

Brianda Negrete

Public Comment - Behavioral Wellness

LATE
EST

From: Andi Henrikson <andisb@msn.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 13, 2023 3:57 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: Re: April 18th Meeting-Treatment Beds Needed
Attachments: BOS 4_18_23.doc

Group 1

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.

To: Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors
Date: April 13, 2023
Subject: Treatment Beds Needed
From: A Santa Barbara mother of adult diagnosed SMI, IST, currently incarcerated, daughter with her Master's in Special Education and mother of three children, no longer in her care.

Six years ago my adult daughter was picked up by police in Dane County, Wisconsin where she lived, for causing a disturbance brought on by her first psychotic episode. She never spent a night in jail. Instead she was driven to Winnebago State Mental Hospital, where their state/legal/hospital system worked so well, that my daughter was admitted immediately, given treatment, medication, and a bed, where she remained in their care for 30 days.

Unfortunately I was in Santa Barbara while she remained at the hospital. On day one after her admittance, she phoned me twice. And every day thereafter. On day two, my daughter had returned to reality. And continued to improve miraculously every day thereafter.

Upon release from the hospital, she returned to her apartment, where she received psychological counseling and social services continuum of care.

Not long after, she returned to California to be near her daughter, which legally did not transpire. As hard as she tried, her problems seemed to become insurmountable. Her life in Wisconsin was gone. Her boyfriend who was coming to join her in CA, died. She wasn't allowed to reunite with her daughter. Visits with her second daughter stopped due to COVID. I live in senior age restricted housing and cannot take her in. Depression set in. Medication & therapy stopped. Then came homelessness and jail. She is psychotic, delusional, has no idea she is ill, refuses all help, and I am afraid of her. The love of my life, my best friend and daughter, I'm now afraid of.

People like my daughter sometimes desperately need a *locked, involuntary, longer term (30-90+ days), professional hospital/medical setting* where her medication & treatment can be monitored and adapted. Short term (24-72 hours) and anything less resolves nothing for her & others like her. Can we add such longer terms beds to PHF? Cottage Hospital? Marian and/or Lompoc Valley? The new northern jail? California Hospitals? My daughter has needed such a bed for the past 6 years since her return to California. But how quickly she received treatment in Wisconsin. Why? And how can we fix this problem here? Soon?

Thank you.

Brianda Negrete

From: Cheryl Runge <rungecheryl@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 13, 2023 5:48 PM
To: sbcob; sbcob
Subject: Statement for 4/18 BOS meeting on Mental Health beds after HHS Functional Grp agenda item
Attachments: 041823 Statemt to BOS on Mental Health beds after HHS Functional Grp.pdf
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

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.

DATE: April 12, 2023

To: Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors
From: Unitarian Society of Santa Barbara Justice and Equity Team
Subject: Treatment Beds Not Jail Cells

Honorable Supervisors Williams, Capps, Hartmann, Lavagnino, and Nelson,

The Unitarian Society of Santa Barbara Justice and Equity Team (USSB J&E Team) supports “mental health treatment beds not jail cells” in Santa Barbara County. The members of the Team support the April 18, 2023 statement from NAMI SBCO requesting the board’s consideration of the following:

1. **Additional in-county acute care inpatient beds:** housed at the Psychiatric Health Facility (PHF), and in concert with Cottage and Marian hospitals to accommodate all the county’s patients on “5150” crisis holds, as well as those in severe crisis visiting our emergency rooms seeking inpatient care
2. **Longer term treatment beds:** establish a multi-level, longer-term 90 day+ treatment center to serve persons with the most serious mental illness, so that they can achieve sustainable recovery. These residential treatment beds could accommodate MOST of the county’s Felony IST population, while serving others with serious illness in the community needing such treatment to prepare them for stepdown to supportive housing and independent living with outpatient care. Funding would come from state funding as well as cost reduction in the rebuild of the South County jail.
3. **Adopt the IMD (institution for Mental Diseases) EXCLUSION WAIVER** once the state applies for and receives it, allowing for up to 30 days of MediCal reimbursement.
4. **ADD MORE OUTPATIENT CARE/SUPPORTS FOR MOST SEVERELY MENTALLY ILL CLIENTS** – a complete plan of care that will provide assistance in transition from inpatient to outpatient care; expand Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) and Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) teams to reduce recidivism and relapse; expand Outreach/Engagement efforts to help clients accept treatment and prevent future criminal justice involvement.

The USSB Justice and Equity Team is dedicated to advancing justice and engaging in compassionate outreach on issues that reflect the values and principles of our Unitarian Universalist faith. Compassionate, consistent, comprehensive, whole-person care and support for the mentally ill in Santa Barbara County should be top of mind as the board determines the allocation of funding.

