

Brianda Negrete

Public Comment

**From:** Rose Van Schaik <roseshouses@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 13, 2023 11:21 AM  
**To:** sbcob  
**Subject:** statement to the Board of Supervisors supporting the NAMI SBCO/Families ACT! statement.  
**Attachments:** Supervisors for Brandon's IST.docx

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Dear Supervisors,

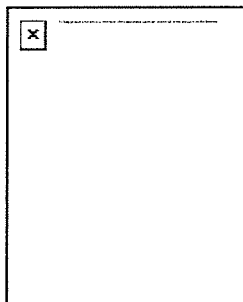
This is Rose Van Schaik, the mother of my son Brandon Van Schaik who suffers from severe mental illness. I am a NAMI/SBB ACT member.

Attached is my statement for April 18th. Board of Supervisors meeting supporting the NAMI SBCO/Families ACT.

1. We would greatly appreciate your help to increase the number of psychiatric inpatient beds.
2. Minimizing criminal justice involvement of those with serious mental illness.
3. Increase the availability and quality of Full-Service Partnerships.

Respectfully yours,

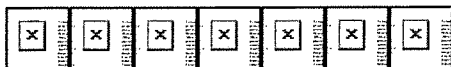
Rose Van Schaik



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Santa Barbara, 4/13/2023

Dear Supervisors.

First: I agree with the NAMI and family Act in support of their statement, and I will give my story.

My name is Rose van Schaik. I am a single mother to my son Brandon Van Schaik (42 years of age), who was languishing in an isolation cell for 7 months without any treatment. He is determined mentally incompetent to stand trial and is not able to assist in his defense. He is very delusional and hears/communicates with his inner voices.

Brandon was diagnosed with schizophrenia 11 years ago and has endured major trauma during these years. As a mother it pains and depresses me to know that my son has not received the help he should have already getting for his mental illness and has been locked up in an isolation cell the past 7 months waiting for a bed to open in a state hospital, because the SB county does not have enough beds available. We need longer term beds.

In the meantime, he is getting more withdrawn and does not want to communicate with anybody at all. His mental health continues to deteriorate. My concern is that he doesn't get the proper service he needs. I am concerned about his health, welfare and hygiene.

When someone is diagnosed with schizophrenia, they should not be lingering in jail in an isolation cell for months, some of them more than a year waiting for a bed to open, which is inhumane and cruel. They should not be languishing in jail.

The County's Community Corrections Partnership has many millions of dollars in a reserve account. \$3 million was earmarked for a treatment facility 5 years ago and it is not being used. We need our own treatment facility with enough beds, instead of waiting for a bed to open at a State hospital in another County. Especially now with the IST's growing in jail. This is a crisis and the severe shortage of community-based treatment in the County is very disconcerting. Until we address this bed crisis, the IST crisis is bound to continue to grow.

Holding a mentally ill person in jail causes suffering and trauma for an already fragile person.

- 1) The need to increase the number of psychiatric inpatient beds.
- 2) Minimizing criminal justice involvement of those with serious mental illness.
- 3) Increase the availability and quality of Full-Service Partnerships.

We greatly appreciate your help as soon as possible.

Respectfully yours,

Rose Van Schaik