

Ramirez, Angelica

Behavioral Wellness - Group 1



From: Celia Ramirez <ramireztc@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 8, 2020 3:13 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: To be read at county budget workshops in association with the Dept. of Behavioral Wellness's presentation.
Attachments: AOT letter of support.docx

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Hello Board of Supervisors

I am attaching a letter i would like read during the budget workshops re: Dept of Behavioral Wellness presentation. This is regarding **Assisted Outpatient Treatment program**.

thanks for your time.

Hello my name is Celia I have a young adult son with a very serious mental health disorder and would like to thank the BOS for funding the Assisted Outpatient Treatment program. My son stopped taking his medication because in his mind did not need it (not unusual for someone with his diagnosis). We were scared for his safety and ours as he was showing symptoms of delusions and hallucinations and we were feeling unsafe at home. The staff from AOT was helpful, persistent and gaining his trust. The continuous visits and reaching out to him showed him others care about him. As most of his days were in isolation I was grateful for the interactions he had with the outside world.

I am thankful for this program that got my son to get back to his Doctor and medication. He now is working part time, stable and enjoying family time together. I am hopeful Laura's Law gets funding on a consistent basis because it was a life saver for my son.

Thank – Celia

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Ramirez, Angelica

From: Anna Campbell <annacampbell@cox.net>
Sent: Wednesday, April 8, 2020 3:08 PM
To: sbcob
Cc: Lavagnino, Steve; DVWilliams@countyofsb.org; Hartmann, Joan; Hart, Gregg; Adam, Peter; 'Lynne Gibbs'; 'George'
Subject: Ltr to Board of Supes Laura's Law
Attachments: Ltr to Board of Supes Laura's Law.docx

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Hello,

Please open the attached, a 250-word statement to be read aloud at county budget workshops in association with the Dept. of Behavioral Wellness;s Presentation, AND, if possible, to be part of the written record of the hearing. It is a brief personal statement about the need to adopt Laura's Law because it saves lives and saves money. Thank you, Anna Campbell

TO BE READ AT COUNTY BUDGET WORKSHOPS IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE DEPT OF BEHAVIORAL WELLNESS'S PRESENTATION:

When our son was 18, he fell and broke his neck. Our bright, beautiful son was paralyzed. He recovered miraculously from the paralysis but had terrifying delusions. For ten years we tried to get him into treatment. The county wouldn't give him the treatment he needed because he didn't believe he needed help. A heartbreaking catch-22.

In 2002, after Laura's Law passed statewide, we asked the Board of Supervisors to adopt it for our county. Laura's law mandates intense outreach and civil court-ordered treatment for those who are hospitalized and jailed repeatedly because of their mental condition. At that time it had been adopted by only 3 other counties and was a new idea. The Board chose not to try it, a crushing disappointment. In 2005 our son died. A friend gave a gift in his memory to advocate for Laura's Law, to save the lives of other sons and daughters, sisters and brothers in our County.

Now, 15 years later, most California counties have adopted Laura's Law, also called AOT (Assisted Outpatient Treatment). The results are impressive, reducing psychiatric hospitalizations, emergency room visits, and incarcerations by 70% or more. Evidence-based research shows that AOT is effective.

To the Board's credit, you took a chance 3 years ago and funded a very successful pilot program. It dramatically reduced expensive hospitalizations and incarcerations, saving our County many thousands of dollars. The pilot program is over. It is time for the Board to adopt, fund, and fully implement Laura's Law.

Thank you,

Anna Campbell