

Response to Civil Grand Jury Report -
*CARES Crisis Residential North: An
Underutilized Mental Health Asset*

Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors
August 14, 2012



Grand Jury Report Conclusion

- ▶ Telecare Corporation appears to be operating an efficient and effective program for aftercare of recovering mentally ill patients
- ▶ The Grand Jury was favorably impressed by CARES staff, program and facility
- ▶ The Grand Jury encourages full utilization of this unique asset
- ▶ Telecare and Alcohol, Drug and Mental Health Services need to aggressively inform those who could refer patients to this facility of the advantages of doing so





Findings and Suggested Responses

- ▶ CARES Crisis Residential averaged 7.4 full beds in five months ending March 2012. (1a) ▶ Agree
- ▶ Medical community not fully aware of the capabilities and benefit. (1b) ▶ Agree
- ▶ CARES Crisis Residential is the only unlocked mental health facility for uninsured. (1c) ▶ Agree





Findings and Suggested Responses

- ▶ CARES Crisis Residential helps patients obtain food stamps, Med-Cal, housing & jobs (1d) ▶ Agree
- ▶ CARES Crisis Residential has shown to be a cost effective post-acute treatment option (1e) ▶ Agree
- ▶ Emergency Room physicians are reluctant to admit to CARES Crisis Residential (2) ▶ Agree
- ▶ CARES Crisis Residential is a safe place for patients to transition (3) ▶ Agree



Recommendations and Suggested Responses



- ▶ Develop and coordinate an outreach program service providers to the mentally ill (1a) ▶ Will be implemented
- ▶ Coordinate with SLO County for possible placement of appropriate patients (1b) ▶ Implemented
- ▶ Work with Emergency Room staff on protocols for admitting appropriate patients to CARES (2) ▶ Will be implemented
- ▶ Coordinate with jails and PHF on placement of their appropriate patients upon release (3) ▶ Will be implemented





Recommended Board Actions

- ▶ Consider and adopt responses in Attachment A
- ▶ Authorize Board Chair to sign and forward to the Presiding Judge