Persons who are ill, their family members and friends, and the community will benefit when we provide the treatment that is needed and deserved.

Brianda Negrete

From: Lynne Gibbs <gibbslyn2@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, April 14, 2023 8:30 AM
To: sbcob
Subject: Beds Not Cells: NAMI/Families ACT! Statement and Recommendations
Attachments: BOS Statement 2023 04 02.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 see attached the NAMI/Families ACT! statement in association with the HHS Functional Group presentation on April 18th.

Thank you, Lynne Gibbs



Santa Barbara
County



Date: April 14, 2023

To: Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors

From: NAMI Santa Barbara County, and Families ACT!

Subject: Treatment Beds Not Jail Cells

Honorable Supervisors Williams, Capps, Hartmann, Lavagnino, and Nelson,

Despite the success of programs such as Crisis Co-Response that diverts persons from arrest, the Probation Department's Pre-Trial Release program, and the Public Defender's Holistic Defense program among other county programs, an estimated one third or more of our jail population continues to be composed of persons with serious mental illness. Annual daily "snapshots" of the jail population have remained stubbornly stuck at 52-58% of the jail population having at one time been mental health clients of the Department of Behavioral Wellness. Our county's severe shortage of psychiatric inpatient beds means the jail is often the only option for a bed for those in crisis. Those on misdemeanors cycle in and out of the jail, while those on felony charges, incompetent-to-stand trial (IST), languish in the jail up to more than a year waiting in line for state hospital beds while their mental health deteriorates -- for lack of longer-term, community-based treatment beds.

Recent developments at the state level entailing a 6 million dollar fine to Santa Barbara County for keeping those with mental illness in the jail mean we can no longer afford to ignore this problem. You have heard, and will continue to hear the stories of families who've lived this nightmare, unable to secure adequate treatment for their loved ones. What is happening to our ill relatives is expensive, wrong, and inhumane.

We at NAMI Santa Barbara County and Families ACT, along with other community stakeholders, believe our county has a unique one time opportunity to address this severe bed shortage utilizing several new and existing funding streams available now or in immediate future such as the 9+ million dollar Department of State Hospitals (DSH) IST Diversion Infrastructure Project earmark to the county for reducing the IST jail population, and the Governor's more recently announced general obligation bond to fund behavioral health residential facilities. By generating community-based treatment beds, we can reduce our needed jail capacity and the millions of dollars being requested for remodeling of main jail.

Today we ask for your support:

1. **ACUTE CARE BEDS.** Create enough additional in-county acute care inpatient beds at the Psychiatric Health Facility (PHF), and in concert with Cottage and Marian hospitals to accommodate all the county's patients on "5150" crisis holds, as well as those in severe crisis visiting our emergency rooms seeking inpatient care. We know that persons with serious mental illness on holds at Cottage and Marian who have

no insurance or only Medi-Cal wait many more hours, and are far less likely to get inpatient treatment than those with private insurance and Medicare. This is an inexcusable inequity of health care for those in our community with the least means.

2. **LONGER-TERM TREATMENT BEDS.** Utilize the millions in funding being made available by the state in combination with cost savings for rebuilding the main jail to establish a multi-level, longer-term 90 day+ treatment center to serve persons with the most serious mental illness, so that they can achieve sustainable recovery. These residential treatment beds could accommodate MOST of the county's Felony IST population, while serving others with serious illness in the community needing such treatment to prepare them for stepdown to supportive housing and independent living with outpatient care.
3. Adopt the IMD (institution for Mental Diseases) **EXCLUSION WAIVER** once the state applies for and receives it. This will allow for up to 30 days of Med-iCal reimbursement for inpatient treatment for those who need it, saving substantial dollars to ensure the best treatment of the most severely ill clients, while planning takes place for their transition back to the community, or longer-term treatment.
4. **ADD MORE OUTPATIENT CARE/SUPPORTS FOR MOST SEVERELY MENTALLY ILL CLIENTS** - Provide for seamless transition (warm handoff) from inpatient to outpatient care; expand Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) and Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) teams to maximize recidivism reduction among criminally justice-involved clients and reduction of relapse in all clients. Expand Outreach/Engagement efforts to help clients accept treatment and prevent future criminal justice involvement.

No Question - this will be a heavy lift for all county departments involved, but we believe each of the above elements are essential to address the current mental health crisis and alleviate the burden on the county. This will finally provide our ill family members with the treatment they need and deserve.

