



From: Deborah McQuade <deborah.mcquade@sv-sb.org>
Sent: Saturday, April 15, 2023 9:26 AM
To: sbcob
Subject: Recovery homes not jail
Attachments: Board of Supervisors.pdf

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.

Dear Clerk of the Board –
I am submitting the attached letter in reference to this coming Tuesday’s discussion on providing treatment beds rather than jail cells for people who are suffering mental health issues.

Thank you.
Debbie McQuade
Fr. Virgil Cordano Center
Program Director



Date: April 14, 2023
To: Board of Supervisors, County of Santa Barbara
From: Fr. Virgil Cordano Center
Subject: Real help for those who suffer from mental illness

To the Honorable Supervisors Willams, Capps, Hartmann, Lavagnino and Nelson –

Dear Supervisors,

The Fr. Virgil Cordano Center provides a community day center for approximately 65 men and women, all without shelter, Monday through Friday. Please consider yourselves invited to come by and see what we are doing and why we think we have the credentials to speak to this issue.

The folks we serve, the Cordano Center Staff and the dozens of Volunteers who are the backbone of our efforts are your constituents. We are united in our witness to the fact that many of our Guests while suffering through a life of unsuccessfully treated mental illness have been jailed in our County jail time and again. If there is any treatment being offered to these folks while they are incarcerated, there is no evidence of it when they return to the community. In other words, these people, clearly disabled, are not being helped when they are incarcerated. Is this the way it should be? Shouldn't we be helping these folks – our mothers and fathers, sisters and brothers, neighbors and friends? It is the right thing to do. It is the lawful thing to do. It is the cost-efficient thing to do.

Please respond with funding and support for an effective plan to provide effective mental health and dual diagnosis treatment residences in our County to replace wrongful and wasteful jail cells. The time is now.

Thank you.

Debbie McQuade
Fr. Virgil Cordano Center
4020 Calle Real; Suite 2
Santa Barbara, CA 93111
805-698-1026