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Ramirez, Angelica

Public Comment - Group 1

LATE
DIST

From: Davenport, Michael - 14 <michael.davenport@rainhail.com>
Sent: Friday, April 17, 2020 5:24 PM
To: sbcob
Cc: Williams, Das; Hart, Gregg; Hartmann, Joan; Adam, Peter; Lavagnino, Steve
Subject: RE: PUBLIC COMMENT FOR BOARD OF SUPERVISORS HEARING OF APRIL 21ST, ITEM D-1; 20-00281.
Attachments: Dear Honorable Members of the Board of Supervisors.pdf

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 Board,

Please accept the following attachment for public comment and place in the record for Item D-1; 20-00281. I am resubmitting these comments from last week for the record.

Thank You,

Michael J. Davenport
2110 Alisos Drive
Santa Barbara, CA 33108

April 13, 2020

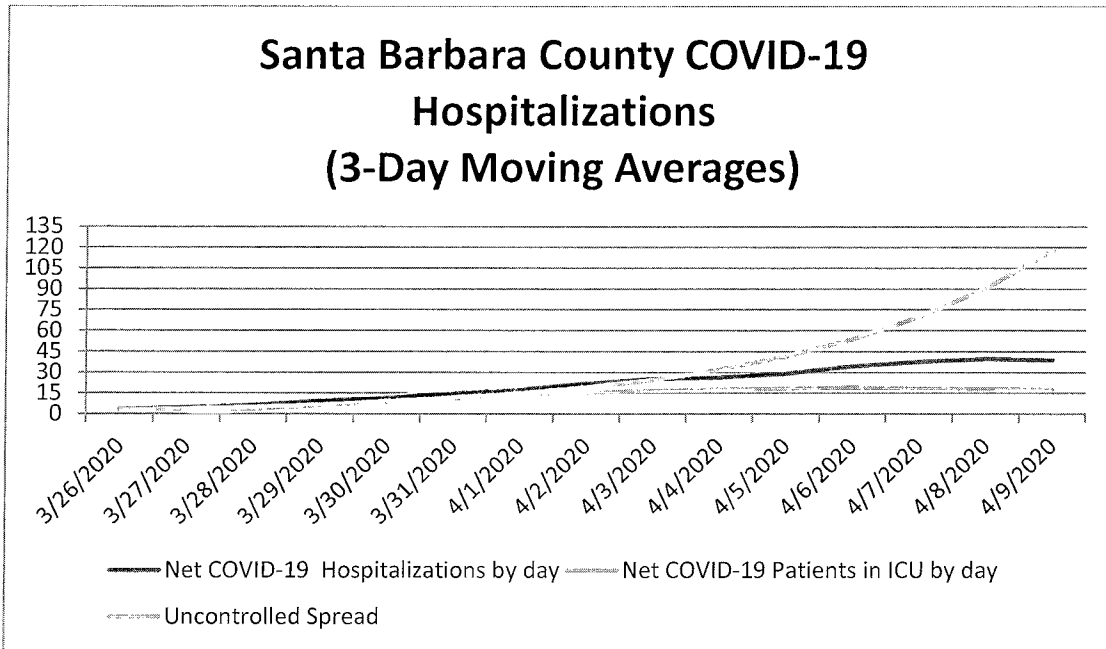
Public Comment for Board of Supervisors Meeting on April 14th, Item No. D-1; 20-00262

