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COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

May 6, 2014

The Honorable Arthur Garcia
Presiding Judge
Santa Maria Juvenile Court
4263 California Blvd.
Santa Maria, CA 93455

Re: *Board of Supervisors Response to the Civil Grand Jury report titled: What is 2-1-1? Will It Survive In Santa Barbara County? (Published February 12, 2014 Grand Jury Website)*

Honorable Judge Garcia,

Attached is the Board of Supervisors response to the current grand jury report entitled, "What is 2-1-1? Will It Survive In Santa Barbara County?" The Grand Jury requested that the Board of Supervisors respond to Findings 1, 2, 3, and 5 and Recommendations 1, 2, 3, and 4. The Board thanks the Grand Jury for its efforts at improving County government and commends the efforts of its members.

The Board of Supervisors thanks the Grand Jury for its work on this most important issue regarding the County's jail overcrowding problem. The County Supervisors have carefully reviewed the findings and recommendations presented in the Grand Jury Report and provide the following responses:

Please note: As directed by the Grand Jury, all responses are provided in accordance with Section 933.05 of the California Penal Code.

Finding 1

The Santa Barbara County 2-1-1 Helpline is a program that provides a valuable service to the residents of the county.

Response: The Board of Supervisors agrees with this finding and recognizes the benefit of the information referral services. The Board of Supervisors has taken action at the meeting of April 1, 2014, to support and garner communitywide funding for the program through allocation of \$30,000 for database clean-up.

Finding 2

The Santa Barbara County 2-1-1 Helpline Program database of community resources is out-of-date and in critical need of updating.

Response: The Board of Supervisors agrees with this finding.
On April 1, 2014 the Board of Supervisors allocated \$30,000 from the contingency fund to update the database resource. It is anticipated the update will take 4-6 months to complete.

Finding 3

There is insufficient funding to continue operating the Santa Barbara County 2-1-1 Helpline Program.

Response: The Board of Supervisors partially agrees with this finding.
There are multiple 2-1-1 funding models available to fund 2-1-1 in place and throughout the State. Many successful programs involve a partnership and local government agencies. The community investment partnership model presented to the Board of Supervisors on April 1, 2014 provides for proportional investment by all so that the community investment and support of the program is shared by many and enhanced. While the Board of Supervisors partially agrees with this finding as ongoing current funding does not exist; the funding strategy represents a way forward.

Finding 5

The County of Santa Barbara is only temporarily administering the Santa Barbara County 2-1-1 Program.

Response: The Board of Supervisors agrees with this finding.
However, on March 5, 2014 the Community Action Commission (CAC), Board of Directors, voted to serve as the local operator of the program, should sustained funding be provided. It is anticipated that the transition to CAC will occur July 1, 2014 should an appropriate level of funding be attained.

Recommendation 1

That the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors allocate the requested funds to update the Santa Barbara County 2-1-1 Helpline Program resource database.

Response: This recommendation has been implemented via action of the Board of Supervisors on April 1, 2014 to allocate \$30,000 to the database clean-up.

Recommendation 2

That the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors identifies a local agency or organization qualified to assume the administrative and managerial responsibilities of the Santa Barbara County 2-1-1 Helpline Program.

Response: This recommendation has been implemented via the selection of the Community Action Commission as the local community operator.

Recommendation 3

That the county, the cities, and other entities benefitting from the services provided by the Santa Barbara County 2-1-1 Helpline Program contribute funding in proportionate amounts as proposed by county staff in its December 2013 recommendations to the Board of Supervisors.

Response: This recommendation has not been implemented; however, a plan has been developed to outreach to cities. Staff and elected officials will be attending the council meetings over the course of the next several months to request city funding as part of the community investment partnership.

Recommendation 4

That the County of Santa Barbara Board of Supervisor annually review the performance of the 2-1-1 Helpline Program to justify its continued funding.

The Board of Supervisors agrees with this recommendation.

Sincerely,

Steve Lavagnino, Chair
County of Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors

cc: Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors
Ted Sten, Foreman, 2013-14 Santa Barbara Civil Grand Jury