

**Brianda Negrete** *Public Comment - Behavioral Wellness -*

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LATE  
DIST

**From:** Lynne Gibbs <gibbslyn2@gmail.com> *Group 2*  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 16, 2023 10:40 AM  
**To:** sbcob  
**Subject:** April 18th Statement, first Functional Group, Behavioral Wellness  
**Attachments:** BOS Statement Gibbs 2023 04 18.docx

**Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.**

Attached is my personal statement.  
Thank you,  
Lynne Gibbs

To: Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors

Date: April 16, 2023

Subject: Beds Not Cells

From: Lynne Gibbs, community member

Earlier this month, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisor passed a resolution to add another 500 secured treatment beds to the county's stock "to depopulate the county jails." Other counties have applied for secured treatment beds in the most recent phase of the Behavioral Health Continuum Infrastructure Program or BHCIP. Santa Barbara County passed on this opportunity in favor of asking for dollars for the design phase of the Calle Real campus to reproduce what we already have.

Our Community Corrections Partnership is sitting on a 15 million dollar reserve. More than 5 years ago, the CCP earmarked 3 million of that reserve for secured treatment beds. We have gone to their meetings for 5 years begging for a plan. Families ACT! has been advocating for BEDS NOT CELLS for many more years.

Given the 6 million dollar fine to the County, and the Disability Rights California lawsuits against the Dept. of State Hospitals and our county jail, no one can say we are saving money by keeping our loved ones with serious mental illness in the jail.

Treatment beds are an essential element of the mental health continuum of care. We have a severe shortage of inpatient acute hospital beds, longer-term subacute beds, and Adult Residential Facility ARF voluntary beds. California is offering huge sums of money. It simply is not enough to contract for 2 beds at the Marian Crisis Stabilization Unit, or discuss 20 ARF beds. We need to get serious or we could lose the opportunity to address our mental health treatment crisis. We CAN address it with the will to do so.

I urge you to support the NAMI / Families ACT! recommendations.

Thank you.

## Brianda Negrete

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**From:** Joan Ariel <joan.ariel@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 16, 2023 2:47 PM  
**To:** sbcob  
**Subject:** Support for Treatment NOT Jail for Persons with Mental Illnesses  
**Attachments:** Bd of Sups Treatment not Jail.docx

**Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.**

Dear Clerk of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors,

Please find attached my statement urging the Board of Supervisors to provide treatment beds not jail cells for people in our community (our neighbors!) who have serious mental illnesses. I strongly support the NAMI SBCO/Families ACT! statement that will be presented at the Board meeting on Tuesday, April 18th, 2023.

Thank you for including this in the record and conveying it to all members of the Board of Supervisors.

Sincerely,  
Joan Ariel  
540 Alegria Road  
Santa Barbara 93105

DATE: April 14, 2023  
TO: Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors  
FROM: Joan Ariel  
RE: Treatment NOT Jail

Honorable Supervisors Capps, Hartman, Lavagnino, Nelson, and Williams

As a constituent and active community member, I am writing to urge your support of the NAMI proposal to provide additional mental health treatment beds for people with serious mental health disorders NOT more jail cells. The punitive criminal justice system is no place for people who are ill and need effective treatment.

When my son was 21, he was diagnosed with Schizoaffective Disorder curtailing what had been a very successful academic career. Thankfully, he received very good care in Santa Barbara at Sanctuary Centers and has been doing very well in recent years. However, during his episodes of psychosis, he easily could have been swallowed up by the criminal justice system, especially if he had committed some infraction and been jailed rather than afforded the treatment he so desperately needed. Not only would this have been much more expensive than treatment, but it would also have completely derailed his positive life course.

NAMI Santa Barbara County has clearly presented the compelling rationale for treatment not jail in their statement that calls out both the need for additional beds as well as ongoing outpatient support and care for the most severely mental ill clients for whom incarceration does little more than exacerbate their condition and almost insures an unnecessarily high recidivism rate.

I urge you in the strongest possible terms to support the NAMI SBCO request including the following.