Dear Honorable Members of the Board of Supervisors,

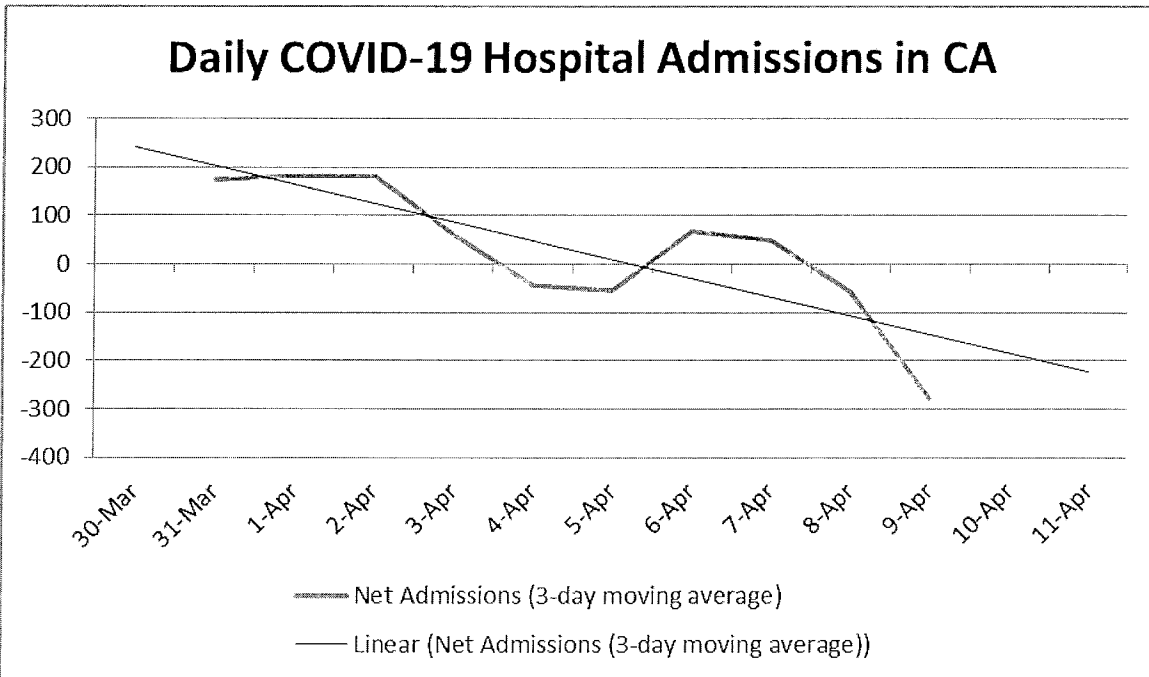
It is heartening to see the way our community has worked together to avert a major outbreak of COVID-19 in Santa Barbara. Now is the time to begin a planning process to safely re-open the Santa Barbara economy and society as soon as possible. By continuing the stay at home order, we are on the precipice of creating emotional and physical health, social and economic harms that could rival those we have sacrificed to avoid. We must set a goal of gradually transitioning to our new lower level of abnormal no later than May 1st. If Sacramento will not take the lead, then we must. Too much is at stake in our precious and now fragile community.

Santa Barbara, along with the rest of the State of California, has proven that social distancing, implemented well before the State mandate, has worked. We know now, as one member of our community has predicted for weeks, that our healthcare capacity is far from being overwhelmed by COVID-19 patients. Governor Newsom issued his unprecedented stay at home order on the basis of a prediction that California would need 50,000 hospital beds to treat critically ill COVID-19 patients. The current data has since shown that California actually needed less than 6,000 beds to meet the worst of the pandemic, and has at least 16,500 more beds, not including the USS Mercy, to handle COVID-19 cases in the future.

Here at home, Santa Barbara County has 376 available beds, plus additional surge capacity, to treat COVID-19 patients. As of April 11th, the total bed census for COVID-19 was at 39, 10 of which are from the federal Lompoc Prison outbreak, with no risk of community transmission. Even including the prisoner patients, hospital bed census for COVID-10 is roughly at 10% of capacity. The County has been stable with between 35 and 42 beds utilized for COVID-19 patients for the past several days. See below chart prepared by Brian Goebel.



