Sent: Tuesday, July 21, 2026 1:32 PM

To: Kevin Huynh

Subject:

To the board of Supervisors,

My name is Gabriel and I was with Ocapica for 6 years. The impact Ocapica had on me was they helped me return to independent daily living. Ocapica's cultural responsiveness provide wellness workshops, peer support, and alternative therapies. Ocapica's ability to engage in diverse communities is that they are employing staff members who speak more than 20 languages to deliver trauma informed care and medical navigation. They are also assisting families with complex tasks like Medi-Cal navigation, Calfresh(food stamps) enrollment, and housing referrals. Why it's important for Ocapica to continue providing these services is because their multilingual, culturally responsive programs are essential to addressing alarming rates of youth mental health struggles and supporting underrepresented immigrant families with healthcare, housing, and education. I really hope that you can keep the program so that Ocapica can continue to help others in need.

Sincerely,
Gabriel

7/29/26

안녕하세요. 저는 Audrey Kim (2007 년 2 월 24 일)의 엄마입니다.

저희 가족은 약 4 년 동안 Project FOCUS 의 서비스를 이용해 왔습니다.

Project FOCUS 는 저희 가족에게 단순한 서비스 제공 기관이 아니라, 아이의 성장과 가족의 삶을 함께 지원해 주는 든든한 동반자였습니다. 무엇보다도 한국어와 영어를 모두 사용할 수 있는 이중언어 서비스를 제공해 주셔서 복잡한 정보와 지원 절차를 정확하게 이해할 수 있었고, 필요한 도움을 적시에 받을 수 있었습니다.

담당자분들은 언제나 친절하고 신속하게 응답해 주셨으며, 저희 가족의 상황을 세심하게 이해하고 필요한 자원과 정보를 연결해 주셨습니다. 이러한 전문성과 협력 덕분에 부모로서 큰 안정감과 신뢰를 느낄 수 있었습니다.

Project FOCUS 를 통해 저희 아이와 가족은 필요한 서비스와 정보를 꾸준히 제공받을 수 있었고, 아이의 성장과 발달을 위해 적절한 지원을 받을 수 있었습니다. 부모인 저 역시 장애 자녀를 양육하면서 필요한 정보와 방향을 얻을 수 있었고, 혼자가 아니라는 큰 힘과 희망을 얻었습니다. 이러한 지원은 저희 가족의 삶의 질을 향상시키는 데 매우 중요한 역할을 했습니다.

Project FOCUS 는 다양한 문화적·언어적 배경을 가진 가족들을 진심으로 이해하고 존중해 주었습니다. 특히 한국어로 편안하게 소통할 수 있었던 점은 저희 가족에게 매우 큰 도움이 되었습니다. 언어의 장벽 때문에 중요한 서비스를 놓치는 일이 없도록 세심하게 배려해 주셨고, 이러한 문화적·언어적 지원은 다른 많은 이민자 가정에게도 꼭 필요한 서비스라고 생각합니다.

Project FOCUS 는 오렌지카운티의 장애 아동, 청소년, 그리고 가족들에게 없어서는 안 될 매우 중요한 프로그램입니다. 장애가 있는 자녀를 양육하는 가족들은 전문적인 정보와 지속적인 지원이 반드시 필요하며, 이러한 기관이 있기에 아이들이 더 나은 환경에서 성장할 수 있습니다.

만약 Project FOCUS 가 운영을 종료하게 된다면 저희 가족은 물론, 많은 장애 아동과 가족들이 필요한 도움과 정보를 제때 받지 못하게 될 것입니다. 특히 언어와 문화적 차이로 어려움을 겪는 가정들은 더욱 큰 어려움에 직면하게 될 것입니다.

저는 장애인을 위한 서비스는 줄어들어서는 안 되며, 오히려 더 확대되고 강화되어야 한다고 믿습니다. Project FOCUS 는 그 역할을 훌륭하게 수행하고 있는 소중한 프로그램입니다. 부디 앞으로도 이 서비스가 계속 유지되고 더 많은 장애 아동과 가족들에게 희망과 도움을 제공할 수 있기를 진심으로 바랍니다.

감사합니다.

7/29/26

Hello this is Audrey, I been taking this program since 4 years I would like to take the program again

This helped me alot

The program helped me with my anxiety issues

Also The teachers help me alot

The teachers support me by asking me to take deep breaths or asking something like try to go out and meet someone else .

The program is great it would be nice if I could stay in this program

Thank you so much I appreciate the program is supportive and helpful

- A youth participant at OCAPIC Project FOCUS

July 28, 2026

To Whom It May Concern:

Re: Letter of Support for the Continuation of OCAPICA/KCS Project FOCUS

My name is Jin Suk Kim, and I am the mother of a 14-year-old Korean American, bilingual son who has received services through KCS Project FOCUS for approximately over 3 years. I am writing to express my strongest support for the continuation of Project FOCUS and the culturally and linguistically responsive mental health services provided through OCAPICA and KCS.

During the past three years, Project FOCUS has provided ongoing support not only to my son but also to our entire family. As a bilingual Korean American adolescent, my son has needs that cannot always be fully understood or addressed through conventional mental health services alone. Language, culture, family relationships, immigration experiences, and the challenges of navigating multiple cultural environments all affect how a young person understands and communicates his thoughts and emotions.

Project FOCUS has recognized and responded to these interconnected needs in a way that no other therapy or program has been able to do for our family. The program's cultural understanding and bilingual communication have made it possible for my son and our family to feel genuinely understood, respected, and safe. This has been especially important when discussing sensitive emotional, behavioral, educational, and family concerns that can be difficult to express accurately in English or to explain to providers who are unfamiliar with Korean culture.

Our therapist has consistently demonstrated compassion, professionalism, patience, responsiveness, and a sincere commitment to my son's well-being. She has taken the time to understand my son as an individual rather than viewing him only through his challenges. She has listened carefully to our concerns, responded when our family needed guidance, and worked collaboratively with us to identify practical ways to support his emotional well-being and continued growth.

One of the most valuable aspects of Project FOCUS has been its ability to help us address the difficulties my son experiences at school. Rather than treating school concerns as separate from his mental health and family life, our therapist has helped us understand how these areas affect one another. She has provided active, practical, and effective strategies for connecting support at home with the challenges he encounters at school. This coordinated approach has helped us respond more consistently to his emotional and behavioral needs and has contributed significantly to greater stability in his school life.

Project FOCUS has also provided meaningful parent education and coaching. Through this support, I have developed a deeper understanding of my son's needs and learned more effective ways to communicate with him, respond to difficult situations, and support his development. The program has helped me continue advocating for and supporting my son even during times when the challenges felt overwhelming. Rather than feeling helpless or alone, I have gained greater confidence and effectiveness as a parent.

The positive impact of this support extends throughout our entire family. It has contributed to my son's emotional growth and stability at school, strengthened my confidence in raising and advocating for him, improved communication among family members, and helped create healthier and more stable family relationships. The benefit to our family has been so profound that it is difficult to fully describe in words.

For our family, Project FOCUS is not an optional or easily replaceable service. It is an essential source of support for my son's continued development, his stability during adolescence, and the well-being of our entire family. The trust that has been built over approximately four years, together with the therapist's understanding of my son's history, school experiences, cultural background, language, strengths, and needs, cannot be recreated through a short-term or culturally disconnected service.

My son is now in adolescence, a developmental period that brings increasingly complex emotional, social, educational, and family challenges. The continuity of trusted mental health support is especially critical during this time. The support we receive through Project FOCUS is so important that I cannot imagine my son successfully navigating his adolescent years without it. Losing this service would remove one of the most important sources of stability and guidance available to both my son and our family.

Project FOCUS also addresses a significant gap in Orange County's behavioral health system. Many Asian American and Pacific Islander families encounter language barriers, cultural stigma surrounding mental health, difficulty navigating educational and public service systems, and a shortage of providers who understand their cultural and family contexts. Without trusted community-based programs such as Project FOCUS, many children, adolescents, and families may delay seeking help, struggle to engage meaningfully in treatment, or lose access to care altogether.

It is therefore critically important that Orange County preserve and continue investing in OCAPICA/KCS Project FOCUS. Its culturally responsive, linguistically accessible, family-centered, and community-based approach enables it to reach families who might otherwise remain underserved. The program does more than provide therapy. It builds trust, strengthens families, supports coordination between home and school, empowers parents, promotes early intervention, and helps prevent children's and families' needs from escalating into more serious crises.

Based on our family's direct experience, I strongly urge Orange County Behavioral Health Services and all responsible decision-makers to ensure the continued operation and adequate funding of Project FOCUS. Any reduction, restructuring, or discontinuation that limits access to this program would create a serious gap for our family and for many other Asian American and Pacific Islander families throughout Orange County.

Project FOCUS has made a meaningful and lasting difference in my son's life, his school stability, my confidence as a parent, and the overall well-being of our family. I sincerely hope that my son and other children, youth, and families will continue to have access to the same culturally respectful, compassionate, and effective support that our family has received.

Thank you for considering our family's experience and the important voice of the community as you make decisions regarding the future of these essential services.

Sincerely,

Jin Suk Kim
Parent and Orange County Resident

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Leyna and I am one of Project FOCUS' clients. Project FOCUS has played a major part in helping me navigate my 20's. They support me by providing a wide variety of resources from mental health services such as therapy and rehab, to help with affording hygiene products, clothing, and groceries, to academic tutoring sessions, to help with employment-seeking and career advancement. Without this program, I would have a much more difficult time trying to adjust and cope with life's day-to-day struggles on my own. I really value and am grateful for the positive impact Project FOCUS has had on my life, and I know that I am not the only client whom Project FOCUS has greatly helped. Therefore, I think it is of vital importance for the program to continue.

