



August 25, 2016

Mr. Steve Lavagnino  
Fifth District Supervisor, County of Santa Barbara  
511 East Lakeside Parkway  
Santa Maria, CA 93455

Dear Supervisor Lavagnino,

We at NAMI are grateful for your efforts and those of the Department of Behavioral Wellness Director and staff to ensure that we are collecting and reporting meaningful measures to help assess progress of the "system change" initiative and the several new programs and services implemented over the past two years. The Director's August 30 report of measures for the period of January through June, 2016 will serve as a vital benchmark against which future reports may be compared. All the measures being reported are important and will certainly be helpful.

However, there are two additional measures which we'd requested in 2015 and again this past February, which are not being reported and which we believe are crucial to determining progress and assessing effectiveness of services, particularly the new crisis services:

1. Number of county jail inmates identified as having a mental health disorder and who are known to the Department of Behavioral Wellness.
2. Number of visits to community hospital emergency rooms by persons having a mental health disorder who are also known to the Department.

We understand that the Department will likely need to collaborate with the Sheriff's Department and the community hospitals in our county to obtain this information but it's also our understanding that this information could be obtained and reported with relative ease. In past communication with your board, we suggested that the initiative to collect this information might best be undertaken by the CEO's office, and we understand that such an effort may be underway to collect and report one or both of these measures in the future. We hope you will take whatever steps are necessary to ensure these important measures are reported as soon as possible, hopefully for the current reporting period.

Thank you again for your continued commitment to improving our county's services to citizens living with mental health disorders.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "George Kaufmann". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped "G" at the beginning.

George Kaufmann  
President, NAMI Southern Santa Barbara County

Cc: Alice Gleghorn, Director, Dept. of Behavioral Wellness  
Mona Miasato, County Executive Officer  
Terri Maus- Nisich, Asst. County Executive Officer