The actual data for the State of California demonstrates that hospital admissions for COVID-19 have significantly dropped and are on a continuing downward trend. Soon we will not even need 6000 beds as discharges outnumber new admissions (the number of beds actually needed during the pandemic appears to have been likely much lower in light of new data). We have the healthcare capacity required to execute a sensible public health strategy that carries far fewer collateral costs. See below chart prepared by Brian Goebel.



It is incumbent upon the Board of Supervisors to take charge and lead rather than wait and respond to Sacramento. There has been no cost/benefit analysis as to the number of lives that will be permanently harmed as a result of the stay at home order – people foregoing critical medical screenings that would detect cancer and other fatal diseases, thousands of other thrust into poverty, depression, and addiction. Nor has there been any analysis as to the detriment on school-aged children’s education and physical and mental health. Lay-offs and furloughs are commonplace, including from healthcare facilities such as Sansum Medical Clinic, which furloughed about 50% of its workforce. Reports of domestic abuse are up. If we do not reopen during May, the extended closure will exact a toll on our community never seen in our lifetime and the course of a vicious downward spiral will be fully mapped.

We must lead. Now is the time to create and execute a plan to change the trajectory our community is on. We urge you to do so.

Respectfully,

Michael Davenport
2110 Alisos Drive
Santa Barbara, CA

Ramirez, Angelica

From: CORI HAYMAN <corihayman@cox.net>
Sent: Sunday, April 19, 2020 12:13 PM
To: sbcob
Cc: Williams, Das; Hart, Gregg; Hartmann, Joan; Adam, Peter; Lavagnino, Steve
Subject: Public Comment for 4/21 BoS Hearing re: COVID-19; Item D-1; 20-00281
Attachments: Members of the Board of Supervisors4.pdf; April 16, 2020 Webinar Slides.webloc; ATT00001.txt

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Dear Clerk of Board,

Attached for submission to the record, please find public comment for the above-referenced Board of Supervisors hearing.

I would greatly appreciate a reply confirmation of receipt.

Thank you,

Cori Hayman.

April 19th, 2020

Board of Supervisors Hearing, April 21st, 2020; Item D-1; 20-00281

Dear Chair Hart and Members of the Board of Supervisors,

The Board Must Immediately Implement Appropriate Safety Guidelines Consistent with Governor Newsom's Six Criteria and Re-Open the Economy and Society

The Board of Supervisors need not, and cannot, wait for Governor Newsom to decide when to lift the stay at home order as it applies to Santa Barbara County. The economic and social pandemic we are now facing renders the current stay at home order unsustainable, if not outright catastrophic. The Board of Supervisors must therefore lead us out of this crisis by implementing relevant public health measures consistent with the six criteria and open the economy and society.

The Legal and Policy Bases for the Stay at Home Order No Longer Exist

The basis for the stay at home order was to ensure adequate hospital capacity to treat COVID-19 patients. When the Governor issued the stay at home order, his office predicted a need of 50,000 hospital beds for COVID-19 throughout the State. The current data reflect that the State needed about 6,000 beds at the peak. As to Santa Barbara County, our hospitals are currently treating 41 COVID-19 patients, 14 of which are from the Federal Lompoc Prison outbreak (no risk of community transmission).¹ The County, along with our Congressional leaders, have made clear that the Federal Bureau of Prisons will construct a field hospital on site and provide additional federal resources within the next couple of weeks, thereby alleviating pressure on our community

¹ As of April 18th.

healthcare system. Even with the prisoner population, however, COVID-19 patients represent just over 10% of the available capacity (376 beds), not including additional surge availability. There is excess capacity at the hospitals in the County (and the State).

Beyond ample healthcare capacity, there are additional reasons to lift the extraordinary stay at home order. As you undoubtedly know, the Stanford serology study in Santa Clara County preliminarily found that 2.5-4.2% of the population had been infected with COVID-19, equating to 50-80x the number of confirmed cases. The significance of this finding is that the fatality rate is much lower than previously thought, between 0.12 to 0.2%, as opposed to the assumed death rate of 3%. If we are to be guided by science and data, then our public health measures must now be recalibrated to reflect this much better understanding of the true severity of the virus.

