

Downie, Chelsea

From: Paulina Conn <pconnt43@cox.net>
Sent: Wednesday, June 13, 2012 3:58 PM
To: Lavagnino, Steve; SupervisorCarbajal; sbcob; Wolf, Janet; Farr, Doreen; Gray, Joni
Subject: budget cuts to human services

Dear Board of Supervisors,

I am really sorry that so much that deals with health care is falling so heavily on the shoulders of local communities and especially counties including Santa Barbara County.

I hope you will do your utmost to save these funds from the chopping block. Human services are the most humane and least expensive way of dealing with these health issues.

If you had the courage, it is time to advocate for and become an endorser of a single-payer health care system such as SB 810, the California Universal Health Care Act that was authored by Senator Leno in California and the national single-payer, HR 676 sponsored by Representative John Conyers. By integrating and consolidating all health care costs under one administrative umbrella, all people who need help are served without prejudice and all costs are lower. I am sorry to say, the Affordable Care Act will not fix the problems for counties or families. In fact County costs may go up. With the ACA there are no cost controls. Too many people (undocumented and others that the county serves) continue to be uncovered. Because out-of-pocket (uncovered) costs are as high as 40% in the "bronze" plan, families will still go bankrupt by medical bills and may well land in the human services division of the county.

It is time for the Board of Supervisors to step up to the plate and demand social and health care justice for all. Sending people to jail for substance abuse and mental health problems is much more costly and inhumane than keeping them in more helpful and less restrictive care facilities.

Please learn about the advantage of single-payer health care -- publicly administered and privately delivered health care including mental health and substance abuse care and in-home supportive service. We need to start this serious conversation. The discriminatory practices of current health care is outrageous in a supposedly civilized society that is also very wealthy.

What is single-payer?

A true, well designed single-payer health care plan is not an HMO. All delivery of care stays as is. Single-payer has a single insurer (preferably public so it's answerable to the people and you don't have new oversight bureaucracy), one health plan (the same comprehensive one for everyone), and one negotiator of fees for services and equipment (the public health plan provider). The savings come from the single non-profit, completely pre-paid plan with 100% of the population enrolled and the negotiated fees. The freedom comes for the patient by being able to choose any private doctor and getting care when needed. The advantage and savings for the doctor, hospital and other health care professionals come from having only one health plan to deal with and the knowledge that all your services are paid for for all patients with payments that you have negotiated and agreed to. Independent, academic studies by the GAO, CBO, California, Vermont, New York , Maryland, Minnesota, etc. have all shown billions of dollars in savings and high quality care.

The single-payer is the single trust fund that pays all the health care bills for everyone (because we have all paid in) and into which all health care money is deposited from all sources including the 50% to 60% that currently is paid for by government such as Medicare and Medicaid. With a single risk pool the costs of care are distributed equitably amongst everyone by ability to pay not by harmful discriminatory methods such as age, illness and where you live the way the private health insurance industry calculates premiums. With a single-payer you have the security of being able to access the health care system when you need it because you have prepaid. Currently many people with private insurance fear their health care bills won't be paid adequately or at all by their insurance company because the policy is unclear or their deductibles are too large. That fear goes away under a single-payer system because your plan is comprehensive for all medically needed care, is paid for and clearly explained, and equal for everyone. The costs for governments go down too because all public employees and private contractors have the same plan. For counties the costs for the indigent go down because the federal and state resources are distributed more equitably. The homeless are included in the single-payer plan.

Please learn more at healthcareforall.org and pnhp.org

Sincerely,

Paulina Conn (1st district)
2612 Foothill Rd. Santa Barbara, CA 93105
805 682-5183

Lee-Rodriguez, Nicole

From: roslynjean@aol.com
Sent: Tuesday, June 12, 2012 11:03 PM
Subject: Budget Hearing and Funding
Attachments: Budget_Hearing_Schedule.pdf; 6.12_Budget_Homeless_Coordinator-Slide_Updated.ppt

I work as a case manager and homeless outreach worker with WillBridge of Santa Barbara, a non-profit agency providing transitional housing to vulnerable, chronically homeless, mentally ill individuals. I am very concerned about possible budget cuts that can affect our residents.

Several of our residents rely on Propay to manage their Social Security monies so that their basic costs of living are covered. They depend on Propay to make sure they have a roof over their head, enough food to eat, obtain medical and mental health assistance, and access other services to live a normal life. They cannot budget their monies themselves and would fall through the cracks quickly without this support.

As you consider the difficult decisions you must make about our County's budget this week, I request that you do not cut the following:

- Homeless-related contracts
- Acute Psychiatric inpatient beds
- Veterans Services Representative
- Propay (Representative Payee Trust Fund Program)
- Human Services Commission

Also, please support the Homeless Coordinator Partnership funding. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Roslyn Scheuerman,
Case Manager/Homeless Outreach Worker

Homeless Coordinator – Partnership Funding

- \$75,000 County contribution requested
- \$75,000 City of Santa Barbara contribution
- Supports new consolidated Homeless Structure
- Works directly with Executive Committee
- Housed within a Community Non-profit
- Support of Leadership and Executive Committees
- Coordinates planning and implementation of leadership priorities
- Overall cost savings to the County



LATE
DIST

June 8, 2012

District _____ Supervisor, Name _____

County of Santa Barbara

105 East Anapamu Street

Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Dear Supervisor _____

On behalf of everyone associated with Catholic Charities and its programs and services, we are asking you in your kindness to please restore the \$1.2 million in funds to the 2012-2013 budget for grant funding for the nonprofit sector through the County's Human Services Commission. Likewise, we would strongly urge a return to a permanent budget line item rather than one-time only funding.