- Additional in-county acute care inpatient beds located at the Psychiatric Health Facility
- (PHF). PHF, in addition to Cottage and Marian hospitals need to be able to accommodate all county patients placed on 5150 crisis holds as well as those in crisis who seek assistance in emergency rooms. These people need inpatient treatment, not incarceration.
- Longer term treatment beds to insure that people with the most severe mental illness receive the level of treatment necessary for them to embark on the road to recovery. Funding for this would come from state coffers as well as the cost reduction associated with rebuild of the South County jail.
- Adoption of the Institution for Mental Diseases (IMD) EXCLUSION WAIVER once the state applies for and receives it which would allow for 30 days of MediCal reimbursement.

- Add more outpatient care and support for the most seriously mentally ill clients. We need to do everything possible to treat patients compassionately, help ease the transition from in-patient to outpatient care, and expand Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) and Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) to break the cycle of recidivism.

My son and his family were fortunate beyond words. We received excellent care and avoided contact with let alone incarceration in the criminal justice system. Mental illnesses are brain disorders, not character flaws or criminal tendencies, and like all illnesses need and deserve compassionate and consistent treatment to maximize the chances for recovery to say nothing of saving Santa Barbara County huge expenses entailed by rebuilding the South County Jail.

**Brianda Negrete**

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**From:** Jeffrey Shuman <jeffshu51@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 16, 2023 2:51 PM  
**To:** sbcob  
**Subject:** Beds not Cells  
**Attachments:** Jeff Shuman Testimony April 2023 edited.docx

**Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.**

To: Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors  
Date: April 16, 2023  
Subject: Beds Not Cells  
From: Jeffrey Shuman

Sent from my iPhone

I would like to cover 3 issues.

1st issue: there are not enough treatment beds available to have treatment on demand. My son is sitting in a jail cell as of today because there is not a bed available for him at CADA. His release date was the 10th if there was a bed available. He is 3rd on the list and a bed might not open up until mid-May. Not only does this force my son to spend extra days in custody but after one month in jail, my son loses his SSI.

2nd issue is that my son is dual diagnosis and the treatment facilities are not equipped to handle his mental issues. When he was 17 and first got in trouble, a psychiatrist wrote a letter to the judge that my son is not an addict but he uses drugs to treat his mental issues. If you would treat his mental issues then you will be treating his addiction. Also these facilities only allow for treatment for up to 90 days. I adopted my son and he was born drug addicted. He has been doing hard opioids since his was 17. He is now 35 years old. Do you really think that 90 days is a sufficient time for him to be consider recovered?

3rd issue- 90 days is not enough time. Probation and the courts have done this 3 times and now we are going for a 4th. There is no follow- though. Someone should be in charge of my son's progress at this point. He gets dumped on the street after 90 days instead of someone following his case and make sure there is aftercare, meetings and appropriate sober living. This causes my son to fall through the cracks and get lost. He has mental illness and he is treated like someone who has the capabilities to find a place to live. This never happens and he goes right back on drugs. He has been in the behavior heath system for about 6 months and he is still not on his right medication. If the county would have spent the money for proper treatment to begin with, he would not have about 5 felonies and multiple misdemeanors. He would have only one misdemeanor that could have been squashed. A good year-long program with psychological treatment and medication, plus treatment for drugs would have saved the county money. Instead tons of it was spent it on courts public defenders and probation. All departments are over- burdened with too many clients.

## Brianda Negrete

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**From:** ELLEN BROIDY <ejbroidy@ucla.edu>  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 16, 2023 2:57 PM  
**To:** sbcob  
**Subject:** Letter in support of Treatment Beds, Not Jail Cells  
**Attachments:** Treatment beds not jail cells.docx

**Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.**

Dear Clerk of the County Board of Supervisors,

Attached please find my letter urging the Board of Supervisors to take action to provide much needed treatment beds, not jail cells, for people in our community with serious mental illnesses who are caught up in the criminal justice system. I strongly urge the Board to support the NAMI/FAMILIES ACT! statement scheduled for presentation at your April 18, 2023 meeting.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter.

Sincerely,

Ellen Broidy  
540 Alegria Road  
Santa Barbara 93105



DATE: April 15, 2023  
TO: Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors  
FROM: Ellen Broidy, Alegria Road, SB 93105  
RE: Treatment Beds, Not Jail Cells

Honorable Supervisors Capps, Hartman, Lavagnino, Nelson, and Williams

I am writing in support of the creation of additional mental health treatment beds rather than more jail cells for people with serious mental health disorders caught up in the criminal justice system.

