

2 LATE DIST

Katherine Douglas *Public Comment - Group 1*

From: Pamela Wilkinson <ppwilkinson@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, December 8, 2025 8:37 AM
To: sbcob
Subject: Public Comment for 12/9 BOS Hearing Item D-2

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.

I request the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors to recommend an assessment of the Adult Full Service Partnership (FSP) program within Santa Barbara County Behavioral Wellness to ensure that treatment capacity and staffing levels are adequate to meet current and future community needs. This assessment should reference successful evidence-based models from other California counties.

Full Service Partnerships are intensive, 24/7, “whatever-it-takes” outpatient treatment programs designed for individuals with the most serious mental illness—those most at risk for hospitalization, incarceration, and homelessness. These programs require **low client-to-staff ratios**, with the evidence-based standard being **10 clients to 1 staff member**.

With the transition from the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) to the Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA), counties are now directed to allocate **at least 35% of BHSA funding to Full Service Partnerships**. However, in Santa Barbara County, an increasing number of people are being referred to the Adult FSP program **without a corresponding increase in staffing**. The current ratio has exceeded **20 clients to 1 staff member**, which is double the recommended standard and continues to worsen.

The evidence-based FSP model is **Assertive Community Treatment (ACT)**. NAMI appreciates Behavioral Wellness’s stated intention to restore ACT within the Adult FSP program. Given our county’s **severe shortage of higher-level treatment beds**, it is critical that we provide strong, intensive outpatient services for individuals with serious mental illness—particularly those being released from jail into outpatient treatment.

At present, the Adult Full Service Partnership program requires **significant additional staffing** to meet established clinical standards and ensure patient stability. The current staffing imbalance undermines the effectiveness of the program and places clients at risk.

Thank you for your time and your commitment to the mental health of our community.

Katherine Douglas

From: Margaret Bernal <m.bernal23@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, December 8, 2025 1:34 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: Public Comment for 12/9 BOS Hearing - D-2

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Good morning, Supervisor Capps and Members of the Board. My name is Margaret, and I'm the parent of a young man conserved under the Lanterman-Petris-Short (LPS Act).

Across our community we are seeing a growing crisis: individuals with serious mental illness repeatedly cycling through ERs, jails, and short-term programs. Without access to the sustained treatment they need, my son is one of them. After two years of relative stability, he has recently required extensive intervention — The SB Crisis Intervention Team, BeWell Crisis Response, Cottage ER, and longer hospital stays.

This is not a failure of effort; it is a failure of capacity. We simply do not have enough in-county high-level treatment beds for people with serious mental illness.

Our community pays twice: once financially, and again through the human cost of instability, relapse, and repeat crisis episodes.

And when local beds are unavailable, our loved ones are transferred **out of our county**, at **much higher cost** to the County. With worse continuity of care for the patient.

I am asking you to prioritize expanding in-county treatment beds at higher levels of care. This investment will reduce ER overcrowding, reduce jail utilization, and create stability for families like mine who are trying everything to Advocate for their loved ones.

Thank you for your Consideration and Commitment to improving the Mental Health Care in our County.

Margaret J. Bernal
NAMI Santa Barbara County, Secretary.

Katherine Douglas

From: Robert Ornstein <boborns@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, December 8, 2025 2:37 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: AGENDA ITEM D 2 12/9/25 Board of Supervisors Meeting: 12/7/25 Letter from CLUE Santa Barbara & League of Women Voters of Santa Barbara, Criminal Kunitce Workgroup

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Please make this a matter of record for the BOS meeting on 12/9/25.

4. ENSURE ACCOUNTABILITY and PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Action: We recommend the Board direct the CCP to form a community-inclusive Jail Population Reduction Team (JRPT) that maintains Brown Act compliant participation, modeled after the productive participation of members of the public in the ad hoc CCP Jail Data Analysis Subcommittee, that submitted this Report to the Board.

The CCP By-Laws require that a committee like the JRPT is subject to the Brown Act, and must be open to the public absent exceptions to the Brown Act such as pending litigation, personnel issue matters, or gatherings where no government business is discussed. Unless the CCP has demonstrated a need for secrecy that comes within the limited exceptions to Brown Act, all JRPT meetings must comply with the Brown Act requirement that its meetings be open to the public. Robert Ornstein, Esq.