In its current fiscal year ending June 30, 2012, Catholic Charities region-wide will have provided critical emergency direct services (case-managed food distribution, rental/utility financial assistance, and free clothing/household items from its 2 thrift stores to its clients and other community-based non-profits) to over 39,800 unduplicated low-income qualifying persons and provided over 12,550 families the opportunity to keep their respective households intact.

Eliminating funding does not equal an elimination of need. Human Services funding represents the kind of strategic and fiscally advantageous investment the County should do more of, not eliminate. There are a number of reasons to restore this funding.

First, and foremost, non-profit agencies provide an array of "front-line" emergency services to County residents. These services greatly aid cities and counties by providing services that are of critical importance in keeping families and our dependent and vulnerable aging adults comfortable and safe in their homes rather than in costly governmental supported institutions.

Non profit agencies provide an array of preventive and early intervention services that ensure vulnerable populations to be nurtured with a veritable safety net of services. In many instances, the provision of such services by community agencies means that the

County does not have to provide a mandated service, thus saving the County substantial dollars.

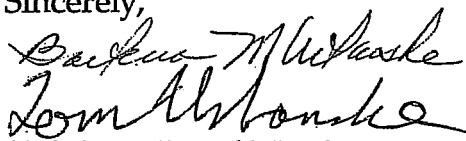
Nonprofit agencies provide the most "bang for the buck", leveraging donated dollars, drawing down other local, state and federal funding, and using volunteers. Non profits have the proven ability to deliver disproportionately higher benefits with more efficiency and at a lower cost.

Non profits leverage substantial support from individuals, corporations, and private foundations. This leverage involves many faces in the community and builds community support for resolving community problems. This support means that innovative projects can be undertaken to ensure that unmet needs are addressed.

The elimination of this funding would not just eliminate the critical services "safety net" upon which our most vulnerable populations depend, but also undermines the long - term solutions involving non profits and philanthropic partners which are critical to successful outcomes and collective impact for our County.

In conclusion, we hope that you will agree that the public/private partnership in Santa Barbara County is one worth sustaining. We ask that Human Services Commission funding be restored and preserved at its current level.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Tom Alton".

(Advisory Board Member signs, and emails this letter to the appropriate Board of Supervisor in your District.)

Lee-Rodriguez, Nicole

From: Petra Lowen <plowen@ilrc-trico.org>
Sent: Tuesday, June 12, 2012 4:27 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: Proposed cuts to mental health and veterans services

Dear County Board of Supervisors!

The budget hearings tomorrow deal with veterans services and mental health services. The Independent Living Resource Center serves individuals with any kind of disabilities, including mental health disabilities and many veterans have disabilities. We are therefore very concerned about the proposed elimination of one veterans services representative and the closure of the Santa Barbara and Lompoc office.

In addition we are afraid that elimination of the propay program may very well lead to homelessness or increased involuntary hospitalizations which in turn will incur higher costs for the County.

We are also very concerned about the proposed reduction of homeless related contracts and reduction of beds in acute psychiatric facilities.

We are aware that balancing the budget may be more difficult than it has ever been. However, we urge you to consider the very urgent and basic needs of veterans and mentally ill individuals and find a way to continue to fund these vital programs.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Best regards,

Petra Lowen
Community Living Advocate

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Petra Lowen
Community Living Advocate
423 W. Victoria St.
Santa Barbara CA 93101
805.963.0595 x101

plowen@ilrc-trico.org
www.ilrc-trico.org

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June 13, 2012

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TO: Supervisor Lavagnino

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Jill Dexter

FAX NO.: (805) 346-8404

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FROM: Nancy Miller

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June 13, 2012

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Via Email and Facsimile
Steve.lavagnino@countyofsb.org
(805) 346-8404

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Dear Supervisor Lavagnino:

TREASURER
Jill Dexter

Re: Support for Funding Vital County Programs

COMMUNICATIONS
Emily Allen

Democratic Women of Santa Barbara County has been a chartered club of the California Democratic Party for over 40 years. We are concerned with budget cuts that would impact Veterans and the poorest and most vulnerable in our County. Our Executive Committee unanimously requests that you restore funding for:

MEMBERS
Laura Benson
Marty Blum
EJ Borah
September Bowman
Dianne Channing
Jennifer Cooper
Darcel Elliott
Jane Ellison
Stephanie Langsdorf
Amanda Pelch
Mary Ellen Wylie

- The Human Services Commission: programs designed to help the poorest and most vulnerable with basics such as food and shelter.
- The Veterans Representative: Assists County Veterans in obtaining their benefits from the VA.
- ProPay (Representative Payee Trust Fund Program): Serves clients who cannot manage their benefits due to mental illness.
- Beds in Acute Psychiatric Facilities: The impact will be patients staying longer in the Santa Barbara County Psychiatric Health Facility, which will increase the wait time (over 24 hours) for people in acute psychiatric crisis at hospital emergency rooms and the jail. This will cause delays in people receiving the appropriate level of mental health treatment.
- Homeless related contracts: reduction of bed nights available and supportive services provided to clients.

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Supervisor Lavagnino
June 13, 2012
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Eliminating or reducing these programs will have negative results throughout our community.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Nancy Miller
Nancy Miller
President
Democratic Women of Santa Barbara County