



A-29

de la Guerra, Sheila

From: Lynne Gibbs <gibbslyn2@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 17, 2019 7:29 AM
To: sbcob
Subject: Statement for BOS March 19 Item A-29
Attachments: CCIG BOS letter 2019 03 15 final.doc

Categories: Public Comment

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Please see the attached statement.

Lynne Gibbs
NAMI SSBCO



Southern Santa Barbara County

To: Board of Supervisors Chair Lavagnino, and Honorable Supervisors
From: Lynne Gibbs, NAMI SSBCO Public Policy Committee
Subject: 2018 Annual Report of the Jail Medical Grievance Coordinator
Date: March 15, 2019

As NAMI's representative to the Community Corrections Input Group on medical care at the Santa Barbara County jail, I write in reference to BOS agenda item A-29 (March 19), the 2018 annual report of the Medical Grievance Oversight Coordinator.

The purpose of the CCIG is "to assist the Medical Grievance Oversight Coordinator (MGOC) in making recommendations for improvements concerning the grievance process, procedural practices, and/or service delivery related to the medical, mental health, dental, or vision care of those confined within the jail system." We continue that work.

In 2018, we were gratified to see the total number of medical grievances at the jail reduced by 34% from 549 grievance in 2017 to 363 in 2018.

A particular area of focus for us in NAMI concerns the ability of persons to receive timely treatment for mental illness upon arrest and incarceration to ensure a continuity of care for persons in treatment prior to arrest, and to initiate treatment for those who have not received it, or whose treatment has lapsed. We are pleased to have witnessed significant improvement regarding such treatment over the past several years. We believe the county's investment in improved medical care at the jail is showing marked positive results.

This past year, the newly hired jail psychiatrist undertook an initiative to provide thorough, individual re-assessments of psychotropic medications prescribed to jail inmates, in order to ensure that persons with mental illness are receiving the most potentially effective medications. As a county, we do not track to what extent treatment is continued on an outpatient basis once persons with mental illness leave the jail. We hope to see a mechanism for such tracking developed in 2019.



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