NAMI Santa Barbara County has clearly laid out the rationale for this in a statement that calls out both the need for additional beds as well as ongoing outpatient support and care for the most severely mental ill clients for whom incarceration does little more than exacerbate their condition and almost insures an unnecessarily high recidivism rate.

The NAMI SBCO request, which I wholehearted endorse, encompasses the following:

- Additional in-county acute care inpatient beds located at the Psychiatric Health Facility (PHF). PHF, in addition to Cottage and Marian hospitals need to be able to accommodate all county patients placed on 5150 crisis holds as well as those in crisis who seek assistance in emergency rooms. These people inpatient treatment, not incarceration.
- Longer term treatment beds to insure that people with the most severe mental illness receive the level of treatment necessary for them to embark on the road to recovery. Funding for this would come from state coffers as well as the cost reduction associated with rebuild of the South County jail.
- Adoption of the Institution for Mental Diseases (IMD) EXCLUSION WAIVER once the state applies for and receives it which would allow for 30 days of MediCal reimbursement.
- Add more outpatient care and support for the most seriously mentally ill clients. We need to do everything possible to treat patients compassionately, help ease the transition from in-patient to outpatient care, and expand Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) and Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) to break the cycle of recidivism.

As a community member who has experienced mental health challenges, both her own and those of family members, I am particularly sensitive to how people facing mental illness are treated. My family members and I are among the lucky ones. We received excellent (and healing) care and were never caught up in the criminal justice system. All people with mental illnesses deserve this level of treatment and compassionate, consistent whole person care.

## Brianda Negrete

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**From:** Suzanne Riordan <suzanne@familiesact.org>  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 16, 2023 7:04 PM  
**To:** sbcob  
**Subject:** Public Comment re Beds Not Cells

**Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.**

To: Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors  
Date: April 16, 2023  
Subject: Beds Not Cells  
Name: Withheld to protect privacy

My son is currently in our South County Jail for violating Parole and Probation. His charge was related to getting into a running car to warm up from a night in the cold. I assert that homelessness can generate "crimes" just to get off the street.

I believe that residential treatment beds are a solution to chronic homelessness for the mentally challenged.

Please consider funding such to reduce crime and resolve a portion of the homelessness problem beyond just offering a sober living home which is not equipped to handle this population's needs.

Thank you

Thank you

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Stop the Revolving Door! **Beds Not Cells!**

Suzanne Riordan  
Executive Director  
Families ACT!  
[www.FamiliesACT.org](http://www.FamiliesACT.org)  
805-637-1339

## Brianda Negrete

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**From:** Guillermo Nunez <nunezw2@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 16, 2023 9:21 PM  
**To:** sbcob  
**Subject:** Guillermo Nunez Public Comment April 2023  
**Attachments:** Guillermo Nunez Public Comment April 2023.docx

**Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.**

We are Maria Santos Nunez and husband Guillermo Nunez. Together we have been lifelong advocates in favor of those who suffer from mental illness. We would like to take this opportunity to first express our most since gratitude for allowing us to state our testimony and personal experience with the hopes it will help correct gaps and deficiencies within the criminal justice system to better serve the needs of the mentally ill who have been incarcerated primarily as a consequence of their illness.

We are the parents of a 47-year-old son, Francisco Aledo, who suffers from chronic mental illness. Our story is long, and it is difficult to briefly summarize everything we have gone through. Since adolescence, Francisco has been battling an acute psychiatric disorder. It was not until his 18<sup>th</sup> birthday, soon after a series of exhaustive and in-depth evaluations, when our son was finally diagnosed with a chronic brain disease and declared an incapacitated person.

After a series of hospitalizations, and life on a roller coaster, together with periods of relative stability, , Francisco unexpectedly decided to leave home and our supervision to search for what he described to be his Taoist master in the city of San Francisco. He was with us in Miami, Florida when in June of 2016, he left to travel by himself cross country, in what we suspect was an attempt to run away from his internal conflicts only to discover they followed him wherever he went.

On route to his destination, he stopped over in Santa Barbara. Within days of arriving, a simple exchange of words with another individual, in front of the Santa Barbara library, escalated into an argument which led to his arrest. As far as we understand our son was not doing anything wrong. Francisco was instead minding his own business while quietly consumed in reading material when he crossed path with an indigent person twice his weight and size. For some unbeknownst reason there was a disrespectful exchange of words for a struggle over a pack of cigarettes that my son was carrying.