Additionally, Project FOCUS has done an amazing job at serving the Asian-American Pacific Islander (AAPI) community. They constantly host relevant workshops pertaining to the AAPI experience and celebrate the community, and their work should be noted. There is also a lot of stigma around mental health treatment within the AAPI community, which Project FOCUS are doing a fantastic job of reducing. This program truly means so much to me and many other clients.

Sincerely,
Leyna

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing this letter to support Project FOCUS and to share why it is so important that this program stays open.

My family has been with Project FOCUS for two years, and I am very thankful for everything they have done for my child and our family. The therapists and staff are always kind, patient, and caring. They truly care about every child and always do their best to help them.

When my daughter first started at Project FOCUS, she was very quiet and kept her feelings to herself. When she got upset or frustrated, she would often yell, hit, or argue with her sisters or with me. Over the years, I have seen a lot of positive changes. She is learning how to stay calm and manage her emotions better. It doesn't happen every time, but I can see that she is trying. Instead of reacting right away, she makes an effort to calm herself and not yell back or hit her sisters or me. That may seem like a small change to some people, but for our family, it is a very big improvement, and I am proud of how far she has come.

Project FOCUS is a very important program for families like ours. It gives children the support they need to grow, learn, and become more independent. Many families depend on this program, and it would be very hard if it had to close. There are not many places that offer this kind of care, and losing Project FOCUS would affect many children and parents in a serious way.

I truly believe Project FOCUS needs to stay open because it makes such a positive difference in the lives of children and families. I am very grateful for everything it has done for my child and for so many other families. Thank you for taking the time to read my letter and for considering how important this program is to our community.

Sincerely,

Van Duong

Dear Project FOCUS,

It has been over a year since I have had the pleasure of receiving services from Project FOCUS. Everyone that I have met here has been so kind and supportive and it definitely has helped me lift my spirits, especially when COVID-19 hit. I really do enjoy talking with all the staff and I always feel great whenever I spend time with them. I feel like I've grown so much during my time with Project FOCUS. I was able to make some good friends in college, and I actually started breaking out of my shell. I have a lot more confidence than before, and I was able to prepare for and get a job thanks to the services here. They also provided me with materials such as Prismacolor colored pencils and a guitar, so I can pursue my interests and take care of myself. They even have weekly workshops that allow me to interact with others while doing things like discussing literature and making art. I can't overstate how generous Project FOCUS has been and I truly am thankful for everything they've done for me. I'm sure that they've helped others just as much as they've helped me, and I hope they are able to continue doing such wonderful work for the community.

Sincerely,

Yen Nhi Dinh

Hello to whom this may concern,

I am Vy Nguyen. I have been with OCAPICA Project Focus since the end of the COVID 19 quarantine.

I've benefitted from various kinds of assistance that they have provided over the years. Some of which are:

1. Reliable weekly appointments with both a therapist and case manager. My case managers have readied my basic foundations for me to make tackling various aspects of adulting more approachable. It has been empowering to learn from them how to efficiently communicate to professionals, where I can appear more confident and succinct. It's been valuable to have an organization like OCAPICA which handles both therapy and rehab, since it is difficult to find organizations that provide both, especially catered to the AAPI populations. Due to the fact that I have two people working on my care and making sure they are both on the same page, the care I receive becomes more well-rounded and comprehensive. They have genuinely improved my quality of life.
2. More budget means more engaging events. Whenever I am free, I have greatly enjoyed the creative and adulting workshops that I was able to make it to. There was once a weekly cosplay-making workshop with a talented costume designer that I consistently went to, and I've learned a very large plethora of skills from her, such as how to properly operate a sewing machine, the behavior of various thickness and material of fabrics, and I had several satisfactory projects with her.

I am now the seamstress for my community. The recent K-pop dance workshops have been a wonderful catalyst to finally move, as someone who is always on a desk or in their room. The bi-annual haircut event was among the more popular ones for all age groups. The volunteering events I was able to partake in, such as Ronald McDonald House and OC Foodbanks, taught me not only how to work alongside others, but also how to work with the children who were my peers in that context. This experience helped prepare me for the internship I currently am a part of, which is something I wouldn't have been able to imagine myself pursuing a few years back before joining OCAPICA.

3. I know that my therapists so far have been well equipped to handle various topics that I bring up to them. Due to the wraparound care my therapist has been able to offer me support in times of active crises, and so far that has made her the MVP in helping me regulate and I can find myself becoming more independent. She has given me the tools to use so I can coexist with others and communicate my needs like an almost ideal adult would to my eyes. I am able to maintain a good faith discussion with someone I disagree with by focusing on where we agree now, and I know how to keep myself grounded when things do not go to plan. Without the support of my therapist at project focus, I would have a difficult time finding another long term local therapist I could trust. If I were to suddenly lose my current therapist and case manager, the likely outcome is that I end up having several month-long gaps where I do not get consistent mental health and

rehabilitation care. This is highly concerning because I would lose the support needed to navigate my unpredictable household situations.

I would like the team members of OCAPICA Project Focus to be able to continue being there for their clients without worrying about rent, knowing that they are currently taking in more and more clients. They also are regularly exploring more ways to help these clients and value feedback. I find those to be good qualities in any organization.

Dear Project FOCUS,

I remember meeting you after one of the lowest points of my life. I was scared and depressed, I never really thought I'd ever get better. I had previous therapists in the past but it felt like I never really connected with them or they never stayed. That's when I met Eileen and Kevin. At that point I thought I wouldn't find anything that could help me and I went into therapy with low expectations. In the beginning, I remember being a little awkward about talking to strangers about my personal problems, but then I realized these people were genuinely listening to me and wanting to help. I think overtime I opened myself up to people who would eventually help me thrive and grow. Every session they would both listen to whatever was going about my week and give me good advice from waking up on time or maintaining my mood to drama with friends or boy problems. Eventually it became a solid routine in my life and I would look forward to talking with both Eileen and Kevin. With Eileen, I think I connected with her very easily. Her quiet but understanding personality made me comfortable enough to talk to her about anything. I think we were able to connect in a way I haven't with any of my other therapists. I think she has been with me through my ups and downs these past short months. She's always been there for me, I remember crying in the parking lot of Trader joes because of something that happened at church. I couldn't really think of who to call, so the first person I called was her. She listened to me throughout the whole phone call as I was sobbing and ranting. I think she was the calm in the storm in that moment. She put my feet back on the ground and reminded me it was gonna be okay, and that I wasn't the problem. I think thats has been one of my core memories up to this day, and I will never forget that. Next is Kevin, I think I'm a huge over thinker and so a lot of the time I'm always bringing up one thought after the other. Kevin is my voice of reason, I think through the jumbles of thoughts coming out of my mouth, he is able to make sense of them and give me really solid advice. Advice that feels like an answer book for me, it's actually crazy. Also, when I feel crazy or misunderstood, he shows me I'm not. I feel validated as a person with big feelings about everything when I talk to him. I am so ever grateful to both Eileen and Kevin, and Im really glad we were paired up. I think throughout this whole experience I have definitely grown as a person in so many ways, and so much of it is because of Project FOCUS.

Sincerely,
Ashley Yi

Project Focus

Hello! My name is Linh and I am Stanley's mom.

I am very content to have had Stanley attend Project Focus because he has improved a lot.

Before attending the program, Stanley struggled everyday with severe depression and would be bed ridden. He would not have any motivation to do anything but sleep.

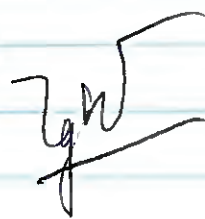
But session after session, he has improved significantly. From Project Focus, he has learned how to and met new friends. I'm so happy to see him be able to put himself back out there. Stanley seems happier and is more obedient towards me. He is still stubborn, but not as much as before.

I just want to say how grateful I am to be introduced to this group. I am satisfied with the outcome of Project Focus and I hope that they're able to help other families' kids as much as they've helped with mine.

July 11 - 26
Linh

Tôi tên là Phung Nguyen, là mẹ của bé
Duc An Nguyen, đang theo học và thi về các
triển chứng tăng động của bé tại trung tâm
Ocapica. Hơn 1 năm nay nhờ sự giúp đỡ và
hỗ trợ của các nhân viên mà hiện tại bé
của tôi đã thay đổi khá nhiều. Trung tâm
còn hỗ trợ và tạo ra các ngày cho con tôi
đube đi khám phá nhiều nơi để bé có thể
học thêm nhiều thứ ở bên ngoài. Tôi thật sự
biết ơn về sự giúp đỡ.

Chúc trung tâm ngày càng phát triển và
có nhiều buổi ngoại khóa để mọi người cùng
nhau giúp đỡ các bé hơn.



Tôi là: RO.SA là phụ huynh của em AFini ISmael.

Tôi muốn viết vài dòng chữ cảm nghĩ của ~~minh~~ mình. Khi cháu AFini được vô chương trình của PROJECT FOCUC. Đã giúp cho cháu về tâm lý khi cháu gặp khó khăn. Và giúp nhiều hoạt động sinh hoạt ngoài trời ~~để~~ để AFini được gặp bạn bè, và chương trình ~~Đ~~ PROJECT FOCUC tạo ra những trình thuyên nguyện giúp ít cho xã hội. Chương trình PROJECT FOCUC tạo điều kiện cho nhiều phụ ~~huynh~~ huynh gặp nhau sinh hoạt và chia sẻ những ý kiến tốt đẹp, để giúp cho phụ ~~huynh~~ huynh nhẹ nhàng không bị căng thẳng trong cuộc sống gia đình. Và nhiều ý hay để nói chuyện với con trong gia đình. Xin cảm ơn PROJECT FOCUC.

