

de la Guerra, Sheila

Public Comment - Public Safety Group 4

From: Renee ONeill <chasingstar2701@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, June 7, 2021 4:26 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: Letter for Budget Hearing
Attachments: Go Fund Our Sheriffs, Please!.pdf

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Hi Angelica,

When I just looked at public comment, I did not see the letter I sent on June 4th. Have I overlooked something? I attached it again... It's similar to the letter that is in group I, re Public Safety.

Talk to you tomorrow....

Best Regards,

Renée O'Neill

To the Editor,

We would like to submit our Open Letter (edited) to the Board of Supervisors for publication:

Dear Supervisors,

In 2019, when the cannabis tax was approved by voters, the Board of Supervisors promised to “use the majority of cannabis revenue to fund departments and agencies that oversee regulating and enforcing the cannabis industry.” At the cannabis industry’s request, you adopted a revenue standard of “self-declaring” rather than the industry standard of taxing cannabis by acreage or foot.

For the past three years, an underfunded and understaffed Cannabis Team, comprised of 1 Lead Detective, 5 Deputy Detectives and 1 Administrative Staff (civilian), have had the prime directive of enforcement for the cannabis industry in SBC. In addition to being assigned enforcement on ALL cannabis growers in the entire County, they have now been assigned the duties of overseeing licensing (without additional funding or staff), previously assigned to the Planning Department. Furthermore, coming down the pipeline, there are multiple, huge and complex cannabis projects that will put even more demands upon the Team.

In April 2021, at the BOS Budget Workshops, Santa Barbara County Sheriff, Chief Deputy Bonner stated, **“The single, Cannabis Compliance Team that is presently available cannot simultaneously do both enforcement and licensing efficiently or effectively.”** *It was also reported that there are at least 21 suspected, illegal growers and dozens of illegal delivery services operating in our county that the Team was unable to investigate and/or enforce on.* Chief Deputy Bonner also stated, **“...that of the 108 growers, 50 percent claimed no income or did not file at all.”**

When a sufficiently funded and staffed Team is able to enforce the required tagging of plants then, they will have the data, necessary to compute growers’ income and discover who and how much revenue is being denied the County.

The tagging of plants provides the number of plants, which along with the going price of cannabis, at time of sale, will provide the income that the grower should report. By continuing to underfund the Team, SBC will never receive the revenue that these growers actually owe because you will never know what they are actually producing..., *unless* that is the intention. We strongly recommend that you provide the necessary funding for the Team to do the job you assigned them, which will ensure that growers are paying their full, fair share and therefore, provide the necessary funding to reimburse the county.

For the last three years, law enforcement and hundreds of residents and businesses have asked you to fully fund the Cannabis Compliance Team and you have refused. If you refuse to adequately fund them for a *fourth year in a row*, the voters of Santa Barbara demand to know **WHY?**

Respectfully,

Renée O’Neill
Linda Tunnell

de la Guerra, Sheila

From: Pamela Flynt Tambo <pambotambo@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 7, 2021 4:35 PM
To: sbcob; Williams, Das; Hart, Gregg; Hartmann, Joan; Nelson, Bob; Lavagnino, Steve
Subject: Letter for the BOS meeting on June 8, 2021
Attachments: Pam to BOS - Jail - 21-0608.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 see and distribute the attached letter for the BOS meeting tomorrow 6-8-21 regarding the funding and planning for the Main Jail renovation. Thank you for your assistance.

Pam Flynt Tambo

805.451.4340
pambotambo@gmail.com

We have a moral imperative to be hopeful.

- Mohsin Hamid
from an interview with Pico Iyer

June 5, 2021

TO: Das Williams, First District
Gregg Hart, Second District
Joan Hartmann, Third District
Bob Nelson, Fourth District and Chair
Steve Lavagnino, Fifth District

RE: Public Safety--South County Jail Possibilities

Dear Chair Nelson and Supervisors:

I do not support the funding for the Sheriff Department at this time to begin the Main Jail renovation. The plan to renovate the Main Jail is necessary in order to continue to use these buildings, but the Sheriff's apparent plan to use this property to greatly increase the total number of beds available to incarcerate people in this county is problematic. The Executive Summary for the June 8 meeting states the following:

"This project would be completed in two phases, with a total estimated cost of \$21 million. The RFQ for design was issued, and a consulting partner will be selected before the end of FY 2020-21. Funding of \$1.5 million is allocated in FY 2021-22 to begin the programming verification from the 2019 Implementation Plan, then complete design through construction documents, bidding and construction administration. With added review required due to the reduction of the facility population driven by the COVID-19 pandemic, the full renovation is anticipated to span through FY 2023-24."

