

The Community Health and Senior Services Commission, having provided a comprehensive report on behavioral health to the Town Council within the past two years, recognizes that mental health challenges continue to escalate. As an advisory body, we wish to supplement our previous findings with updated insights, addressing the persistent growth of these needs.

Since our initial report, the landscape of mental health has become increasingly complex, with a "kaleidoscope" of expanding requirements straining existing resources and organizations. The magnitude of these issues often exceeds the scope of our commission members. While we acknowledge successes such as the Navigator Program at the Library, El Camino Health's Aspire Program in Los Gatos, and the potential Health Clinic at De Anza College—all of which represent steps towards implementing our 2023 Behavioral Health Report recommendations—these initiatives only begin to address the growing need.

To build upon our prior work and develop a more comprehensive strategy, we propose a multi-faceted approach:

- **Building upon our previous report:** We will revisit our initial recommendations, analyzing their implementation and identifying areas where progress has been impeded.

- **Conducting further research:** This will include examining the best practices in other communities, gathering updated data, and continuing our studies to gain a deeper understanding of the evolving mental health landscape.
- **Utilizing a current survey:** To gather real-time feedback and identify pressing needs within our community.
- **Providing actionable feedback:** Based on our research and analysis, we will offer concrete recommendations for the commission and the community to effectively address mental health issues.

Our goal is to chart a path forward that ensures accessible and comprehensive mental health support for all members of our community. We believe that by combining our prior analysis with new research and community input, we can develop a more effective and responsive approach.