

Public comment from E. Cortez

From: Evelyn Cortez <ECortez@bayfrontyfs.org>

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To: BHSOAC Public Comment <publiccomment@bhsoac.ca.gov>

Subject: my statement

As a parent I wanted more for my 3 special needs children and more for myself. I began a journey of healing and learning that set me on a path to work as the Parent Advocate at Bayfront Youth and Family Services. That led me to meet Melissa Hannah in 2019 at a Parent Partner Symposium in LA County. Melissa was presenting an impressive workshop on Bullying. I stayed to ask questions and ask if she could present this workshop at my agency to the parents and caregivers in Long Beach. That collaboration with United Parents has made an impact Melissa Hannah and Steve Varner were there to guide and teach me to use my lived experience and my voice. I have been bringing others with me to attend parent and caregiver events including advocacy day at the capital since 2019. Through events hosted by United Parents I have been able to use my lived experience to help other parents and caregivers find their voice to make lasting changes so that addiction, abuse and untreated mental illness is no longer what is typical in a home.

Best,

Evelyn Cortez

She/Her [Learn More](#)

Parent Partner/Advocate

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