Yes, it needs renovation, but we do not need to increase the total number of beds in our county jails after we were able to maintain a low in the 500s this past year. What are we thinking? Let's find other options. According to the Sheriff he wants more beds. According to the Executive Summary for the June 8 meeting there will be "...added review required..." Let's do that review.

What possibilities are there for a jail modeled on the Halden, Norway prisons in our South County: individual rooms and privacy, common areas, opportunities to plan and cook meals and housekeep, become involved in educational and vocational learning opportunities, perhaps even some community activities....where the loss is of one's freedom, but not one's sense of being in a community, a family-like setting, participating with others. There are people in our county community who support this and have studied options of incarceration that help inmates revisit their lives and their plans to become better citizens and family members when they return to society. Some of our Sheriff Department deputies have studied these systems. There are options to study this model both here in the U.S. and in other countries. We should be doing that—visiting those places in person and on the internet. What are we waiting for?

After the past year we surely know that it is time for reviewing and adjusting our public safety programs. Please stop planning to move ahead with a remodel of the current South County Jail as proposed by Sheriff Brown. What a great opportunity we have with land and structures that can be retrofitted and used to improve our system of incarceration and help our residents and citizens reinvent their lives and futures for a productive life when they return to society. Recidivism can be reduced when we figure out how to help people learn to live productive, satisfied lives.

We have some good beginnings with the programs started recently in the Public Defenders Department. Let's build on those—secure solid funding for those programs. Stop building jails and incarcerating people. Help our citizens and residents from birth, through school, into a healthy, productive adult lives. And when they fail: back up, get them into productive rehabilitation systems and programs so that they can get back on track for successful future lives.

Sincerely,

Pam Flynt Tambo
Certified Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor, retired

de la Guerra, Sheila

From: Denise Manriquez <DManriquez@t-mha.org>
Sent: Monday, June 7, 2021 4:41 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: Public Comment: Public Safety- Sherriff & Jail Budget
Attachments: PublicSafety2021PublicComment.pdf

Importance: High

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.

This email is submitted on behalf of the California LEAD Project's public comment on the Sherriff and Jail Budget

Respectfully in Service,

Denise Manriquez

(she/her/hers)

LEAD & Outreach Coordinator

Transitions-Mental Health Association

office: (805) 928-0139 fax: (805) 928-1410

dmanriquez@t-mha.org



Public Comment: Sheriff and Jail Budget

June 8th, 2021

Attention:

Board of Supervisor Das Williams
Board of Supervisor Gregg Hart
Board of Supervisor Joan Hartmann, Vice Chair
Board of Supervisor Bob Nelson, Chair
Board of Supervisor Steve Lavagnino

The California LEAD Project is a group of trained mental health advocates who use their lived experience and recovery to work on issues of equity and create political change in the policies that affect the quality of life for persons with mental illness who reside in Northern Santa Barbara County.

The California LEAD Project is calling for the continued reform of the Santa Barbara County Jail. As stipulated in the federal class-action lawsuit, Murray v. County of Santa Barbara, Case No. 2:17-cv-08805-GW-JPR (C.D. Cal.); LEAD Project request the following:

- 1.) To discontinue the overuse of solitary confinement, in particular for those living with psychiatric disabilities. We ask that the jail provide out-of-cell time and programming as specified in the Remedial Plan to the maximum extent possible
- 2.) Adequate mental health treatment services for those incarcerated in the jail as defined and protected by California Disability Rights Legislation. We ask that these treatments are accessible to every inmate **regardless of gender**. *There are current **ACTIVE** barriers for female inmates to access psychiatric treatment services and we ask that these barriers be addressed and removed immediately*
- 3.) Population Reduction continues to be a priority post COVID-19 Pandemic with a percentage of money from the Public Safety budget to be placed into diversion programs to keep individual living with psychiatric disabilities and those from marginalized communities out of the revolving door of incarceration

As community members and voters, we are writing this statement for the record to hold the Board of Supervisors and the Sheriff's office accountable for making these reforms to Santa Barbara County Jail as this is a human rights issue. We are seeking a more equitable and fair justice system on behalf of all county residence including the most vulnerable among us.