He was picked up by the SB police dept and jailed. Initially charged with disorderly conduct, and as is customary, the prosecutor started to stack up additional charges to further complicate and compound the situation. Unfortunately, at the time Francisco had not been taking his meds and was decompensating, which led to a rapid decline of his mental state. At the time no one knew he was suffering from mental illness, which might explain why he was initially treated as a delinquent. His condition became progressively worse, and although he was later determined to have well-documented history of acute mental illness, he remained in the Santa Barbara County jail for years without receiving treatment. Despite the urgency and efforts to get him transferred to a mental health facility, the response of the authorities was to continue adding on additional charges to the ones he already had. They placed the blame on him as if well-deserved punishment for his refusal to accept and take medication.

His court-appointed private attorney did very little to nothing to intervene on his behalf. He never once went to visit him in jail and, had it not been for our continued efforts, Francisco would have probably remained there for who knows how much longer. but eventually it took the criminal justice system months to finally accept that our son was truly a very sick young man and for this reason was sent to Atascadero State Hospital to get him restored and where he remained for less than 12 months receiving mega doses of psychotropic medication. In the end he was determined to be unrestorable because Francisco insisted that "God was his final arbiter" and later returned to the Main jail at Santa Barbara where he once again refused to take medication and his condition deteriorated.

During multiple visits at the SB jail, it was not at all unusual for staff to create needless obstacles for us to see him despite knowing that we were coming from out of state. However, Suzanne Riordan, from the advocacy group Families ACT! was able to reach supervisory staff Lt. Lammer who helped relax some of the rigidity typical of the penal environment. He proved to be sympathetic, aware of the many flaws and contradictions within the system, and the frustrations we repeatedly faced. His support, cordial, and cooperative demeanor most certainly helped us get through this ordeal while we figure out a way to get our son placed into another state hospital.

This time he remained at SBCJ for 15 months until placed at Metropolitan hospital in Norwalk, CA in September of 2019. Since his transfer, Francisco has demonstrated significant improvement and had it not been for effective treatment, this would not have been possible. Getting Francisco into a hospital was quite a challenge, however, despite the severity of the illness, and everyone collectively attempting to intervene on our son's behalf. Lt. Lammer and his staff, took the lead together with the mental health service provider Wellpath, to help overcome the many hurdles encountered. Custody Operations Chief Wasilewski was also proactive in helping the transfer to take place. He wanted to help Francisco get treatment during the more than two years he spent in the jail, even though for some reason Francisco was deemed not to "meet criteria" for transfer to the PHF.

Nevertheless, everyone's active role eventually paid off, and most certainly vital to alleviating the sense of hopelessness one feels when one is powerless to assist a sick family member who waits for an urgently needed hospital bed. They did their best not to be a hindrance but instead became part of the solution. Unfortunately, the complications of getting our son transferred to a state hospital were much more challenging than anticipated and, regardless of the diligence, all efforts at one point had been to no avail, until finally he was admitted to Metropolitan where he is today. or any other mental health facility should not have been so difficult despite the efforts of so many.

The second most important challenge is effective legal counsel. Our son has only had a private attorney who had been contracted by the public defender's office and our experience has not been a positive one. He initially doubted or questioned our son's mental health and exhibited a lack of zeal in defending our son. He did nothing more than show up in court and go through the motions. I believe the root cause of this attitude may be a lack of knowledge. Many legal counsels may be well versed in the law, but completely clueless about mental health. They simply don't understand the client's condition and therefore, do not emphasize the client's plight. We recently requested a change of counsel, but we went from bad to worse. The newly appointed attorney does not even pick up the phone, respond to messages and emails, despite multiple attempts to reach him. I don't know if this is intentional or not but it kind of makes you question the validity of the criminal justice system.

There is no question that my son is severely mentally ill with substantial impairments, which keeps him from being able to function normally and do any kind of gainful activity. Unfortunately, unlike medical ailments, victims of mental illness, because of its mostly behavioral nature, get very little if any sympathetic response from either society at large or the judicial system. Although the court's judgement is undoubtedly legally sound, what has transpired with my son is a perfect example and once again points to the tragic lack of understanding about mental illness throughout our nation. Francisco and people like him need to be promptly sent to a hospital, not locked up in a jail cell waiting for a hospital bed to become available. It appears to me as if the judicial system does not seem to fully grasp the extent and complexity of the issue and has allowed jails and prisons to become de facto mental asylums. Like my son, people with mental illness often spend far longer in jail waiting for their cases to be resolved, while that takes place, remain severely psychotic, and their condition continues to deteriorate.

