

Guillen, Dora

From: Bona Tokko <tbonbonita@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 14, 2026 9:10 AM
To: COB_Response
Subject: Board of Supervisor meeting September 15th line item #10_Support for the Continuation of OCAPICA/KCS Project FOCUS

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To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to share my family's experience with Project FOCUS and OCAPICA/KCS and to express my support for Agenda Item #10 at the September 15 Orange County Board of Supervisors meeting. This agenda item is very important to families like ours who have benefited from Project FOCUS and the services and support it provides to children, youth, and families in Orange County.

Their kindness, guidance, and support have made a tremendous difference in our lives, and I hope our family's story helps show why these services are so important and why continued support for this program matters.

As a Korean immigrant parent, my family struggled for many years to find the help my oldest son needed. Since preschool, his teachers noticed that he had difficulty staying focused in class. As he got older, his teachers continued to express concerns about his attention 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 Los Angeles. Unfortunately, I kept being referred back and forth between the school and the healthcare system. The school told me to work with medical providers, while 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 move forward with an ADHD evaluation and 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 struggled to 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 better understand ADHD and recognize that these challenges do not define who he is or what he is capable of achieving. They helped him see that with the right support and treatment, he can find ways to manage his challenges and succeed.

Recently, my son told me that he understands himself much better now. Instead of wondering why things seem harder for him than for other students, he now understands that there is a reason for the challenges he has faced and, more importantly, that there are ways to help him. 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 explained what services and accommodations may be available as my son continues through school, what documents we should prepare, and how to advocate for his educational needs. Knowing that we have professionals who can 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 may 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 our family 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.

For these reasons, I respectfully ask the Orange County Board of Supervisors to support Agenda Item #10 at the September 15 meeting and help ensure that Project FOCUS and programs like it can continue providing these important services to children, youth, and families throughout Orange County.

There are many families like mine who know their children need help but may not know where to begin or how to navigate a complicated system. For immigrant families and families facing language or cultural barriers, programs like Project FOCUS can be the connection that finally allows a child to receive the help they need.

Our family was fortunate to find that guidance through Project FOCUS. I sincerely hope that many more families will have the same opportunity to receive the care, compassion, and support that have made such a meaningful difference in our lives.

Thank you for taking the time to read our family's story and for considering your support of Agenda Item #10 and the continued work of Project FOCUS and OCAPICA/KCS.

Sincerely,

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