Phu w

Westminster 7/13/2026

Định gửi : Ban Giám Đốc

Thay mặt gia đình, Cha mẹ cháu Edward Trần
tôi là Bà Ngoại.

Tuổi trẻ tôi xin thành thật cảm ơn đến Ban Giám
đốc điều hành chương trình cũng các Thầy cô giáo
và Công nhân viên đã bỏ rất nhiều thời gian và tình
thần để dạy bảo và hướng dẫn cho cháu Edward
Trần sau này sẽ trở thành người tốt trong xã hội.
Với hơn một năm học cháu đã nhận biết và sửa
đổi những hành vi không tốt của cháu. Ngày nay
cháu có kết quả học tốt như vậy cũng nhờ sự giúp
đỡ của thầy cô giáo của Ban Giám đốc. Gia đình
chúng tôi luôn luôn biết ơn những Công lao này.
Ban thân tôi cảm thấy vui vì được gần gũi với các sư
trông những buổi trò chuyện với huấn án thân thiện
giáo luật và sinh hoạt cho các cháu. Với nguyện
chuyện trình sẽ được duy trì và hoạt động nhiều trong
tương lai để giúp đỡ cho chúng tôi và nhắc nhở các con
em cũng học hỏi với chúng tôi về các bệnh tật
thần này.

Sau hết tôi xin thành thật cảm ơn chương trình
và Ban Giám đốc rất nhiều.

Bà Ngoại
Hưng

Date: July 10, 2026
Anaheim, CA

To whom it may concern,

We are the parents of our son Victor H, he has been with Project Focus program at OCAPICA about 2 years, and he continues to enjoy attending the Project Focus workshops. These programs have helped him get more daily activity and interaction with other people and program staff. This organization provides great services and helps our son's mental health in many ways. Project Focus also provides parents' workshops so that we can discuss improving our son's behavior problems and get more information about the current or new programs.

We are very grateful for this Project Focus program.

Sincerely,

Parents

Letter of Support for Project FOCUS (OCAPICA)

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing this letter to express my strongest possible support for OCAPICA's Project FOCUS. Our family has been participating in this wonderful program for the past five months, and it has become an indispensable lifeline for us during an incredibly challenging time.

Before finding Project FOCUS, we spent six exhausting months searching for an organization that could truly understand and support our family's unique situation. It was only when a social worker from CHOC (Children's Hospital of Orange County) referred us to them that we finally found a community that felt like home. As a specialized program dedicated to serving the Asian American community, Project FOCUS fills a critical gap in culturally sensitive care that is nearly impossible to find elsewhere.

Through their generous and humble resources, the dedication and heart they pour into their services are extraordinary. For the past five months, Project FOCUS has provided our family with invaluable weekly support:

- **Weekly Warm Meals:** This simple yet incredibly thoughtful service has relieved a tremendous daily burden for our family, allowing us to focus our energy on other needs.
- **Weekly Mental Health Counseling:** Navigating a child's illness is emotionally taxing. The professional counseling sessions have provided us with the mental resilience and coping strategies we desperately needed.
- **Monthly Parent Gatherings:** These gatherings have allowed us to connect with other parents facing similar journeys, breaking our isolation and building a strong, empathetic peer support network.

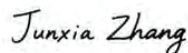
Project FOCUS may not have the fanciest facilities, but they have the biggest hearts and the most impactful services. They have given our family a sense of stability, hope, and community when we needed it most.

Losing Project FOCUS and its funding would be a devastating blow, not just to our family, but to many other vulnerable Asian American families who rely on their specialized, compassionate care. I strongly request that you continue to fund and support this vital program so they can keep their doors open for the families who need them.

Thank you for your time and for considering the profound impact this organization has on our community.

Sincerely,

Junxia Zhang



Cell: (909) 456-0236

Email: david_gzx@yahoo.com

안녕하세요.

KCS 관계자 여러분께 진심을 담아 감사의 마음을 전하고자 이렇게 편지를 드립니다.

저는 저와 저희 딸이 KCS 를 통해 정말 큰 도움을 받고 있는 한 가정의 부모입니다. 일상 속에서 느끼는 고마움이 많지만, 그 마음을 제대로 표현할 기회가 없어 이렇게 글로라도 감사 인사를 전하고 싶었습니다.

저희 딸은 어렸을 때 여러 가지 환경적, 상황적인 어려움 속에서 힘든 시간을 보냈습니다. 그로 인해 감정 표현이나 대인관계에서도 어려움을 겪는 시기가 있었습니다. 하지만 KCS 에서 제공해 주신 상담과 지속적인 정서적 케어를 받으면서 점차 변화가 나타나기 시작했습니다. 지금은 자신의 생각과 감정을 이전보다 훨씬 자연스럽게 건강하게 표현하게 되었고, 친구들과의 관계에서도 눈에 띄게 밝아지고 안정된 모습을 보여주고 있습니다. 이러한 변화를 지켜보며 부모로서 큰 안도와 감사를 느끼고 있습니다.

또한 저희 가정은 경제적으로 어려운 상황에 놓여 있어 일상생활을 유지하는 것조차 부담이 되는 시기가 많았습니다. 그런 가운데 KCS 에서 제공해 주신 교육 지원뿐만 아니라 식료품, 상비약 등 생활에 꼭 필요한 실질적인 도움까지 받을 수 있어 큰 힘이 되었습니다. 특히 가장 도움이 절실했던 시기에 이러한 지원을 받을 수 있었던 것은 저희 가족에게 정말 큰 위로이자 버팀목이 되었습니다. 이 자리를 빌려 진심으로 감사드립니다.

KCS 는 저희 가족에게 단순한 지원 기관이 아니라, 어려운 시간을 함께 견디고 이겨낼 수 있도록 곁에서 힘이 되어 준 소중한 존재입니다. 저희 가족이 다시 일어설 수 있도록 도와주신 모든 분들께 깊이 감사드립니다.

앞으로도 저희와 같은 어려움을 겪는 많은 가정들이 KCS 의 도움을 통해 희망을 찾을 수 있기를 진심으로 바랍니다. 또한 저희 가족 역시 계속해서 KCS 의 따뜻한 지원을 받을 수 있기를 소망합니다.

항상 따뜻한 관심과 아낌없는 지원에 진심으로 감사드립니다.

감사합니다.

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing this letter to sincerely convey my gratitude to everyone at KCS/OCAPICA Project FOCUS.

I am a parent of a family that has received truly great help from KCS/OCAPICA Project FOCUS, myself and my daughter included. There is much gratitude I feel in daily life, but I have not had a proper chance to express it, so I wanted to convey my thanks in writing like this.

When my daughter was young, she went through a hard time amid various environmental and situational difficulties. Because of this, there was a period when she also struggled with expressing her emotions and with interpersonal relationships. However, as she received the counseling and continuous emotional care provided by KCS/OCAPICA Project FOCUS, changes gradually began to appear. Now she expresses her thoughts and feelings much more naturally and healthily than before, and she shows a noticeably brighter and more stable side in her relationships with friends. Watching this change, I feel great relief and gratitude as a parent.

In addition, our family has been in a financially difficult situation, and there were many times when even maintaining daily life felt like a burden. In the midst of this, being able to receive not only educational support but also practical help essential to daily life, such as groceries and basic medicine, provided by KCS/OCAPICA Project FOCUS, was a great source of strength. In particular, being able to receive this support at the time when help was most desperately needed was truly a great comfort and pillar of support for our family. I take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks.

KCS/OCAPICA Project FOCUS is not simply a support organization to our family, but a precious presence that stood by us and gave us strength to endure and overcome a difficult time together. I am deeply grateful to everyone who helped our family stand up again.

I sincerely hope that, going forward, many families experiencing difficulties like ours will be able to find hope through the help of KCS/OCAPICA Project FOCUS. I also hope that our family will continue to be able to receive the warm support of KCS/OCAPICA Project FOCUS.

Thank you always for your warm concern and generous support.

Thank you.

Date: 08-30-2026

Orange County Board of Supervisors

County of Orange
Hall of Administration
333 W. Santa Ana Blvd.
Santa Ana, CA 92701

Re: Request for Reconsideration of Funding for OCAPICA's Project Focus Program

Dear Chair and Members of the Orange County Board of Supervisors:

I am writing to ask the Board of Supervisors to reconsider its decision regarding funding for OCAPICA's Project FOCUS program.

I believe this decision deserves another look because the impact extends far beyond an individual contract or budget line. At stake are individuals and families who are living with serious mental health challenges and who rely on consistent support to remain stable, connected, and safe in their communities.

For many of these individuals, the behavioral health system can be overwhelming. Finding services is only the beginning. Staying engaged, understanding available resources, addressing housing and family needs, and navigating multiple systems can be extremely difficult without someone who is willing and able to walk alongside them.

That support matters.

Project FOCUS provides an important connection between individuals, families, and the services they need. Its community-based approach helps people remain engaged rather than becoming disconnected and only receiving attention when they reach a crisis point.

Equally important is OCAPICA's ability to provide culturally and linguistically responsive services. Orange County is one of the most diverse counties in the country. Our behavioral health system must have the capacity to reach people across different cultures and languages—not simply expect every individual to adapt to the system.

We cannot call our behavioral health system successful if the people who need it most cannot effectively access it.

Funding decisions should consider more than immediate financial savings. They should also consider continuity of care, prevention, community stability, and the very real consequences that can occur when vulnerable individuals lose access to trusted support.

When community-based services disappear, the need does not disappear with them. The need may instead shift to emergency departments, hospitals, crisis services, families, schools, law enforcement, and other already-strained systems.

That is why I believe Project FOCUS should not be viewed simply as another behavioral health program competing for limited funding. It is part of the safety net that helps individuals remain connected to their communities and prevents problems from escalating.