The goal and objective of the stay at home order have been met by a large margin. Our County made significant sacrifices, in many cases irreparable, to comply with the Governor's orders. These sacrifices, many of which are causing great financial hardship and suffering, are nonetheless continuing daily even though the legal and policy bases supporting the stay at home order no longer exist.

The Collateral Consequences of the Stay at Home Order are Catastrophic for our County

We are now facing an unprecedented "pandemic-induced recession." On April 16, the UCSB Economic Forecast Project: COVID-19 Impacts on Local Tourism, Hospitality, and Business Lending provided devastating data on the impacts and projections for Santa Barbara in its largest industry with a continuing stay at home order in place. Some of the highlights are as follows:

- Santa Barbara projected unemployment by June to reach between 15-30%, with the majority in the leisure and hospitality industry; affecting mostly workers who already are in the lower income sector
- Santa Barbara restaurant sector (18,095 employees) projected 60-80% job loss, accounting for 8.7% of all industry employment; loss wages of \$103,822,726 no longer in our economy; 50% of tourism and hospitality jobs are in the restaurant industry
 - In California, projected that 30% of all restaurants will permanently close due to crisis
- Santa Barbara travel demand has dropped 81%
 - 52% of all travel industry employment projected to be lost
 - 7.1% of total unemployment rate will be from travel related losses.²

The economy is in a free-fall and the Board of Supervisors must take the reins and lead Santa Barbara out of this crisis. Each day under the current regime forces people further into financial despair and poverty, which we know will negatively impact public health going forward. We cannot wait any longer. It is therefore incumbent upon the Board of Supervisors to immediately develop a plan, consistent with Governor Newsom's criteria, and issue an order easing restrictions, thereby re-opening the economy and society.³

Governor Newsom's Criteria

Broadly, the Board of Supervisors needs to devise guidelines that:

² Attached hereto are copies of the slides from the presentation; the webinar can be found at www.efp.ucsb.edu.

³ Ventura County has already begun easing restrictions.

- Protect high risk groups, including seniors, the medically vulnerable and people in facilities like nursing homes;
- Support social distancing in businesses and schools; and,⁴
- Expand testing as appropriate for our County.⁵

Draft Letter to Governor Newsom Requesting Funds

I encourage the Board to approve the draft letter to Governor Newsom requesting funds lost due to the stay at home order. Please note that these funds do not reimburse the thousands of residents who are suffering significant financial hardship from the stay at home order. Therefore, the County must also issue an order easing restrictions to re-open the economy and society.

The Brown Act and Need for Expedited Board Action

The Board's schedule of once weekly meetings is unable to keep up with the rapidly changing pandemic and economic crisis. Given the continuing financial and societal downward spiral, I urge the Board to schedule daily special meetings on COVID-19 until it issues an order to re-open the economy and society.

⁴ While not squarely within the jurisdiction of the Board of Supervisors, it is essential to allow children to return to school and participate in upcoming summer programs. Working parents may not be in a position to return to work with school-aged children at home. This is consistent with the Governor's current stay at home order, allowing working parents of essential services to send their children to school and daycare facilities.

⁵ Governor Newsom's criteria also lists developing therapies. Although we do not need to wait for therapies to be approved by the FDA in order to transition out of the stay at home order, there are numerous developing therapies including Remdesivir, convalescent plasma, hydroxychloroquine, and others that could further accelerate our ability to return to greater normalcy like the results of the Stanford serology study. Also, please reference discussion by Dr. Lynn Fitzgibbons in attached slides as to our high quality healthcare system's continuing improvement in treating COVID-19.

I would like to thank you for your continuing leadership throughout the COVID-19 crisis.

Thank you for your consideration.

Cori Hayman.