

Public Comment

de la Guerra, Sheila

Health and Human Services

From: Trishia Thompson <4smmgr@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, April 10, 2020 8:31 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: Statement to be placed on record in support of Laura's Law
Attachments: Thompson Statement 4-10-20 .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 add the attached statement in support of Laura's Law to the record. As I understand this will be heard before the Board on Monday morning, making timing an issue. If you could do your best to get this to them in time to be read on record, I would really appreciate it.

Thank you,

Trishia Thompson

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April 10, 2020

Honorable Chair Hart, and Supervisors Hartmann, Lavagnino, Williams, and Adam,

As a Santa Barbara County Resident since 1966, and Jeffrey's mother. I ask that the statement written on April 10th, 2020, and attached below be read into the record. I also urge The Board of Supervisors to give it serious consideration while formulating it's decision in favor of Laura's Law.

A year ago I spoke before you on behalf of Family's Act, and a mother pleading for help. My son suffering a psychotic breakdown, believed he was a CIA trained, government sanctioned assassin. Working with his deceased grandfather to save the world. He told me he could kill people by turning into a salamander, and he demonstrated it by elaborately painting buildings, underpasses, and street signs. Costing property owners, and the County untold thousands. I had pleaded with the Care Unit numerous times they wouldn't hospitalize him. He was arrested six times they refused to keep him. Every agency told me he had to actually harm someone first. I lived in constant fear, awaiting the call, telling me that his delusions were now our reality.

That statement saved my son's life. It resulted in Behavioral Wellness stepping in, advising , and enabling me to use services provided by Laura's law. The only means available to reach out to him personally. Because of Laura's Law , teams were immediately sent out into the creek beds. They continued to engage him while incarcerated, and they convinced him to try medication.

Today he is healthy, and rebuilding his life. He describes the delusions that controlled him, and prevented him from seeking help. He owes his life and possibly many others to those `who were enabled by Laura's Law, and I no longer live in fear.

I cannot express enough the importance of permanent funding for Laura's Law. Without it, my life would be a nightmare, and my son wouldn't be here today.

Thank you,

Trishia Thompson

805-697-6157