I respectfully urge the Board to reconsider its decision and explore every available option to continue funding Project FOCUS.

Please do not wait for the consequences of losing these services to become visible through increased crises, hospitalization, or individuals falling through the cracks. Prevention requires investment before the crisis occurs.

Orange County has an opportunity to demonstrate that behavioral health funding is about more than numbers—it is about people. It is about ensuring that individuals experiencing serious mental health challenges are not forgotten and that families have access to support when they need it most.

I ask the Board to reconsider the funding decision for OCAPICA's Project FOCUS and protect this important community resource.

Thank you for your time and for your consideration of the individuals and families who will be affected by this decision.

Sincerely,



Signed at:
2026-08-30 09:54:25

Nicole Trinh

Date: 08-29-2026

Orange County Board of Supervisors

County of Orange
Hall of Administration
333 W. Santa Ana Blvd.
Santa Ana, CA 92701

Re: Request for Reconsideration of Funding for OCAPICA's Project Focus Program

Dear Chair and Members of the Orange County Board of Supervisors:

I am writing as a concerned member of the Orange County community to respectfully urge the Board of Supervisors to reconsider its decision regarding funding for OCAPICA's Project Focus program.

I have learned about the important work OCAPICA provides to individuals and families throughout our community, particularly its commitment to supporting people experiencing serious mental health challenges with compassion, dignity, and culturally and linguistically appropriate care.

Programs like Project Focus are essential because supporting individuals with serious mental illness requires more than clinical treatment alone. Many people also need assistance navigating healthcare systems, accessing community resources, maintaining stable housing, staying connected to treatment, and rebuilding relationships with their families and communities. For many individuals and families, having a trusted provider who understands their culture, language, and lived experiences can be the difference between remaining connected to care and falling through the cracks.

OCAPICA brings a unique and valuable perspective to this work. Its culturally responsive approach allows staff to meet people where they are, establish meaningful relationships, and provide support to individuals who may otherwise face significant barriers to accessing or remaining engaged in behavioral health services. In a community as diverse as Orange County, culturally and linguistically responsive services are not simply beneficial—they are an important part of ensuring that behavioral health care is accessible to everyone.

I understand that the County faces difficult choices when allocating limited public resources. However, I respectfully ask the Board to consider the broader and long-term impact of eliminating funding for a trusted, community-based behavioral health program such as Project Focus.

Supporting programs that help individuals remain connected to care, prevent crises, reduce avoidable hospitalizations, and remain safely and successfully integrated within their communities is more than an act of compassion. It is a responsible investment in the health, stability, and well-being of Orange County as a whole.

When people living with mental illness have access to services they can understand, trust, and meaningfully engage with, our entire community benefits. Families are better supported, individuals have greater opportunities to remain stable and connected to care, and communities become stronger.

OCAPICA has demonstrated a meaningful commitment to providing this kind of culturally and linguistically responsive support. I believe Project Focus deserves the opportunity to continue this important work and to remain a resource for the individuals and families who depend on it.

I therefore respectfully urge the Board of Supervisors to reconsider funding for OCAPICA's Project Focus program and recognize the critical value that culturally competent, community-based behavioral health services bring to the diverse communities of Orange County.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and continued commitment to the behavioral health and well-being of our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Ryan Tu', with a stylized, looped 'R' and a trailing line.

Signed at:

2026-08-29 14:29:28

Ryan Tu

Date: 08-30-2026

Orange County Board of Supervisors

County of Orange
Hall of Administration
333 W. Santa Ana Blvd.
Santa Ana, CA 92701

Re: Request for Reconsideration of Funding for OCAPICA's Project Focus Program

Dear Chair and Members of the Orange County Board of Supervisors:

I am writing to ask you to reconsider the decision to reduce or eliminate funding for OCAPICA's Project Focus program. As a member of the Orange County community, I believe it is important to speak up when a program provides meaningful support to individuals and families who may otherwise struggle to find the help they need.

OCAPICA plays an important role in our community by providing behavioral health support in a way that recognizes the importance of culture, language, trust, and understanding. For individuals experiencing serious mental health challenges, being able to communicate with someone who understands their cultural background and speaks their language can make a tremendous difference.

Mental health challenges do not exist in isolation. Individuals may also be dealing with housing instability, family difficulties, financial challenges, limited access to healthcare, or uncertainty about where to turn for help. Simply providing a clinical service is not always enough. People often need someone who can help them navigate these challenges, connect them with resources, encourage them to remain engaged in treatment, and support them through difficult periods.

That is what makes programs like Project Focus so valuable. The relationships that staff build with individuals and families can create a sense of trust and stability that is difficult to replace. For someone who has struggled to access services or has felt misunderstood by the systems around them, having a provider who understands their culture and language can help them feel seen, respected, and willing to accept support.

Orange County is an incredibly diverse community, and our behavioral health services should reflect that diversity. OCAPICA's culturally responsive approach helps reach individuals who may not otherwise feel comfortable seeking help or may face barriers that make it difficult to remain connected to services.

I recognize that the County has challenging decisions to make and that public funding is limited. At the same time, I hope the Board will consider what may be lost when a trusted community-based program is no longer available. The impact extends beyond the individuals directly receiving services. Families, caregivers, and the broader community are affected when people are unable to access the support they need.

Programs that help people stay connected to care, address challenges before they become crises, and remain safely engaged in their communities can make a lasting difference. Supporting these programs is an investment not only in behavioral health, but in the overall strength and well-being of Orange County.

For these reasons, I respectfully ask the Board of Supervisors to reconsider funding for OCAPICA's Project Focus program. I hope the Board will recognize the importance of maintaining accessible, culturally responsive, and linguistically appropriate behavioral health services for the diverse communities we serve.

Our community is stronger when people have somewhere to turn, someone they can trust, and services that understand who they are and where they come from. Project Focus provides that kind of support, and I believe it deserves the opportunity to continue.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my concerns and for your continued service to the residents of Orange County.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tom Tran', with a stylized, flowing script.

Signed at:
2026-08-30 09:56:15

Tom Tran

Letter of Support for KCS Project FOCUS / OCAPICA

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to express my sincere support for KCS, Project FOCUS, and OCAPICA and the life-changing services they provide to children and families throughout Orange County.

I have been connected with KCS for approximately three years, and more recently I have been receiving support through Project FOCUS for a little over a month. During one of the most difficult seasons of my life, these organizations have become a source of guidance, stability, and hope for both me and my four-year-old daughter.

As a single mother navigating a high-conflict custody case, recovering from domestic violence, managing serious health issues, and trying to provide a safe and stable life for my child, there have been many moments when I simply did not know where to turn. I never thought that such things would happen to me in my life but they did, I never knew that organizations like them existed and they do; and they do make a huge difference in us. Having access to professionals who genuinely care has made an incredible difference. Every interaction has been met with compassion, patience, professionalism, and timely support. Out of so many organizations I have encountered, they are the people who made me feel that I am truly heard and helped.

One thing I especially appreciate is their cultural and linguistic understanding. Although my daughter and I are both U.S.-born citizens, I grew up in multiple cultures and speak both Korean and English. Being able to communicate with professionals who understand not only the language but also the cultural nuances behind many family situations has helped me feel comfortable asking questions, expressing concerns honestly, and understanding resources that otherwise would have been overwhelming.

What makes these programs so valuable is that they do much more than connect families with services. They empower parents, advocate for children, educate families, and help people navigate some of the most complicated and emotionally overwhelming situations they may ever face. Whether a family is dealing with domestic violence, mental health challenges, financial hardship, language barriers, or other crises, having compassionate professionals walk alongside them can truly change the course of their lives. They are true healers, solutions and helpers in our lives.

In my own experience, KCS and Project FOCUS have helped me become a more confident parent and a stronger advocate for my daughter. During a period when I often felt isolated and exhausted, they reminded me that I was not facing everything alone. That kind of support cannot always be measured in numbers, but its impact is real and lasting.

For these reasons, I strongly believe continued funding for KCS, Project FOCUS, and OCAPICA is essential. These organizations are not simply providing social services—they are strengthening families, protecting children, and helping build healthier communities throughout Orange County. The work they do today helps prevent much greater social and economic costs in the future. When parents receive the support they need, children are safer, families become more resilient, and our communities become stronger.

I sincerely hope these programs will continue receiving the funding necessary to serve families like mine. Their dedication, compassion, and commitment have had a meaningful impact on my life, and I know many other families have benefited in similar ways. I cannot thank them enough for the work they do every day.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,

Grace Oh

Parent and Community Member
Orange County, California

Date:

Orange County Board of Supervisors

County of Orange

Hall of Administration

333 W. Santa Ana Blvd.

Santa Ana, CA 92701

Re: Request for Reconsideration of Funding for OCAPICA's Project Focus Program

Dear Chair and Members of the Orange County Board of Supervisors:

I am writing as a concerned member of the Orange County community to respectfully ask the Board of Supervisors to **reconsider its decision regarding funding for OCAPICA's Project Focus program.**

I have heard about the important work OCAPICA provides to individuals and families in our community, particularly its commitment to serving people experiencing serious mental health challenges with compassion, dignity, and culturally and linguistically appropriate support.

Programs like Project Focus are especially important because people living with serious mental illness often face barriers that cannot be addressed through clinical services alone. They may need help navigating healthcare systems, connecting with community resources, maintaining stable housing, engaging in treatment, and rebuilding their connection to their families and communities. Having trusted providers who understand a person's cultural background and language can make a meaningful difference in whether someone successfully engages with services.

OCAPICA brings a unique perspective and capability to this work. Its culturally responsive approach allows staff to meet individuals where they are and build relationships with people who may otherwise have difficulty accessing or remaining engaged in behavioral health services.

