

A-28



Katherine Douglas *Public Comment*

From: Lynne Gibbs <gibbslyn2@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 11, 2023 11:13 AM
To: sbcob
Cc: Supervisor Das Williams; Laura Capps; Steve Lavagnino; Bob Nelson; Joan Hartmann; Spencer Brandt
Subject: FACT / NAMI Comment on BOS Agenda Item A28
Attachments: Wellpath Contract BOS Draft 2023 09.docx

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Please see attached.

Thank you,
Lynne Gibbs

TO: Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors, Chair Das Williams, and Supervisors Capps, Hartmann, Lavagnino, and Nelson
FROM: NAMI Santa Barbara County
Families ACT!
SUBJECT : Sept. 12, 2023, Consent Agenda Item A28
DATE : September 11, 2023

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed year long extension of CFMG/Wellpath's contract for healthcare services in the jail.

In light of the recent Grand Jury report on deaths in the jail of persons with serious mental illness and/or substance use disorders, we believe the availability of 24/7 mental health services in the jail is critical to the safety of inmates. It is the comment we've heard most often from colleagues and the community. We've been told on-call, overnight access to treatment in crisis, including medication in emergency, is within the existing scope of Wellpath's contract and responsibility. This being the case, such care should always be available when needed. Someone in mental health crisis in the jail should never have to wait overnight for a medical/mental health crisis response.

In addition, we are concerned that inmates on medications, both mental health and medical, are sometimes experiencing lapses in med delivery, either when they arrive at the jail and need to be bridged, or at times when meds have simply not been supplied. Continuity of medication must be a priority and must be assured, despite staffing shortages (if this is the reason for lapses), lest inmates suffer serious decompensation resulting in crisis.

Our hope is that any such deficiencies can be addressed in the context of the Wellpath contract extension, and the defined system of oversight the county put in place some time ago.

Thank you for your consideration.