Before he was sent to Metropolitan, Francisco was held in the Northwest unit at the Santa Barbara jail. Delusional and in a state of paranoia, he was experiencing hallucinations and hearing voices. This caused him to act up, be conflictive, unruly, combative, and disruptive. As a behavior modification, he was penalized and had privileges taken away with the false belief that this would be a deterrent or a persuasive force to improve behavior. While this method might be effective for the general population, it will only produce a completely opposite effect on the mentally ill. Instead, it only exacerbated his already dire mental health to make both his condition far worse than when he first got incarcerated.

As parents of a mentally ill person, we ask not to treat the mentally ill like criminals but rather as a person with a broken brain who without fault of their own are born with an incurable but treatable illness. It is without a doubt that with proper mental health intervention they will be able to successfully control the body and mind to achieve a satisfactory level of stability.

I hope to have shed some light and understanding into this matter to enable the system to make the changes it needs to achieve the best possible outcome for everyone's best interests. People with mental illness are among the most disadvantaged members of our society, and when they end up in the criminal justice system, they tend to fare worse than others. People with mental illness are less likely to make bail and more likely to face longer sentences. They are more likely to end up in solitary confinement, less likely to make parole and more likely to commit suicide. Let us spare further pain and suffering to the mentally ill and their families, needless burden on society and the state of California. The solution is Beds, Not Cells and a more robust continuum of care.

We are Maria Santos Nunez and husband Guillermo Nunez. Together have been lifelong advocates in favor of those who suffer from mental illness. We would like to take this opportunity to first express our most since gratitude for allowing us to state our testimony and personal experience with the hopes it will help correct gaps and deficiencies within the criminal justice system to better serve the needs of the mentally ill who have been incarcerated primarily as a consequence of their illness.

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After a series of hospitalizations, and life on a roller coaster, together with periods of relative stability, , Francisco unexpectedly decided to leave home and our supervision to search for what he described to be his Taoist master in the city of San Francisco. He was with us in Miami, Florida when in June of 2016, he left to travel by himself cross country, in what we suspect was an attempt to run away from his internal conflicts only to discover they followed him wherever he went.

On route to his destination, he stopped over in Santa Barbara. Within days of arriving, a simple exchange of words with another individual, in front of the Santa Barbara library, escalated into an argument which led to his arrest. As far as we understand our son was not doing anything wrong. Francisco was instead minding his own business while quietly consumed in reading material when he crossed path with an indigent person twice his weight and size. For some unbeknownst reason there was a disrespectful exchange of words for a struggle over a pack of cigarettes that my son was carrying.

He was picked up by the SB police dept and jailed. Initially charged with disorderly conduct, and as is customary, the prosecutor started to stack up additional charges to further complicate and compound the situation. Unfortunately, at the time Francisco had not been taking his meds and was decompensating, which led to a rapid decline of his mental state. At the time no one knew he was suffering from mental illness, which might explain why he was initially treated as a delinquent. His condition became progressively worse, and although he was later determined to have well-documented history of acute mental illness, he remained in the Santa Barbara County jail for years without receiving treatment. Despite the urgency and efforts to get him transferred to a mental health facility, the response of the authorities was to continue adding on additional charges to the ones he already had. They placed the blame on him as if well-deserved punishment for his refusal to accept and take medication.

His court-appointed private attorney did very little to nothing to intervene on his behalf. He never once went to visit him in jail and, had it not been for our continued efforts, Francisco would have probably remained there for who knows how much longer. but eventually it took the criminal justice system months to finally accept that our son was truly a very sick young man and for this reason was sent to Atascadero State Hospital to get him restored and where he remained for less than 12 months receiving mega doses of psychotropic medication. In the end he was determined to be unrestorable because Francisco insisted that "God was his final arbiter" and later returned to the Main jail at Santa Barbara where he once again refused to take medication and his condition deteriorated.