I understand that the County must make difficult decisions when allocating limited public resources. However, I respectfully ask the Board to look beyond the immediate funding decision and consider the **long-term consequences of losing a trusted community-based behavioral health resource.**

Investing in programs that help individuals remain connected to care, avoid crises, reduce unnecessary hospitalization, and remain safely integrated in their communities is not only compassionate—it is also a responsible investment in the health and well-being of Orange County.

I therefore respectfully urge the Board of Supervisors to **reconsider funding for OCAPICA's Project Focus program** and to recognize the value that culturally and linguistically competent behavioral health services bring to our diverse community.

Our community benefits when people living with mental illness have access to services they can trust, understand, and engage with. OCAPICA has demonstrated a commitment to providing that type of support, and I believe Project Focus deserves the opportunity to continue serving Orange County residents.

Thank you for your consideration and for your continued commitment to the behavioral health and well-being of our community.

Sincerely,


Marianne park

8-13-26

한국 커뮤니티는 OCAPICA 의 도움이 필요합니다.

꼭 도와주세요. 감사합니다.

Date: 08-28-6126

Orange County Board of Supervisors

County of Orange
Hall of Administration
333 W. Santa Ana Blvd.
Santa Ana, CA 92701

Re: Request for Reconsideration of Funding for OCAPICA's Project Focus Program

Dear Chair and Members of the Orange County Board of Supervisors:

I am writing to ask you to please reconsider the decision regarding funding for OCAPICA's Project FOCUS program.

Orange County is home to families and individuals from many different cultures, languages, and backgrounds. For people struggling with serious mental health challenges, finding the right support can be difficult enough without also facing language, cultural, financial, and system-related barriers. This is why programs such as Project FOCUS are so important to our community.

OCAPICA has built trust within the community by providing services that recognize the whole person—not just their mental health needs. Individuals and families may need support finding resources, accessing healthcare, maintaining housing, staying connected to treatment, managing difficult situations, and strengthening their support systems. Having someone who understands their culture, language, and circumstances can be the difference between someone receiving help and someone falling through the cracks.

Project FOCUS provides an important bridge between individuals and the many systems they must navigate. The relationships developed through this type of community-based support can help people remain engaged in care and supported in their homes and communities rather than reaching a point of crisis.

I recognize that the County faces difficult choices when determining how limited funding should be allocated. At the same time, I hope the Board will consider what could be lost if a program with established community relationships and culturally responsive services is no longer available to the people who rely on it.

Preventing crises and helping individuals remain stable in the community benefits everyone. It can reduce the need for emergency interventions, support families, and help individuals maintain greater independence and quality of life. Most importantly, it gives people an opportunity to receive support before their challenges become overwhelming.

For these reasons, I respectfully ask the Board of Supervisors to reconsider its decision and restore funding for OCAPICA's Project FOCUS program. Continuing to invest in culturally and linguistically responsive behavioral health services is an investment in the people and families who make up Orange County.

I hope the Board will recognize the importance of maintaining trusted community-based programs and the impact their loss could have on individuals and families who already face significant barriers to care.

Thank you for taking the time to hear the concerns of community members and for your continued commitment to the behavioral health and well-being of Orange County residents.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Linda Tran', written in a cursive style.

Signed at:
2026-08-28 19:26:53

Linda Tran

안녕하세요,

저는 곧 9 학년이되는 임재영 엄마입니다.

재영이는 5 학년때 Ocapic/KCS 를 처음 시작하게 되었습니다.

그때는 영어보다 한국말이 더 편할 때여서

선생님들의 도움이 아주 크게 작용하였고,

또한 선생님들이 이중언어를 하셔서

아이가 소통하는데 어려움없이 도움을 받았습니다.

저희 아이는 늘 불안이 큰 아이여서 친구들과 친해지고 싶었으나,

어떻게 다가가야 하는지 잘 몰랐습니다.

선생님들께서 친구들과 소통하는 법을 알려주시고,

또한 상대방의 입장을 생각하고,

친구들과의 주제에서 벗어나지 않는 방법을 가르쳐 주신 덕분에

지금은 친구들과 잘 소통하고,

혼자 친구들과 자전거도 타고 나가서 boba 도 사먹고,

건강히 잘 크고 있습니다.

그리고, Ocapic/KCS 는 1 년에 한 두 번씩 가족 초청 모임이 있는데

그 모임에서 만난 사람들은 물론 다른 가족과 함께 나누는 시간도

너무 소중하게 생각합니다.

이제 고등학교에 들어가는 9 학년이 되었습니다.

사춘기에 겪는 막연한 걱정과 불안을 선생님들과 공유하며

사춘기 시절을 큰 변화없이 지내고 있으며,

선생님들과는 이제는 영어로 소통하며 감정을 나누고 있습니다.

Ocapica/KCS 를 통해 아이의 중심을 바로 세울 수 있는 힘을 주셔서

너무 감사하고,

재영이가 앞으로도 Ocapic/KCS 를 통하여

더욱 더 건강하게 성장하기를 응원합니다.

임재영 엄마 올림

To Whom May It Concern,

Hello, I am the mother of Jaeyoung Lim, who will soon be starting 9th grade.

Jaeyoung first started with OCAPICA in 5th grade.

At that time, Korean was still more comfortable for him than English, so having teachers who could help him in that way made a huge difference — and because the teachers were bilingual, my child was able to get support without any difficulty communicating.

My child has always been someone who struggles a lot with anxiety, and even though he wanted to get close to friends, he didn't really know how to approach them.

Thanks to the teachers, who taught him how to communicate with friends, how to consider the other person's perspective, and how to stay on topic in conversations with friends, he now communicates well with his friends — he even goes out biking with them on his own and buys boba together — and he is growing up healthy and well.

Also, OCAPICA holds a family gathering event once or twice a year, and the time spent with the people we've met there, as well as with other families, is something we treasure deeply.

Now he has become a 9th grader entering high school.

He shares the vague worries and anxieties that come with adolescence with his teachers, and has been going through his teenage years without major upheaval — and now he communicates and shares his feelings with the teachers in English.

I am so grateful that, through OCAPICA, my child was given the strength to find his own footing and center himself, and I hope that Jaeyoung will continue to grow even healthier through OCAPICA going forward.

Sincerely,
Jaeyoung Lim's mother

Date:

Orange County Board of Supervisors

County of Orange
Hall of Administration
333 W. Santa Ana Blvd.
Santa Ana, CA 92701

Re: Request for Reconsideration of Funding for OCAPICA's Project Focus Program

Dear Chair and Members of the Orange County Board of Supervisors:

I am reaching out to respectfully ask you to reconsider the decision to discontinue funding for OCAPICA's Project FOCUS program.

As members of the community, we all have a responsibility to make sure that individuals and families facing serious mental health challenges are not left without support. For many people, getting help is not as simple as making an appointment with a provider. There can be barriers involving language, culture, transportation, housing, family circumstances, and difficulty navigating an already complicated behavioral health system.

This is where programs like Project FOCUS make a meaningful difference.

What makes community-based programs valuable is the ability to develop relationships with individuals and families over time. People are more likely to accept help when they feel understood, respected, and supported. Cultural and linguistic understanding can be especially important for individuals who may already feel uncomfortable or misunderstood when seeking mental health services.

Project FOCUS also recognizes that stability involves much more than therapy or medication. Individuals may need help connecting with housing, healthcare, social services, family supports, and other resources that allow them to remain safely and successfully in the community.

I am concerned that reducing access to these services could have consequences beyond the loss of one program. When people lose access to trusted support, some may disengage from care, experience worsening symptoms, or eventually require more intensive and costly services.

I believe Orange County should continue investing in programs that focus on early support, community connection, and keeping individuals and families engaged in care.

I respectfully ask the Board to take another look at the funding decision for Project FOCUS and consider the individuals and families who may be affected by the loss of this resource.

Orange County is a diverse community, and our behavioral health system should reflect and respond to that diversity. People deserve services that they can understand, trust, and feel comfortable accessing.

Please consider allowing OCAPICA's Project FOCUS program to continue its work and remain a resource for Orange County residents who need this support.

Thank you for listening to the concerns of community members and for considering the importance of accessible and culturally responsive behavioral health services.

Sincerely,



Signed at:
2026-08-28 19:14:12

Dang Ly

Date:

Orange County Board of Supervisors

County of Orange
Hall of Administration
333 W. Santa Ana Blvd.
Santa Ana, CA 92701

Re: Request for Reconsideration of Funding for OCAPICA's Project Focus Program

Dear Chair and Members of the Orange County Board of Supervisors:

I am writing as a concerned member of the Orange County community to respectfully ask the Board of Supervisors to **reconsider its decision regarding funding for OCAPICA's Project Focus program.**

I have heard about the important work OCAPICA provides to individuals and families in our community, particularly its commitment to serving people experiencing serious mental health challenges with compassion, dignity, and culturally and linguistically appropriate support.

Programs like Project Focus are especially important because people living with serious mental illness often face barriers that cannot be addressed through clinical services alone. They may need help navigating healthcare systems, connecting with community resources, maintaining stable housing, engaging in treatment, and rebuilding their connection to their families and communities. Having trusted providers who understand a person's cultural background and language can make a meaningful difference in whether someone successfully engages with services.

OCAPICA brings a unique perspective and capability to this work. Its culturally responsive approach allows staff to meet individuals where they are and build relationships with people who may otherwise have difficulty accessing or remaining engaged in behavioral health services.

I understand that the County must make difficult decisions when allocating limited public resources. However, I respectfully ask the Board to look beyond the immediate funding decision and consider the **long-term consequences of losing a trusted community-based behavioral health resource.**

Investing in programs that help individuals remain connected to care, avoid crises, reduce unnecessary hospitalization, and remain safely integrated in their communities is not only compassionate—it is also a responsible investment in the health and well-being of Orange County.

