



San Diego County Behavioral Health Services  
ATTN: Jackie Hurtado  
Administrative Analyst III  
[Jackie.Hurtado@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:Jackie.Hurtado@sdcounty.ca.gov)

29 December 2021  
[Delivered electronically]

Dear Ms. Hurtado:

I am writing to you on behalf of the San Diego Taxpayers Educational Foundation with a number of questions on the underlying data in the draft Five Year (2022-2027) Behavioral Health Housing Plan.

The San Diego Taxpayers Educational Foundation (SDTEF) is the research and educational arm of the San Diego County Taxpayers Association (SDCTA), the region's municipal watchdog. One of our objectives at SDTEF is to ensure that public policy analysis by practitioners around the region use appropriate data, methods, and assumptions in developing their recommendations for consideration by the public. Use of legitimate data, methods, and assumptions assures the quality, reasonableness, and soundness of the recommendations presented to the public, and such use also facilitates civility in any subsequent public policy debate.

After reviewing the document, we have a few questions about the research, and we would very much appreciate your responses.

- It states in the report that racial disproportionality exists especially for African Americans. The report indicates 5.5% of the population identify as African American, yet 22% of unsheltered homeless and 30% of sheltered homeless identify as African American. It was clear that race was broken out in Survey respondents (25% African American), but it was not clear if it was collected or purposefully sampled for in focus groups. Do you have the racial breakdown of the focus groups? Did the County purposefully include and make extra outreach efforts to include African Americans in the focus groups?
- Similarly it is not clear if street outreach was done to solicit feedback from the population of individuals who are homeless that are less engaged or not engaged in services. Was street outreach done? If so, do you have any data on that subgroup (number, make-up, in what forums they participated, in what language they participated)? This population is naturally challenging to engage and also may not have access to smart phones or internet to be captured by some of the other mechanisms the County employed. If street outreach was not done, can you provide an explanation as to why it was not done?
- Lastly, and also related to representation, the report indicates that people with Lived Experience were represented through surveys. The report further indicates that 4 of 172

2508 Historic Decatur Rd. #220 • San Diego, CA 92106  
[info@sdcta.org](mailto:info@sdcta.org) • (619) 234-6423 • [www.sdcta.org/foundation](http://www.sdcta.org/foundation)

*Federal Tax Identification Number: 33-0354443*

surveys were completed in Spanish. Is that representative of the Spanish speaking population of homeless individuals? Further, are there other threshold languages that should have been included such as Tagalog, Vietnamese, or Arabic? What other outreach efforts were conducted in order to ensure representation across languages and ages. Please provide any data that you have as well as qualitative information.

Thank you for the opportunity to review the draft of the Five Year (2022-2027) Behavioral Health Housing Plan. This is a high priority for San Diego County, and we thank you for your work in developing this plan.

Respectfully submitted,



Alison Freedman, PsyD, MBA  
Research and Technical Director