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Nevertheless, everyone's active role eventually paid off, and most certainly vital to alleviating the sense of hopelessness one feels when one is powerless to assist a sick family member who waits for an urgently needed hospital bed. They did their best not to be a hindrance but instead became part of the solution. Unfortunately, the complications of getting our son transferred to a state hospital were much more challenging than anticipated and, regardless of the diligence, all efforts at one point had been to no avail, until finally he was admitted to Metropolitan where he is today. or any other mental health facility should not have been so difficult despite the efforts of so many.

The second most important challenge is effective legal counsel. Our son has only had a private attorney who had been contracted by the public defender's office and our experience has not been a positive one. He initially doubted or questioned our son's mental health and exhibited a lack of zeal in defending our son. He did nothing more than show up in court and go through the motions. I believe the root cause of this attitude may be a lack of knowledge. Many legal counsels may be well versed in the law, but completely clueless about mental health. They simply don't understand the client's condition and therefore, do not emphasize the client's plight. We recently requested a change of counsel, but we went from bad to worse. The newly appointed attorney does not even pick up the phone, respond to messages and emails, despite multiple attempts to reach him. I don't know if this is intentional or not but it kind of makes you question the validity of the criminal justice system.

There is no question that my son is severely mentally ill with substantial impairments, which keeps him from being able to function normally and do any kind of gainful activity. Unfortunately, unlike medical ailments, victims of mental illness, because of its mostly behavioral nature, get very little if any sympathetic response from either society at large or the judicial system. Although the court's judgement is undoubtedly legally sound, what has transpired with my son is a perfect example and once again points to the tragic lack of understanding about mental illness throughout our nation. Francisco and people like him need to be promptly sent to a hospital, not locked up in a jail cell waiting for a hospital bed to become available. It appears to me as if the judicial system does not seem to fully grasp the extent and complexity of the issue and has allowed jails and prisons to become de facto mental asylums.

Like my son, people with mental illness often spend far longer in jail waiting for their cases to be resolved, while that takes place, remain severely psychotic, and their condition continues to deteriorate.

Before he was sent to Metropolitan, Francisco was held in the Northwest unit at the Santa Barbara jail. Delusional and in a state of paranoia, he was experiencing hallucinations and hearing voices. This caused him to act up, be conflictive, unruly, combative, and disruptive. As a behavior modification, he was penalized and had privileges taken away with the false belief that this would be a deterrent or a persuasive force to improve behavior. While this method might be effective for the general population, it will only produce a completely opposite effect on the mentally ill. Instead, it only exacerbated his already dire mental health to make both his condition far worse than when he first got incarcerated.

As parents of a mentally ill person, we ask not to treat the mentally ill like criminals but rather as a person with a broken brain who without fault of their own are born with an incurable but treatable illness. It is without a doubt that with proper mental health intervention they will be able to successfully control the body and mind to achieve a satisfactory level of stability.

I hope to have shed some light and understanding into this matter to enable the system to make the changes it needs to achieve the best possible outcome for everyone's best interests. People with mental illness are among the most disadvantaged members of our society, and when they end up in the criminal justice system, they tend to fare worse than others. People with mental illness are less likely to make bail and more likely to face longer sentences. They are more likely to end up in solitary confinement, less likely to make parole and more likely to commit suicide. Let us spare further pain and suffering to the mentally ill and their families, needless burden on society and the state of California. The solution is Beds, Not Cells and a more robust continuum of care.



## Brianda Negrete

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**From:** Sheri Rowe <sherilrowe@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 16, 2023 10:40 PM  
**To:** sbcob  
**Subject:** April 18th Statement, First Functional Group, Behavioral Wellness

**Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.**

To: Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors

Date: April 16, 2023

Subject: Beds Not Cells

From: Sheri Rowe

Casey was arrested September 9th 2021. A call was made to 911 for the crisis intervention team to come aid him when he became paranoid that he was being abducted and taken to Mexico to be enslaved. Instead no CIT showed and he was taken to jail.

His public defender quickly realized he was not able to advocate for himself and declared doubt. He was then found to be incompetent and therefore rotted in a VERY unhealthy jail environment whilst waiting for a bed at a state hospital. Our laws state that a person found incompetent to stand trial be placed within 28 days. That never occurred! Casey suffers from schizoaffective disorder and because of his anosia does not realize his grave disability. Because his reality is terribly skewed he's unable to understand his need for help.

He is severely delusional and paranoid, sometimes for good reason as he has been a victim of several heinous crimes while on the streets including sex trafficking, satanic ritual abuse, and on and on!