I therefore respectfully urge the Board of Supervisors to **reconsider funding for OCAPICA's Project Focus program** and to recognize the value that culturally and linguistically competent behavioral health services bring to our diverse community.

Our community benefits when people living with mental illness have access to services they can trust, understand, and engage with. OCAPICA has demonstrated a commitment to providing that type of support, and I believe Project Focus deserves the opportunity to continue serving Orange County residents.

Thank you for your consideration and for your continued commitment to the behavioral health and well-being of our community.

Sincerely,

 8/13/2024
James J. Park

한국 커뮤니티는. OCAPICA의 도움이 감사히
필요합니다. 도와주시기 바랍니다.
도움과 지원 감사드립니다.

Date: 08-28-2026

Orange County Board of Supervisors

County of Orange
Hall of Administration
333 W. Santa Ana Blvd.
Santa Ana, CA 92701

Re: Request for Reconsideration of Funding for OCAPICA's Project Focus Program

Dear Chair and Members of the Orange County Board of Supervisors:

I am writing as a concerned member of the Orange County community to respectfully ask the Board of Supervisors to **reconsider its decision regarding funding for OCAPICA's Project Focus program.**

I have heard about the important work OCAPICA provides to individuals and families in our community, particularly its commitment to serving people experiencing serious mental health challenges with compassion, dignity, and culturally and linguistically appropriate support.

Programs like Project Focus are especially important because people living with serious mental illness often face barriers that cannot be addressed through clinical services alone. They may need help navigating healthcare systems, connecting with community resources, maintaining stable housing, engaging in treatment, and rebuilding their connection to their families and communities. Having trusted providers who understand a person's cultural background and language can make a meaningful difference in whether someone successfully engages with services.

OCAPICA brings a unique perspective and capability to this work. Its culturally responsive approach allows staff to meet individuals where they are and build relationships with people who may otherwise have difficulty accessing or remaining engaged in behavioral health services.

I understand that the County must make difficult decisions when allocating limited public resources. However, I respectfully ask the Board to look beyond the immediate funding decision and consider the **long-term consequences of losing a trusted community-based behavioral health resource.**

Investing in programs that help individuals remain connected to care, avoid crises, reduce unnecessary hospitalization, and remain safely integrated in their communities is not only compassionate—it is also a responsible investment in the health and well-being of Orange County.

I therefore respectfully urge the Board of Supervisors to **reconsider funding for OCAPICA's Project Focus program** and to recognize the value that culturally and linguistically competent behavioral health services bring to our diverse community.

Our community benefits when people living with mental illness have access to services they can trust, understand, and engage with. OCAPICA has demonstrated a commitment to providing that type of support, and I believe Project Focus deserves the opportunity to continue serving Orange County residents.

Thank you for your consideration and for your continued commitment to the behavioral health and well-being of our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Huong Tran', with a stylized, flowing script.

Signed at:
2026-08-28 13:40:31

Huong Tran

Date: 08-28-2026

Orange County Board of Supervisors

County of Orange
Hall of Administration
333 W. Santa Ana Blvd.
Santa Ana, CA 92701

Re: Request for Reconsideration of Funding for OCAPICA's Project Focus Program

Dear Chair and Members of the Orange County Board of Supervisors:

I am writing as a concerned member of the Orange County community to respectfully ask the Board of Supervisors to reconsider its decision regarding funding for OCAPICA's Project FOCUS program.

I have learned about the important work OCAPICA provides to individuals and families in our community, particularly its commitment to supporting people experiencing serious mental health challenges with compassion, dignity, and culturally and linguistically responsive care.

Programs such as Project FOCUS are especially important because individuals living with serious mental illness often face challenges that cannot be addressed through clinical services alone. They may need assistance navigating healthcare systems, connecting with community resources, maintaining stable housing, engaging in treatment, strengthening family relationships, and remaining connected to their communities. Having trusted providers who understand a person's culture and language can make a significant difference in whether individuals are able to access and remain engaged in behavioral health services.

OCAPICA brings a unique perspective and capability to this work. Its culturally responsive approach allows staff to build trust with individuals and families who may otherwise face significant barriers to accessing or remaining engaged in behavioral health services. For a diverse community like Orange County, culturally and linguistically competent services are not simply an added benefit—they are an essential part of effective and equitable behavioral healthcare.

I understand that the County must make difficult decisions when allocating limited public resources. However, I respectfully ask the Board to consider the long-term consequences of losing a trusted, community-based behavioral health resource such as Project FOCUS.

Investing in programs that help individuals remain connected to care, prevent crises, reduce avoidable hospitalization, and remain safely integrated within their families and communities is not only compassionate—it is also a responsible investment in the health, stability, and well-being of Orange County.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Board of Supervisors to reconsider funding for OCAPICA's Project FOCUS program and recognize the significant value that culturally and linguistically responsive behavioral health services provide to our community.

Our community is stronger when people living with mental illness have access to services they can trust, understand, and meaningfully engage with. OCAPICA has demonstrated a commitment to providing that type of support, and I believe Project FOCUS deserves the opportunity to continue serving Orange County residents and families.

Thank you for your consideration and for your continued commitment to the behavioral health and well-being of our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Linh Doan', written in a cursive style.

Signed at:
2026-08-28 13:38:08

Linh Doan

Date: 08-30-2026

Orange County Board of Supervisors

County of Orange
Hall of Administration
333 W. Santa Ana Blvd.
Santa Ana, CA 92701

Re: Request for Reconsideration of Funding for OCAPICA's Project Focus Program

Dear Chair and Members of the Orange County Board of Supervisors:

I am writing as a concerned member of the Orange County community to respectfully ask the Board of Supervisors to reconsider its decision regarding funding for OCAPICA's Project Focus program.

I have heard about the important work OCAPICA provides to individuals and families in our community, particularly its commitment to serving people experiencing serious mental health challenges with compassion, dignity, and culturally and linguistically appropriate support.

Programs like Project Focus are especially important because people living with serious mental illness often face barriers that cannot be addressed through clinical services alone. They may need help navigating healthcare systems, connecting with community resources, maintaining stable housing, engaging in treatment, and rebuilding their connection to their families and communities. Having trusted providers who understand a person's cultural background and language can make a meaningful difference in whether someone successfully engages with services.

OCAPICA brings a unique perspective and capability to this work. Its culturally responsive approach allows staff to meet individuals where they are and build relationships with people who may otherwise have difficulty accessing or remaining engaged in behavioral health services.

I understand that the County must make difficult decisions when allocating limited public resources. However, I respectfully ask the Board to look beyond the immediate funding decision and consider the long-term consequences of losing a trusted community-based behavioral health resource.

Investing in programs that help individuals remain connected to care, avoid crises, reduce unnecessary hospitalization, and remain safely integrated in their communities is not only compassionate—it is also a responsible investment in the health and well-being of Orange County.

I therefore respectfully urge the Board of Supervisors to reconsider funding for OCAPICA's Project Focus program and to recognize the value that culturally and linguistically competent behavioral health services bring to our diverse community.

Our community benefits when people living with mental illness have access to services they can trust, understand, and engage with. OCAPICA has demonstrated a commitment to providing that type of support, and I believe Project Focus deserves the opportunity to continue serving Orange County residents.

Thank you for your consideration and for your continued commitment to the behavioral health and well-being of our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Linh Phan', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Signed at:
2026-08-30 10:05:38

Linh Phan

Date: 08-28-2026

Orange County Board of Supervisors

County of Orange
Hall of Administration
333 W. Santa Ana Blvd.
Santa Ana, CA 92701

Re: Request for Reconsideration of Funding for OCAPICA's Project Focus Program

Dear Chair and Members of the Orange County Board of Supervisors:

I am writing to express my strong support for continued funding of OCAPICA's Project FOCUS program and to respectfully request that the Board of Supervisors reconsider the decision not to fund the program.

When we talk about behavioral health, we often focus on treatment. But for many individuals living with serious mental health conditions, treatment alone is not enough. They also need someone to help them navigate the systems around them, connect with resources, maintain stability, and continue moving forward when life becomes difficult.

That is the role that community-based programs like Project FOCUS can play.

Project FOCUS provides support to individuals and families who may otherwise struggle to access or remain connected to behavioral health services. The program's culturally and linguistically responsive approach is particularly meaningful in Orange County, where our communities are diverse and individuals may have different experiences, traditions, languages, and perspectives regarding mental health and seeking help.

Trust matters.

For someone who is already hesitant to seek behavioral health services, being connected with a provider who understands their language and cultural background can make it easier to ask for help, participate in services, and remain engaged. For families, having a knowledgeable support system can provide guidance during some of the most challenging moments they may face.

I am concerned about what the loss of Project FOCUS could mean for the individuals and families who depend on this type of support. Once a trusted community resource is lost, rebuilding those relationships and connections can take years.

I respectfully ask the Board to consider not only the immediate cost of funding the program, but also the potential cost to our community when individuals do not receive the support they need early enough.

Keeping people connected to care, supporting families, preventing behavioral health crises, and helping individuals remain safely in their communities should be a shared priority.

OCAPICA's Project FOCUS is an important part of that effort.

I urge the Board of Supervisors to reconsider its funding decision and explore every possible opportunity to allow Project FOCUS to continue serving Orange County residents.

Thank you for your time, your consideration, and your commitment to ensuring that Orange County residents have access to effective, accessible, and culturally responsive behavioral health services.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Manh Doan', written in a cursive style.

Signed at:
2026-08-28 14:02:24

Manh Doan

Date: 08-28-2026

Orange County Board of Supervisors

County of Orange
Hall of Administration
333 W. Santa Ana Blvd.
Santa Ana, CA 92701

Re: Request for Reconsideration of Funding for OCAPICA's Project Focus Program

Dear Chair and Members of the Orange County Board of Supervisors:

I am writing to strongly urge the Orange County Board of Supervisors to reconsider its decision regarding funding for OCAPICA's Project FOCUS program.

