



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
AGENDA LETTER

Agenda Number:

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors  
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101  
(805) 568-2240

Department Name: CEO  
Department No.: 012  
For Agenda Of: August 14, 2012  
Placement: Departmental  
Estimated Tme: 30 minutes  
Continued Item: No  
If Yes, date from:  
Vote Required: Majority

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**TO:** Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Department Chandra L. Wallar, County Executive Officer, 568.3400  
Director(s)  
Contact Info: Dennis Bozanich, Assistant to the CEO, 568-3400

**SUBJECT:** Response to Santa Barbara Civil Grand Jury Titled, "*CARES Crisis Residential North: An Underutilized Mental Health Asset*"

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**County Counsel Concurrence**

As to form: Yes

**Auditor-Controller Concurrence**

As to form: N/A

**Recommended Actions:**

That the Board of Supervisors:

- A. Consider and adopt responses in Attachment A as the Board of Supervisors responses to the Grand Jury report entitled "*CARES Crisis Residential North: An Underutilized Mental Health Asset*" and
- B. Authorize the Chair to sign the letter included as Attachment A forwarding the responses to the Presiding Judge.

**Summary Text:**

On June 7, 2012, the Santa Barbara County Grand Jury published a follow up report on truancy prevention entitled "*CARES Crisis Residential North: An Underutilized Mental Health Asset.*" This report identifies excess capacity in the CARES Crisis Residential North facility. This twelve-bed facility is staffed to provide care for post-acute mentally ill patients with or without medical insurance.

The Grand Jury's report requests responses on seven findings and four recommendations from the Alcohol, Drug and Mental Health Services Department and the Probation Department.

**Background:**

On June 7, 2012, the Civil Grand Jury issued a follow up report entitled "*CARES Crisis Residential North: An Underutilized Mental Health Asset*" following interviews with county and CARES Crisis Residential North staff.

The Response Letter to the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court for the June 2012 Grand Jury report (Attachment A) provides proposed responses to seven findings (# 1a-e, 2 and 3) on various aspects of the services provided by the CARES Crisis Residential North facility and the amount of knowledge that service providers have about the facility. It is proposed that the Board agree with all seven findings.

The Response Letter additionally request responses to four recommendations (# 1a-b, 2 and 3.)

The Grand Jury's Recommendations 1a and 2 will both be implemented by the end of August. Recommendation 1a and 2 suggests a coordinated outreach effort to service providers and specifically emergency room staff to improve the patient referral rate and process.

Recommendations 1b and 3 have already been implemented. Recommendation 1b suggests contacting San Luis Obispo Mental Health staff to inform them of the facility's availability and capacity while Recommendation 3 suggests increasing the coordination with staff from County Jail and the Psychiatric Facility to facilitate patients in need availing themselves to CARES Crisis Residential North. These recommendations have already been implemented.

**Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:**

Budgeted:

No fiscal analysis required for consideration and adoption of this response.

**Attachments:**

- A- Response to the Grand Jury report "*CARES Crisis Residential North: An Underutilized Mental Health Asset*"
- B- Grand Jury Report – "*CARES Crisis Residential North: An Underutilized Mental Health Asset*"

**Authored by:**

Dennis Bozanich, Assistant to the County Executive Officer

**cc:**

Lloyd G. LeCain, Foreman, Santa Barbara Civil Grand Jury  
Ann Detrick, Alcohol, Drug and Mental Health Services Department  
Beverly Taylor, Probation Department