Brianda Negrete

From: Sally Hamilton <sallyshamilton@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 13, 2023 10:54 PM
To: sbcob; Wayne Mellinger
Subject: April 18 Supervisors Meeting: discussion on Mental Health "Beds Not Cells"

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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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.

DATE: April 14, 2023

To: Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors

From: Shower of Blessing, Santa Barbara

Subject: Treatment Beds Not Jail Cells

Honorable Supervisors Williams, Capps, Hartmann, Lavagnino, and Nelson,

Our County spends over \$80 million per year to operate two jails housing about 850 people. The CLUE Criminal Justice Workgroup thinks we could lower those numbers by reducing the number of people in our jails. Are they talking about sending violent thugs to our streets? No, not in the least. Most inmates (some 79% according to the Vera Institute) have not been found guilty of anything. They are "pre-trial" and awaiting to appear in court. One part of that group cannot afford to post bail (Latinos make up a large part of that group.)

Some 28% of the jail population are people with mental illness—that's over 200 people. Some 40-50 of these mentally ill have been found "Incompetent to Stand Trial" (IST). They are waiting to be assigned to a state psychiatric facility in order to be returned to competence, at which point they will be returned to Santa Barbara to face their charges. Another part of this group of mentally ill people are "Familiar Faces" or "Frequent Flyers" who repeatedly are cited for misdemeanors, such as public disturbances, possession of a controlled substance and public intoxication. A large part of this group are dually diagnosed and unhoused people who cycle in and out of jail and never receive the integrated and sustained psychiatric treatment they need and deserve. This phenomenon has been called "the Revolving Door".

Through the Milpas Outreach Project our community learned what it takes to deal with this problem—holistic, cross-disciplinary teams. They housed the 10 "frequent flyers" on Milpas Street (I think 2 died in the process). What can be done to get some of these people out of the jail? We need alternative housing for these various groups of people, including: perhaps a state facility in our County so ISTs don't have to be sent out of county, something less costly than the PHF unit but still potentially a locked facility, as well as a lot more supportive affordable housing. We also need more of the holistic interdisciplinary outreach teams working with restorative policing to work with frequent flyers to keep them out of jail. We also need to hire more holistic public defenders to reduce their caseload from 30 to 20.

Statement by Wayne Martin Mellinger, Ph.D.

Social Justice Educator / Writer / Activist

Commissioner, Santa Barbara County Behavioral Wellness Commission

Board, Clergy and Laity United for Economic Justice (CLUE--Santa Barbara chapter)

Representative, Santa Barbara Continuum of Care (housing policy for the homeless)

Board, Showers of Blessings

Board, Committee for Social Justice

Member, Social Venture Partners Santa Barbara

Brianda Negrete

From: Sally Hamilton <sallyshamilton@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 13, 2023 10:47 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: Re April 18 Supervisors Meeting - Mental Health Facility Discussion "Beds Not Cells"
Attachments: mental health board statement 4.23.docx

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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DATE: April 14, 2023

To: Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors

From: Shower of Blessing, Santa Barbara

Subject: Treatment Beds Not Jail Cells

Honorable Supervisors Williams, Capps, Hartmann, Lavagnino, and Nelson,

The Showers of Blessing, Santa Barbara, provides free hot showers every week day to people who don't have housing. Our sites are welcoming and relaxed with excellent supervision. Our guests support each other, share food and experiences, and feel refreshed with the pleasure of a hot shower, clean underwear and socks, something to eat and a welcoming staff and volunteers who get to know the many guests who come regularly. Other organizations, such as Doctors Without Walls, Americorps, CityNet, Good Samaritan, and Adams Angels offer services at our Showers sites.

However, it is not uncommon for guests with mental illnesses to become agitated, angry, or fearful and to act out in disruptive ways. When our staff judges it necessary to protect the safety of our site, we call the police, but we have no confidence that our guest with a mental breakdown will receive treatment. We frequently welcome back the same guest who has been released from jail, but who has received no help for mental illness. The revolving cycle begins again.

We demand that the County Supervisors use the funding you have already designated, plus the state funding available to create a stable program for our citizens who need residential mental health treatment. We are dismayed that our wealthy community has ignored people who have lived here most of their lives in need of mental health treatment. We support the efforts of NAMI to work with the county to create the program of care we need and people deserve.

The statement has been passed unanimously by the Board Members of the Showers of Blessing, Santa Barbara:

Ann Veazy, President
Ed Bastian
Anita Blume
Sally Hamilton
Father Pedro J Lopez
Father Nicholas Speier
Marty Jenkins

Marty Jenkins
Fernando Silva
Wayne Mellinger
Melinda Staveley
Debbie McQuade
Amy Porter

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