

**From:** [Carroll, John \(BOS\)](#)  
**To:** [Emily Land](#)  
**Cc:** [Stefani, Catherine \(BOS\)](#); [Donovan, Dominica \(BOS\)](#); [Engardio, Joel \(BOS\)](#); [Bell, Tita \(BOS\)](#); [Dorsey, Matt \(BOS\)](#); [Dahl, Bryan \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Written public comment - Treatment on Demand hearing in SF, 11/9/23 - PSNS November 9, 2023 - BOS File No. 231029  
**Date:** Thursday, November 9, 2023 9:15:00 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)  
[11.8.23-ToD-Hearing-Letter-Tyler-TerMeer.pdf](#)  
[image003.png](#)

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Thank you for your comment letter.

I am forwarding your comments to the members of the PSNS committee, and I will add this comment to the file for the hearing matter.

I invite you to review the entire matter on our [Legislative Research Center](#) by following the link below:

- [Board of Supervisors File No. 231029](#)

**John Carroll**  
**Assistant Clerk**

Board of Supervisors  
San Francisco City Hall, Room 244  
San Francisco, CA 94102  
(415)554-4445



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**From:** Emily Land <eland@sfaf.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 8, 2023 5:01 PM  
**To:** Carroll, John (BOS) <john.carroll@sfgov.org>  
**Subject:** Written public comment - Treatment on Demand hearing in SF, 11/9/23

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Mr. Carroll,

Please find written public comment from Dr. Tyler TerMeer, CEO of San Francisco AIDS Foundation, attached to this email.

Emily

**Emily Land** (she/her/hers)

VP, Public Affairs

San Francisco AIDS Foundation  
1035 Market Street, Suite 400, San Francisco, CA 94103

Direct 415.487.8061

eland@sfaf.org | [www.sfaf.org](http://www.sfaf.org)



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November 8, 2023

Dear Supervisors,

I am writing as a resident of San Francisco and the CEO of San Francisco AIDS Foundation, a community organization providing harm reduction, substance use treatment, sexual health services, and community support to people living with and affected by HIV.

This year, our city is on track to lose more than 800 community members to fatal overdose, far exceeding the devastating record number of fatal overdoses set in 2020, and with Black and African American residents disproportionately affected. This is a public health crisis of devastating proportions, and must be dealt with swiftly and with resources, programs, and interventions that we know will work.

I urge you to make critical investments in our city's behavioral health continuum of care in order to fulfill the mandates outlined by Proposition T, the Treatment on Demand Act. As a city, we must double down in our commitment to providing comprehensive behavioral health treatment, and implementing action items outlined in the Overdose Prevention Plan, including establishing and funding Wellness Hubs in order to provide overdose prevention services and resources, expanding access to low-barrier substance use treatment programs, funding and implementing safe consumption sites, and providing comprehensive and compassionate wrap-around care.

I urge you to take action to save lives. Thank you for your leadership on this issue.

In community,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tyler a. TerMeer".

Tyler TerMeer, PhD  
CEO, San Francisco AIDS Foundation

**From:** [Carroll, John \(BOS\)](#)  
**To:** [Daniel V](#)  
**Cc:** [Stefani, Catherine \(BOS\)](#); [Donovan, Dominica \(BOS\)](#); [Engardio, Joel \(BOS\)](#); [Bell, Tita \(BOS\)](#); [Dorsey, Matt \(BOS\)](#); [Dahl, Bryan \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Agenda #3 TOD Staffing - Support - PSNS November 9, 2023 - BOS File No. 231029  
**Date:** Thursday, November 9, 2023 9:15:00 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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**From:** Daniel V <daniel.vainish@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 8, 2023 10:14 PM  
**To:** Carroll, John (BOS) <john.carroll@sfgov.org>  
**Subject:** Agenda #3 TOD Staffing - Support

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Dear Supervisors Stefani, Mandelman, and Engardio,

In 2008, San Francisco voters passed Proposition T to expand access to treatment for mental health and substance use disorders. I write in support of investing in our city's behavioral health continuum of care, prioritizing funding to help fully staff this life-saving system, ending the criminalization of people who use drugs, and implementing our city's Overdose Prevention Plan (2022).

