

April 17, 2012

Honorable Brian Hill
Presiding Judge
Santa Barbara Superior Court
312 East Cook Street
Post Office Box 5369
Santa Maria, California 93456-5369

Reference: Follow-up Report to Santa Barbara Civil Grand Jury Titled, “Homeless Mentally Ill Indigent Recidivism – This is not good for the County” (Published May 26, 2011 on the Grand Jury Web Site)

Judge Garcia:

The Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors (Board) is providing this follow-up report comparing the cost of incarcerating mentally ill, homeless individuals and providing supportive services to minimize recidivism. This follow up report, titled *Comparing the Costs of Jail Incarceration and Stabilizing Services for Homeless Mentally Ill Individuals* was pledged in response to the first recommendation of the above-referenced Civil Grand Jury Report. The first recommendation and the Board of Supervisor’s response read as follows:

That the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors directs the Santa Barbara County Executive Officer to produce a document comparing the current total yearly costs of the incarcerated mentally ill indigent homeless to the estimated total yearly cost of providing housing, medical and psychological services, case management, outpatient care, and other needed services to create stability for these particular individuals.

The Board recommends further analysis.

Comparing the current annual costs of incarcerated mentally ill indigent homeless population with the costs of providing housing, medical and psychological

services, case management, outpatient care and other stabilizing services will take approximately four months by the County Executive Office. All of the services suggested as stabilizing for the targeted homeless seriously mentally ill are currently available. Beyond the requested cost analysis, additional research may uncover additional strategies, best-practices or other evidence-based approaches that incentivizes ongoing use of the services.

Like the Civil Grand Jury, the Board recognizes the needs of and the multiple responses to the mentally ill homeless. This report and the findings provide additional information to assist in effective policy making. We appreciate the Grand Jury's concern and desire to offer solutions to this long-term need.

Sincerely,

Doreen Farr, Chair
Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors

Cc: Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors
Chandra Wallar, County Executive Officer
Bill Brown, Sheriff
Ann Detrick, Director, Alcohol, Drugs and Mental Health
Takashi Wada, Director, Public Health