This is not simply a question of funding one program. It is a decision that has the potential to directly affect individuals and families living with serious mental health challenges who depend on consistent, trusted, and culturally responsive support.

For many individuals with serious mental illness, the greatest challenge is not simply receiving a diagnosis or attending a therapy appointment. The challenge is staying connected to care, maintaining stability, navigating complicated systems, accessing basic resources, and having someone available to help when circumstances begin to deteriorate. Without that support, individuals can quickly become disconnected from services and experience preventable crises.

Project FOCUS addresses these gaps.

The program provides a level of community-based support that cannot simply be replaced by another referral or a list of phone numbers. The relationships built with individuals and families are essential. Trust takes time to develop, particularly among people who have experienced barriers, stigma, or difficulty navigating behavioral health systems.

OCAPICA's culturally and linguistically responsive approach is especially critical in Orange County. Our community is incredibly diverse, and a one-size-fits-all approach to behavioral healthcare does not adequately serve everyone. People deserve to receive support from providers who understand their language, culture, family circumstances, and community.

We should not wait until individuals reach a crisis before deciding that they deserve support.

Preventing crises is more effective and more compassionate than responding after someone has reached the point of hospitalization, emergency intervention, homelessness, family disruption, or involvement with other systems. Community-based programs help provide the support needed before situations escalate.

I understand that the County must make difficult decisions about limited resources. However, I strongly encourage the Board to consider the broader consequences of eliminating or reducing funding for a program that serves some of Orange County's most vulnerable residents.

The question should not only be, “How much does this program cost?” We should also ask, “What will it cost our community if these services are no longer available?”

The loss of Project FOCUS could mean fewer opportunities for individuals to remain engaged in treatment, fewer supports for families, and fewer interventions before behavioral health concerns become emergencies. These consequences can ultimately place greater pressure on hospitals, emergency services, law enforcement, families, and other County systems.

Orange County cannot afford to overlook the value of prevention, early intervention, and culturally responsive care.

I respectfully but strongly urge the Board of Supervisors to revisit its decision and identify a way to preserve funding for OCAPICA’s Project FOCUS program.

This is an opportunity to demonstrate that Orange County is committed not only to responding to behavioral health crises, but to preventing them. It is an opportunity to protect continuity of care, support families, promote community stability, and ensure that vulnerable residents are not left without meaningful support.

I ask the Board to carefully consider the impact this decision will have on the people and families who rely on these services and to take action to ensure that Project FOCUS can continue serving Orange County.

Please reconsider this decision. The people who need these services should not have to wait until they are in crisis to receive the support they deserve.

Thank you for your consideration and for your commitment to the behavioral health, safety, and well-being of Orange County residents.

Sincerely,



Signed at:
2026-08-28 14:07:24

Vi Doan

안녕하세요.

저는 현재 8 학년인 박준서의 어머니입니다. 저희 아이는 6 학년부터 OCAPICA 프로그램에 참여하기 시작했습니다.

처음 프로그램에 참여했을 당시 아이는 자존감이 많이 낮았고 우울감으로 인해 매사에 자신감이 부족했습니다. 새로운 사람을 만나는 것도 부담스러워했고, 자신의 생각이나 감정을 표현하는 것을 어려워했습니다. 하지만 KCS-project FOCUS 선생님들께서는 아이를 있는 그대로 이해해 주시고, 작은 변화도 놓치지 않으며 꾸준히 격려해 주셨습니다. 아이가 스스로를 긍정적으로 바라볼 수 있도록 용기를 북돋아 주셨고, 어려운 일이 있을 때마다 편하게 이야기할 수 있는 믿음직한 어른이 되어 주셨습니다. 시간이 지나면서 아이는 눈에 띄게 달라졌습니다. 예전보다 표정이 밝아졌고, 새로운 일에도 먼저 도전하려는 모습을 보이기 시작했습니다.

학교생활에서도 집중력이 좋아져 학업에 더욱 적극적으로 참여하게 되었고, 집에서도 자신의 하루를 먼저 이야기할 만큼 마음을 열게 되었습니다. 부모로서 아이의 이런 변화를 가까이에서 지켜볼 수 있어 정말 감사했습니다.

KCS-project FOCUS 는 아이뿐 아니라 부모에게도 큰 힘이 되는 프로그램이었습니다. 아이의 성장 과정을 함께 나누고 필요한 조언을 받을 수 있었으며, 가족 행사와 다양한 활동을 통해 지역사회와 자연스럽게 연결될 수 있었습니다.

저희 가족은 KCS-project FOCUS 가 앞으로도 오렌지카운티의 많은 아이들과 가족들에게 계속해서 희망과 용기를 전해 주는 프로그램으로 이어지기를 진심으로 바랍니다. 저희 아이가 다시 웃고 자신감을 되찾을 수 있었던 것처럼, 더 많은 아이들이 이 프로그램을 통해 건강하게 성장할 수 있기를 응원합니다. 감사합니다.

박준서 엄마 올림

July 21, 2026

Attn: To Whom It May Concern

Subject: Letter of Support for KCS-Project FOCUS

Hello.

I am the mother of Junseo Park, who is currently in 8th grade. My child began participating in the OCAPICA program starting in 6th grade.

When he first joined the program, he had very low self-esteem and, due to feelings of depression, lacked confidence in nearly everything he did. He found it stressful to meet new people and had a hard time expressing his own thoughts and feelings. However, the teachers at KCS-Project FOCUS understood my child exactly as he was, noticed even the smallest changes, and consistently encouraged him. They gave him the courage to start seeing himself in a more positive light, and became trustworthy adults he could comfortably talk to whenever something difficult came up. Over time, my child changed noticeably. His expression became brighter than before, and he began to show a willingness to try new things on his own.

His focus at school improved as well, and he became more actively engaged in his studies. At home, he opened up enough to be the one to start sharing about his day. As a parent, I was truly grateful to witness this change in my child up close.

KCS-Project FOCUS was a program that gave great strength not only to my child, but to me as a parent as well. I was able to share in my child's growth process and receive the advice I needed, and through family events and various activities, we were able to naturally connect with our community.

Our family sincerely hopes that KCS-Project FOCUS will continue to be a program that keeps bringing hope and courage to many children and families in Orange County. Just as my child was able to smile again and regain his confidence, I hope that even more children will be able to grow up healthy through this program.

Thank you.

Respectfully,
Junseo Park's mother

안녕하세요,

저는 곧 9 학년이되는 임재영 엄마입니다.

재영이는 5 학년때 Ocapic/KCS 를 처음 시작하게 되었습니다.

그때는 영어보다 한국말이 더 편할 때여서

선생님들의 도움이 아주 크게 작용하였고,

또한 선생님들이 이중언어를 하셔서

아이가 소통하는데 어려움없이 도움을 받았습니다.

저희 아이는 늘 불안이 큰 아이여서 친구들과 친해지고 싶었으나,

어떻게 다가가야 하는지 잘 몰랐습니다.

선생님들께서 친구들과 소통하는 법을 알려주시고,

또한 상대방의 입장을 생각하고,

친구들과의 주제에서 벗어나지 않는 방법을 가르쳐 주신 덕분에

지금은 친구들과 잘 소통하고,

혼자 친구들과 자전거도 타고 나가서 boba 도 사먹고,

건강히 잘 크고 있습니다.

그리고, Ocapic/KCS 는 1 년에 한 두 번씩 가족 초청 모임이 있는데

그 모임에서 만난 사람들은 물론 다른 가족과 함께 나누는 시간도

너무 소중한게 생각합니다.

이제 고등학교에 들어가는 9 학년이 되었습니다.

사춘기에 겪는 막연한 걱정과 불안을 선생님들과 공유하며

사춘기 시절을 큰 변화없이 지내고 있으며,

선생님들과는 이제는 영어로 소통하며 감정을 나누고 있습니다.

Ocapica/KCS 를 통해 아이의 중심을 바로 세울 수 있는 힘을 주셔서

너무 감사하고,

재영이가 앞으로도 Ocapic/KCS 를 통하여

더욱 더 건강하게 성장하기를 응원합니다.

임재영 엄마 올림

Letter of Support for OCAPICA's Project FOCUS

I am writing to express my strong support for OCAPICA's Project FOCUS program and to advocate for the continuation of its services to the community.

As a mental health therapist working with underserved communities in Orange County, I have witnessed firsthand the significant behavioral health needs of Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander individuals, who often face barriers to accessing culturally and linguistically appropriate mental health services. Many of the individuals and families I work with experience stigma surrounding mental health, language barriers, financial hardship, and difficulty navigating complex systems of care. These challenges make community-based programs like Project FOCUS essential.

OCAPICA's Project FOCUS is well-known in the community for providing culturally-informed and trauma-informed care. Closing its doors will likely result in disruptions to treatment, increased mental health crises, higher utilization of emergency departments and psychiatric hospitalization, greater involvement with child welfare and juvenile justice systems, and poorer long-term outcomes for youth. Families with limited English proficiency would be especially impacted, as they often struggle to find providers who understand their language, culture, and lived experiences.

I respectfully urge you to continue supporting and funding OCAPICA Project FOCUS so that vital services can continue to be provided to our community members. The continuation of this program will ensure that youth and their families receive critical and culturally-informed care.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Julie Nguyen, ASW, MSW
Mental Health Therapist



Children & Youth FSP/Wraparound

Preserving AAPI Access, Continuity of Care & Medi-Cal Capacity

RFP No. 042-2934503-CA | Board of Supervisors Brief

DECISION REQUESTED

Preserve OCAPICA's existing Children and Youth FSP/High Fidelity Wraparound capacity through a full or partial County contract; protect continuity for current clients; and review the RFP changes and available Medi-Cal reimbursement capacity before specialized AAPI-serving capacity is eliminated.