The War on Drugs, which relied on criminalization and a moralistic response to address substance users disorder, is not informed by science. Perpetuating that approach to address behavioral health, substance abuse, and overdose crises leads to worse health outcomes.<sup>1</sup>

San Francisco needs fully-staffed, sustainable, long-term behavioral health solutions for all members of our community who require timely access to voluntary, culturally competent, non-discriminatory care. An investment in our behavioral health infrastructure – especially in staffing – is a commitment to the well-being of San Francisco. I urge you and the City to prioritize TOD and behavioral health funding for a healthier and more resilient community.

Thank you for your leadership and consideration,

**Daniel Vainish**

94115

1. Cohen, A., Vakharia, S. P., Netherland, J., & Frederique, K. (2022). How the war on drugs impacts social determinants of health beyond the criminal legal system. *Annals of Medicine*, Volume 54, 2024–2038. <https://doi.org/10.1080/07853890.2022.2100926>

**From:** [Carroll, John \(BOS\)](#)  
**To:** [Charles Deffarges](#)  
**Cc:** [Wesley Saver](#); [Gary McCoy](#); [Beth Stokes](#); [Zak](#); [Stefani, Catherine \(BOS\)](#); [Donovan, Dominica \(BOS\)](#); [Engardio, Joel \(BOS\)](#); [Bell, Tita \(BOS\)](#); [Dorsey, Matt \(BOS\)](#); [Dahl, Bryan \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** RE: ECS Comment: 11/9 Treatment on Demand - BOS File No. 231029  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 8, 2023 4:05:00 PM  
**Attachments:** [11-8-23 ECS TOD Support Letter.docx.pdf](#)  
[image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)  
[image004.png](#)  
[image005.png](#)  
[image006.png](#)  
[image007.png](#)

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**From:** Charles Deffarges <cDeffarges@ecs-sf.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 8, 2023 3:58 PM  
**To:** Carroll, John (BOS) <john.carroll@sfgov.org>  
**Cc:** Wesley Saver <wsaver@healthright360.org>; Gary McCoy <gmccoy@healthright360.org>; Beth Stokes <bstokes@ecs-sf.org>; Zak <zak@gfpublicaffairs.com>  
**Subject:** ECS Comment: 11/9 Treatment on Demand

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Dear John,

Please find attached, on behalf of ECS Executive Director Beth Stokes, a written comment for item 3 (Treatment on Demand) at tomorrow's Public Safety and Neighborhood Services Committee.

Thank you,

**Charles Deffarges** (*he/him/his*)

**Director of Policy**

**Episcopal Community Services**

165 Eighth Street, San Francisco, CA 94103

[cdeffarges@ecs-sf.org](mailto:cdeffarges@ecs-sf.org) | O: (415) 487-3300 x1208 | C: (415) 992-1097



**Episcopal  
Community Services  
San Francisco**



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November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Public Safety and Neighborhood Services Committee  
City Hall 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place  
San Francisco, CA 94102

**Subject: Treatment on Demand Staffing Investments - SUPPORT**

Dear Supervisors,

On behalf of Episcopal Community Services (ECS), I am writing to urge you to fully resource our city's behavioral health programs so that we can meet the large need that exists within our communities.

Since 1983, ECS has provided essential services, including behavioral health support, to individuals and families experiencing homelessness in San Francisco. Our mission is to help homeless and very low-income people obtain the housing, jobs, shelter, and essential services each person needs to prevent and end homelessness, and last year alone we helped over 12,400 people throughout the Bay Area.

At ECS, like other non-profit providers in the space, filling and retaining staff in behavioral health positions is a constant struggle. Additional resources to help with hiring and retention would allow us to reduce caseloads, provide incentives, and offer benefits so that our staff can better serve our most acute and vulnerable clients. An investment in our behavioral health infrastructure – especially in staffing – is a commitment to the well-being of San Francisco.