Respectfully,

The California LEAD Project

(805) 540-9345

<https://www.californialeadproject.com/>



de la Guerra, Sheila

From: Suzanne Riordan <suzanne@familiesact.org>
Sent: Monday, June 7, 2021 6:39 PM
To: sbcob; Williams, Das; Hart, Gregg; Hartmann, Joan; Nelson, Bob; Lavagnino, Steve
Subject: Families ACT! Public Comment on Behavioral Wellness & Public Safety FY 21-22 Budgets
Attachments: Families ACT! Public Comment Budget 6.7.2021.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.

Attached please find our Public Comment on Budget Hearing of 6.8.21.

Thanks,

Suzanne

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Stop the Revolving Door! Beds Not Cells!

Suzanne Riordan
Executive Director
Families ACT!
www.FamiliesACT.org
805-637-1339



P.O. Box 2152, Santa Barbara, California
805-637-1339 | info@FamiliesACT.org
www.FamiliesACT.org

June 7th, 2021

RE: Proposed FY 21-22 Budgets for Behavioral Wellness and Public Safety Departments

Honorable County Supervisors,

As Santa Barbara County reviews the proposed budgets for FY 2021-22 we at Families ACT! note that much has been accomplished in recent years to divert people with behavioral health conditions from the revolving door of incarceration, homelessness and backlogged courts.

Thanks to the efforts of the Sheriff's Co-Response Team, the opening of the Credo 47 Sobering and the Championship centers, the new North County stabilization unit, and the creation of new alcohol and drug treatment beds and housing with supportive service units, many of our citizens are receiving the care they need and deserve. We are pleased to see that the County Jail Census has decreased and we agree with those who feel that this is an opportunity to redirect some of our County General Funds to diversion and treatment options for those who need help and not punishment.

The Public Defender's Office has stepped up to the plate to help people caught up in the criminal justice system to actually find support, rehabilitation and healing. Its passionate staff members are willing to go out of their way to overcome the bureaucratic red tape and the multiple Catch-22s in our patchwork of services to get help for their clients. They exemplify what is needed to actually stop the revolving door cycle, and we support the department's funding request.

Unfortunately, as a result of the pandemic, the need for inpatient mental health services has only increased. We are dismayed to see that the Behavioral Wellness Department is proposing a reduction in funding for mental health inpatient beds, despite the fact that the number of patients showing up at Cottage Hospital's Emergency Department in a severe mental health crisis has doubled in the last year, and that many of them are released without being placed in an inpatient treatment bed. When 100 patients show up each month at the Emergency Department at only one of our hospitals, and we have only 16 beds at the County Psychiatric Hospital, it is not time to cut funding for acute care inpatient beds.

Families ACT! supports the idea of forming a diverse stakeholder advisory committee reporting to the Board of Supervisors that would shed light on the entire continuum of behavioral health care in our County. The complex and still very disjointed system of care has many gaps and imperfect linkages. Not only clients but decision makers and the general public need a clearer understanding of how the system functions. Our families are intimately familiar with the remaining gaps in the system and want to be of service in creating a more transparent, efficient and compassionate one. We are working with the Behavior Wellness Department to begin mapping the entire continuum and we suggest that a user-friendly phone app would be a wonderful tool to help individuals and families in need of help to navigate our immensely complex system of care.

Let's make wise decisions regarding how to spend our General Fund dollars to keep the momentum going in our county's campaign to divert its residents with complex behavioral health challenges to treatment, housing and a good life. Thank you for all your good will and hard work to help make our county a better place to live!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Suzanne Riordan".

Suzanne Riordan
Executive Director