

de la Guerra, Sheila Public Comment - Health & Human Services - Group 3.

**From:** Linda Nix <lindanix49@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 17, 2023 5:39 PM  
**To:** sbcob  
**Subject:** April 18th Statement, Functional Group 1, Behavioral Wellness"  
**Attachments:** Document (2).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.**

Thank you so much for reading my letter, I'm so sad that I was not able to attend and read it to you in person. I greatly appreciate your help, concern, guidance with helping those in need.

Sincerely,  
Linda Nix

Hello name is Linda and I was born and raised in Santa Barbara county. I have come to speak before you today to share the story of my survivor, my son. My son has had depression and was ADHD since he was a child. As he got older into his teens, his imbalance shifted and and mental illness crept in. He has been in and out of jail. I would say approximately 15 +times. In the past several years. It has always been a struggle to get him his needed medications and because the jail doctors are so busy. Once he finally gets his medications he becomes so much more stable and and acceptance to deal with his consequences of his actions. Many times he was released out of jail back on the streets, He was even released one time during covet with an ankle no money, no cell phone and was responsible for being in touch with his probation officer. During these times he would self medicate on drugs and we lose his medications.

A few times the court ordered him to a sober living, and detox centers instead of staying in jail but by this time he normally had been in jail 6 plus months.

My hope is that there would be a program, a home that he can go to instead of jail. To learn about his mental illness and understand that taking medication could really help him and his future. He needs a guiding hand to know that he is not alone with the place to live and start a future with those in the same shoes.

I wish today is for you to understand that mental illness is a sickness just like cancer, Alzheimer's, Parkinson's and so on.

Thank you for your time.

**de la Guerra, Sheila**

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**From:** Monica Nunez <mnunezzz777@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 17, 2023 5:46 PM  
**To:** sbcob  
**Subject:** Fwd: April 18th Statement, First Functional Group, Behavioral Wellness  
**Attachments:** Monica Nunez - Beds Not Cells - April 2023.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.**

Good afternoon. My apologies that I thought I erased the lawyers name, it did not do so and please my apologies for giving his name! Please disregard my error and apologies to his name be put as it was only his fault! I believe with every ones intrested in his well being, our circumstances would have came out differently! Thank You

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Monica Nunez <mnunezzz777@yahoo.com>  
**Date:** April 17, 2023 at 1:30:38 PM PDT  
**To:** sbcob@co.santa-barbara.ca.us  
**Subject:** Fwd: April 18th Statement, First Functional Group, Behavioral Wellness

Please accept my Public Comment, attached.

Thank You

Monica Nunez

To: Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors  
Date: April 17, 2023  
Subject: Beds Not Cells  
From: Monica Nunez

My name is Monica Nunez. I am the mother of Joel Campos who was diagnosed with schizophrenia. In 2018, however, he had landed a job as a dishwasher at Roy's Café. He loved his job, and we were so proud of him. One day, however, Joel attended a party where something terrible happened. Joel was falsely accused of a murder. He spent four long years in the Santa Barbara County Jail before he was exonerated and released. He emerged fearful, defeated and his spirit broken. They failed Joel physically, mentally and spiritually! His needs—including medical and mental health needs—were ignored for four long years while he sat in an isolation cell, especially during the pandemic, when the jail was very short staffed. In 2018 Joel was found Incompetent to Stand Trial and sent to Atascadero State Hospital. In late August, 2019 he attempted to take his own life in the jail. I overheard a mention of this in the courtroom when I attended his hearing. When I asked to see my son I was told he was sedated and strapped down. A few weeks later he was taken to the PHF Unit from the jail in a wheelchair. When I visited him there briefly, he was un-showered, emaciated and paranoid.

Phone calls and letters from him with his beautiful colorings to us ended. After the Covid crisis, when visitation was reinstated, I went to the jail at every visitation time only to be told that my son was denying visits. All of my efforts to protect him in the courtroom and in the jail fell on deaf ears. My pleas were ignored by the DA, by his court-appointed Defender, Doug Hayes, by jail personnel and by Wellpath.

As a family we all suffered, not just Joel, because it is crucial for families to be involved in a loved one's treatment for it to be successful. We were completely excluded, left in the dark, and for months and months had no word from him or about him. I cannot describe the helplessness of not being able to intervene and of being completely ignored when asking for help for your child. I have nightmares to this day of my son crying out in vain for intervention and help. Everyone has the right to be uplifted and treated with respect and dignity!

In 2022 Joel was released from the jail with no paperwork, no medication, no follow-up for his mental health care and no connection to community resources. When he returned home, I could see how traumatized he was. He had been severely traumatized and trusted no one.

His experience in the Santa Barbara Main Jail on false charges sucked the life out of him. What happened to Joel was cruel and unjust. Families ACT! has helped me find my voice and I am going to use it to try to help my son, to tell our story and to help change Santa Barbara County's mental health and criminal justice systems so that this will not happen to anyone else's loved ones ever again.