We have a moral imperative to save lives by creating seamless pathways to recovery programs for all those who need them. ECS proudly stands in solidarity with the Treatment on Demand Coalition's call to fully fund San Francisco's behavioral health infrastructure. Thank you for your leadership and consideration.

Sincerely,

Beth Stokes  
Executive Director  
Episcopal Community Services (ECS)



**From:** [Carroll, John \(BOS\)](#)  
**To:** [Calder Lorenz](#)  
**Cc:** [Stefani, Catherine \(BOS\)](#); [Donovan, Dominica \(BOS\)](#); [Engardio, Joel \(BOS\)](#); [Bell, Tita \(BOS\)](#); [Dorsey, Matt \(BOS\)](#); [Dahl, Bryan \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Treatment on Demand Staffing Investments - SUPPORT - 11/09/2023 - BOS File No. 231029  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 8, 2023 11:36:00 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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**From:** Calder Lorenz <calder@thegubbioproject.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 7, 2023 11:38 AM  
**To:** Carroll, John (BOS) <john.carroll@sfgov.org>  
**Subject:** Treatment on Demand Staffing Investments - SUPPORT - 11/09/2023

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Dear Supervisors at the Public Safety and Neighborhood Services Committee,

My name is Calder Lorenz, I am the Director of Operations for The Gubbio Project and a San Francisco resident. In 2008, San Francisco voters passed Proposition T to expand access to treatment for mental health and substance use disorders. I write in support of investing in our city's behavioral health continuum of care, prioritizing funding to help fully staff this life-saving system, ending the criminalization of people who use drugs, implementing the Overdose Prevention Plan, and establishing a community process for the allocation of opioid settlement funds.

The Gubbio Project's mission is to be in community with and to provide a sacred space and sanctuary for unhoused people in need of safe, compassionate respite during the day. Our program is housed at St. John's in the Mission and currently provides critical services to 100 individuals daily through a highly unique and successful model that combines social justice, peer support, and harm reduction. The Gubbio Project calls for a more just, compassionate and non-punitive approach by public agencies and policymakers.

We know that criminalizing people who use drugs perpetuates cycles of stigma, incarceration, and exacerbates overdose deaths. By fully funding and staffing San Francisco's behavioral health system, we can ensure San Francisco is equipped to shift the focus from punitive measures to therapeutic interventions.

San Francisco is grappling with a devastating overdose crisis that affects residents from all walks of life. True treatment on demand requires the opening of low-barrier, drop-in services – like wellness hubs, overdose prevention centers, and sobering centers – citywide and to scale. This will enable timely interventions, comprehensive treatment for people who use drugs, and harm reduction strategies. Adequate staffing ensures we can match the scale of this crisis with an equally robust response, solidifying our commitment to saving lives and a healthier, safer community.

The intersection of behavioral health issues and housing instability is undeniable. Many residents struggling with mental health or substance use disorders find themselves at heightened risk of homelessness or living in unstable housing conditions. As we seek solutions to our housing crisis, it's crucial to recognize and act on the intrinsic link between mental health care and housing stability for vulnerable populations.

San Francisco needs fully-staffed, sustainable, long-term behavioral health solutions for all members of our community who require timely access to voluntary, culturally competent, non-discriminatory care. An investment in our behavioral health infrastructure – especially in staffing – is a commitment to the well-being of San Francisco. I urge the City to prioritize funding and ensuring a healthier and more resilient community for all. Thank you for your leadership and consideration.

In Community, Calder

--

Calder Lorenz (he/him), *Harm Reduction Saves Lives, I carry naloxone!*  
Director of Operations at the Gubbio Project  
(415)-571-6391 cell phone  
[calder@thegubbioproject.org](mailto:calder@thegubbioproject.org)  
[thegubbioproject.org](http://thegubbioproject.org)

# Providing Sacred Sleep at St. John's in the Mission, San Francisco