Why this matters now

- Orange County is home to more than 800,000 Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander residents, about 26% of the County population.
- The County's 2026–2029 Behavioral Health Integrated Plan shows Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) youth accessing Specialty Mental Health Services below the County's goal.
- Project FOCUS currently serves approximately 136 children and youth and more than 600 family members; 75% of current family members list a non-English language as their primary language.
- OCAPICA has nearly 20 years of Children and Youth FSP/Wraparound experience and County-reported outcomes that exceed the 80% performance target on every reported indicator.

Project FOCUS at a glance

~20 yrs	Operating Children and Youth FSP/Wraparound services in Orange County.
136	Children and youth currently enrolled in OCAPICA's program.
600+	Family members currently engaged through the family-centered FSP/Wraparound model.
99.1% meeting goals	FY 2025–26: 1 psychiatric hospitalization; 100% not arrested and 100% remained out of custody.
109 out of 1,255	Providers in the June 2026 County directory listing at least one AAPI language; a majority are associated with OCAPICA or the County.
800,000+	AAPI residents in Orange County; over 25% of the County population.
75%	Of current family members who list a non-English language as their primary language.

The County has an identified AAPI access gap

AAPI youth are already below the County's Specialty Mental Health Services access goal. OCAPICA is existing capacity that aligns with the County's own disparity-reduction strategies: culturally responsive care, trusted community-based organizations, bilingual/bicultural staff, family engagement, and continuity of care.

BOARD-LEVEL QUESTION

If AAPI youth are already below the County's access goal, how will eliminating an established AAPI FSP/Wraparound focused provider improve the County's ability to close that gap?

1 | PROVEN CAPACITY, LANGUAGE ACCESS & CONTINUITY

OCAPICA is operating capacity—not proposed future capacity

The County already has direct evidence that OCAPICA can reach, engage, and serve high-need children and families while meeting performance expectations.

- Nearly 20 years operating Children and Youth FSP/Wraparound services in Orange County, with existing licensed and supervised staff, crisis workflows, referral pathways, school/community partnerships, and quality systems.
- Approximately 136 enrolled youth and more than 600 family members are already connected to the program; 74% of clients with recorded diagnoses had more than one diagnosis, reflecting substantial clinical complexity.
- Current clients have serious mental illness, emotional disturbance, trauma, suicidal ideation, family instability, and other complex needs. A provider transfer is therefore a clinical transition, not simply an administrative reassignment.

County-reported FSP/Wrap outcomes for OCAPICA's Project FOCUS

Fiscal Year	No Psychiatric Hospitalization	Not Arrested	Out of Custody	No Unsheltered Homelessness
FY 2023–24	94.7%	100%	100%	100%
FY 2024–25	94.8%	100%	100%	100%
FY 2025–26	99.1%	100%	100%	99.1%

The County staff report states that the performance threshold is 80% and that OCAPICA exceeds the target for all indicators.

Language access: keep the distinction clear

OCAPICA's language-access capacity is important because it already exists and is in use. Seventy-five percent of current family members list a non-English language as primary; Vietnamese and Korean are the largest groups, with Mandarin, Cantonese, and Spanish also represented. The June 2026 County provider directory listed relatively limited AAPI-language capacity, and OCAPICA also has clinicians who speak Samoan and Tongan.

THE KEY DISTINCTION

A plan to recruit bilingual staff is not the same as having qualified bilingual/bicultural clinicians and support staff already in place and serving families. For intensive behavioral health care, crisis response, medication discussions, safety planning, and Child and Family Team work, a general interpretation line is not an equivalent substitute for direct language-concordant clinical capacity.

Continuity protections before any transfer

- Verify receiving providers' actual staffing, language capacity, certified sites, Medi-Cal readiness, 24/7 crisis response, and immediate caseload capacity.
- Require a written continuity plan covering records, reassessments, medications, crisis plans, school coordination, family-team participation, and warm handoffs.
- Phase any transition so no child loses treatment before the receiving provider is fully ready to assume care. Project FOCUS clients remain engaged an average of 664 days; successful graduates average 823 days.

2 | COUNTY CONTRACT, MEDI-CAL BILLING & RFP REVIEW

A County contract is the mechanism that allows these services to be billed

Without a County FSP/High Fidelity Wraparound contract, OCAPICA cannot continue billing Medi-Cal for these Specialty Mental Health Services within Orange County's FSP/Wraparound system.

HOW THE BILLING WORKS

OCAPICA does not bill the State directly. OCAPICA provides eligible Specialty Mental Health Services and bills Orange County under its County contract. The County then submits the Medi-Cal claim to the State, receives the applicable reimbursement, and draws the federal match. Without County authorization and a contract, OCAPICA cannot continue operating and billing this FSP/High Fidelity Wraparound model.

Why reimbursement capacity matters

The State limits total reimbursement. If selected providers do not generate their full projected Medi-Cal billing volume, reimbursement capacity may remain. The County should quantify any available capacity and determine whether it can support a full or partial OCAPICA contract rather than allowing established specialty capacity to disappear while reimbursable capacity remains available.

Key RFP changes warrant Board review

The procurement history matters because the final RFP differed materially from the requirements under which incumbent providers initially competed.

- The RFP was amended multiple times. After the original January 21, 2026 deadline, it was reopened and extended to March 13. The original requirements for at least five consecutive years of Children and Youth FSP/Wraparound experience and an existing Orange County facility/local presence were removed.
- High Fidelity Wraparound (HFW) certification was not required, yet the evaluation placed substantial weight on HFW fidelity, training, supervision, peer staffing, monitoring, and performance systems. This appears to have advantaged agencies already operating HFW through Social Services Agency funding over incumbent Children and Youth FSP/Wraparound providers still transitioning toward HFW.
- The RFP itself highlighted the need for cultural and linguistic access for diverse and underserved populations, but the evaluation rubric gave this relatively limited weight. Only one cultural-competence question was scored, worth a maximum of 20 points out of 175 total points (11.4%): "How well did the Respondent explain how their organization will ensure staff are culturally sensitive and competent to serve culturally, linguistically, and ethnically diverse and underserved populations?" The scoring structure therefore did not appear to fully reflect the RFP's stated emphasis on cultural and linguistic access.
- Three of the four current providers - OCAPICA, CHOC, and Waymakers did not score high enough to be recommended for funding.
- Earlier respondents, including OCAPICA, were told they could leave their January proposals unchanged and that those proposals would be reviewed as submitted.

PROCUREMENT QUESTION FOR THE BOARD

Why were significant RFP requirements changed and the proposal deadline reopened and extended after the procurement process had already begun, and what impact did those changes have on the competitive position of incumbent versus new providers?

What should be verified before capacity is displaced

- Whether the HFW scoring emphasis effectively advantaged agencies already operating HFW through SSA funding even though HFW certification was not a threshold requirement.
- Why three of four incumbent providers were not recommended despite demonstrated County performance and existing operational readiness.
- Whether selected providers can actually deliver the staffing, certified sites, crisis systems, documentation, billing infrastructure, and caseload capacity as well as linguistic capacity represented in their proposals on day one.

3 | BOARD QUESTIONS & REQUESTED ACTION

Focused questions for County review

1. If Asian American and Pacific Islander youth are already below the County's Specialty Mental Health Services access goal, how will eliminating OCAPICA's established AAPI-focused capacity help close that gap?
2. Which selected providers currently employ the qualified clinical, care coordination, and peer staff needed to accept OCAPICA clients immediately, including direct-language capacity for current families?
3. How many of OCAPICA's approximately 136 youth and 600+ family members can each selected provider absorb without delays, disruption, or loss of clinical quality?
4. Did the RFP amendments and heavy scoring emphasis on High Fidelity Wraparound advantage agencies already operating HFW through SSA funding over incumbent Children and Youth FSP/Wraparound providers?
5. If selected providers bill below their projected Medi-Cal volume, how much reimbursement capacity could remain available for a full or partial County contract with OCAPICA?

Requested action

1. Retain OCAPICA through a full or partial County FSP/High Fidelity Wraparound contract so proven specialty capacity remains available while the County works to improve AAPI youth access.
2. Before any transfer, verify selected providers' actual staffing, certified sites, Medi-Cal readiness, crisis response, documentation/billing systems, direct-language capacity, and immediate caseload capacity.
3. Require a written access and continuity-of-care plan with transition timelines, warm handoffs, language capacity, client capacity, medication/crisis safeguards, and measurable protections against a decline in AAPI youth access.
4. Quantify and use available Medi-Cal reimbursement capacity, including capacity that may remain if selected providers bill below projections—and separately review the multiple RFP amendments and evaluation weighting before eliminating established capacity.

BOTTOM LINE

OCAPICA is not asking for continued funding simply because it is an incumbent. The County's own planning documents identify an AAPI youth access gap; OCAPICA already serves 136 youth and more than 600 family members; and the program has the clinical, operational, language, crisis, and billing infrastructure in place today. Retaining that capacity while adding other qualified providers protects continuity and gives the County a stronger path toward its access goals.

Key documents and program data referenced

- RFP No. 042-2934503-CA and associated amendments / Q&A responses.
- County proposal evaluation / score sheet materials.
- May 19, 2026 Board of Supervisors staff report approving Amendment No. 7 to OCAPICA's Children and TAY FSP/Wraparound contract.
- Orange County 2026–2029 Behavioral Health Integrated Plan and June 2026 County Behavioral Health Plan Provider Directory.
- OCAPICA Project FOCUS 2016–2026 Stats and Highlights (Exym and internal program trackers).