The streets is where he has spent the better part of the last 12 years, in and out of emergency rooms, psychiatric hospitals, 5150 holds and county jails. Because he has a "right" to live as he so call pleases he has not been helped. We his family have sought out help from every possible angle with little to no success because there are NO treatment beds.

I can tell you I've seen the numbers and the revolving door that he and so many thousands of others go in and out of is far more costly to our city county and state then it needs to be!

Emergency doctors and our sheriff's department are not trained to deal with mental health, and we are not making progress with this issue when we incarcerate mentally ill people rather than treat them.

Casey was released September 19th. 2022, more than a year after being arrested, that is crazy!

What's even more crazy is he pleaded no contest to a charged against his attorney's advice because he wanted out so badly.

To a crime he did not commit! He didn't have the ability to comprehend the gravity of the consequences of his plea deal...A felony strike. So wrong!

When released he was covered with several severe open wounds he said were tarantula bites from the spiders in his jail cell and his belly button was bleeding. What happened to my son while incarcerated in jail? I'll never know.

**Brianda Negrete**

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**From:** i n <spidermom50@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 16, 2023 11:50 PM  
**To:** sbcob  
**Subject:** Re: April 18th Statement, First Functional Group, Behavioral Wellness

**Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.**

On Sun, Apr 16, 2023, 11:20

To: Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors  
Date: April 16, 2023  
Subject: Beds Not Cells  
From: Isabel Nava

Please accept my Public Comment attached below.

## Brianda Negrete

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**From:** Paulette Greisner <pgreisner@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 17, 2023 11:54 AM  
**To:** sbcob  
**Subject:** April 18 Statement, First Functional Group, Behavioral Wellness

**Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.**

In March of 2021 my schizoaffective daughter (33) jumped off a freeway overpass "because it seemed like a short cut and a good idea". The spinal injury left her unable to walk again. After a lifelong struggle with co-occurring mental health and addiction issues that began in her teens, on November 17, 2021, the day before her commitment hearing, she overdosed and left us.

For such an affluent community, Santa Barbara has a woefully low level of support for mental health patients. My daughter spent many months of her life from 18 to her 30's in and out of custody. These stays lacked the mental health treatment that was needed, and she was subjected to violence and drugs.

More recently she benefited greatly from Crisis Co-Response, which reduced the high level of previous interaction with the legal system and custody. Unfortunately, she was often transferred on 51-50 to other cities where they could not connect her to local SB resources or didn't care about her. On some holds, she languished at the local overflow at Cottage, and was not placed before the hold expired. This became particularly problematic when she was wheelchair bound and was multiple times refused placement due to the added complications of her disability.

There is a dire need to  
Increase the number of psychiatric inpatient beds,  
Create appropriate alternatives to custody, and  
Make non-custodial treatment available to all conform to ADA regulations.

Paulette Greisner

**Brianda Negrete**

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**From:** Barbara Murray <serenitycatcher@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 17, 2023 12:19 PM  
**To:** sbcob  
**Subject:** "April 18 Statement, First Functional Group, Behavioral Wellness"

**Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.**

**My daughter Heather has been incarcerated twice for a total of 2 years which has exacerbated her mental illness. She is currently been declared incompetent and will be going back to jail because all the mental facilities don't have available beds. In her delusional state she refuses all assistance. This revolving situation has to change! When the system fails the parents are strapped with trying to help their loved ones survival. If they have anyone who cares! I am overwhelmed and failing to support her needs. What kind of people are we that throw away their most vulnerable people! We treat our animals much better!**

**Sincerely**

**Barbara Murray**

## Brianda Negrete

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**From:** Monica Nunez <mnunezzz777@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 17, 2023 1:31 PM  
**To:** sbcob  
**Subject:** Fwd: April 18th Statement, First Functional Group, Behavioral Wellness  
**Attachments:** Monica Nunez - Beds Not Cells - April 2023.docx

Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.

>  
>  
> Please accept my Public Comment, attached.  
>  
> Thank You  
>  
> Monica Nunez  
>  
>  
>

To: Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors  
Date: April 17, 2023  
Subject: Beds Not Cells  
From: Monica Nunez

My name is Monica Nunez. I am the mother of Joel Campos who was diagnosed with schizophrenia. In 2018, however, he had landed a job as a dishwasher at Roy's Café. He loved his job, and we were so proud of him. One day, however, Joel attended a party where something terrible happened. Joel was falsely accused of a murder. He spent four long years in the Santa Barbara County Jail before he was exonerated and released. He emerged fearful, defeated and his spirit broken. They failed Joel physically, mentally and spiritually! His needs—including medical and mental health needs—were ignored for four long years while he sat in an isolation cell, especially during the pandemic, when the jail was very short staffed. In 2018 Joel was found Incompetent to Stand Trial and sent to Atascadero State Hospital. In late August, 2019 he attempted to take his own life in the jail. I overheard a mention of this in the courtroom when I attended his hearing. When I asked to see my son I was told he was sedated and strapped down. A few weeks later he was taken to the PHF Unit from the jail in a wheelchair. When I visited him there briefly, he was un-showered, emaciated and paranoid.

Phone calls and letters from him with his beautiful colorings to us ended. After the Covid crisis, when visitation was reinstated, I went to the jail at every visitation time only to be told that my son was denying visits. All of my efforts to protect him in the courtroom and in the jail fell on deaf ears. My pleas were ignored by the DA, by his court-appointed Defender, Doug Hayes, by jail personnel and by Wellpath.

As a family we all suffered, not just Joel, because it is crucial for families to be involved in a loved one's treatment for it to be successful. We were completely excluded, left in the dark, and for months and months had no word from him or about him. I cannot describe the helplessness of not being able to intervene and of being completely ignored when asking for help for your child. I have nightmares to this day of my son crying out in vain for intervention and help. Everyone has the right to be uplifted and treated with respect and dignity!

In 2022 Joel was released from the jail with no paperwork, no medication, no follow-up for his mental health care and no connection to community resources. When he returned home, I could see how traumatized he was. He had been severely traumatized and trusted no one.

His experience in the Santa Barbara Main Jail on false charges sucked the life out of him. What happened to Joel was cruel and unjust. Families ACT! has helped me find my voice and I am going to use it to try to help my son, to tell our story and to help change Santa Barbara County's mental health and criminal justice systems so that this will not happen to anyone else's loved ones ever again.

## Brianda Negrete

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**From:** Donald Casebolt <doncasebolt@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 17, 2023 3:13 PM  
**To:** sbcob  
**Subject:** "April 18 Statement, First Functional Group, Behavioral Wellness"

**Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.**

I am Donald Casebolt. I am writing on behalf of my wife, Mary Ann Casebolt, and my daughter Sabrina Casebolt. Sabrina contracted a severe mental illness called schizophrenia in her early twenties. This causes her to be delusional and act in strange ways, so bizarre that police have suspected that she was taking illegal, mind-altering drugs. She was arrested because police suspected her of driving while on mind-altering drugs.

She was found to be ***incompetent to stand trial (IST)*** by two court appointed psychiatrists and jailed in Santa Barbara for about 2 months because there were no inpatient beds. She was terrified in jail because she could not understand why she was incarcerated. When we drove two hours round trip to visit her in jail, she pleaded with us to get her released. It was only after she was in a locked psychiatric hospital that she had to submit to injectable, long-acting, anti-psychotic medication. This made her sane again but she becomes psychotic and delusional every time she quits taking medication. She has attempted suicide twice.

Due to her bizarre behaviors she is now homeless. Her schizophrenia severely damages her social skills. As a homeless female, she is subject to predatory sexual abuse. She is INCOMPETENT TO STAND TRIAL yet our medico-legal system presumes that she is competent to make life-and-death medical decisions—simply because she is an adult. In purportedly safeguarding their civil rights, our de facto policy for treating INCOMPETENT, severely mentally ill persons is to incarcerate them or condemn them to homelessness.

For decades all the financial incentives are slanted against spending money for either hospital beds or community based residential treatment.

Nobody advocates jail or homelessness as a treatment for cancer or heart-attacks. It is just as absurd treating the severely mentally ill with jail and homelessness. **Schizophrenia and Bi-polar disease are like having cancer of the brain.** It should be treated as soon as possible. What we actually do is let their brains rot until they are so ill that they attempt to kill themselves or others before we intervene.

Let's quit neglecting persons with cancer of the brain. Let's spend some money on humane care instead of jail and homelessness expenses.

Don Casebolt