

Brianda Negrete

Public Comment - Behavioral



Wellness

From: Pamela Flynt Tambo <pambotambo@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 17, 2023 1:32 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: Statement for 4-18-23 First Functional Group, Behavioral Wellness
Attachments: LWVSB-CLUE BOS NAMI Supp 4-18 (1)final.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.

Attached is a statement from CLUE-SB and LWVSB for the BOS budget meeting-Behavioral Wellness item tomorrow on 4-18. Thank you for distributing it to the supervisors.

Best regards,
Pam Flynt Tambo

805.451.4340
pambotambo@gmail.com

Mental illness is at once the most solitary of afflictions for those experiencing it and the most social of maladies for everyone around them.

Quoted by Andrew Scull, M.D.



CLUE (Clergy & Laity United for Economic Justice) Santa Barbara

April 17, 2023 (for April 18 BOS Meeting)

Budget Workshops: Departmental Budgets – Behavioral Wellness

Dear Chair Williams and Members of the Board of Supervisors:

We are speaking for the members of our organizations in support of the recommendations from NAMI Santa Barbara County and Families ACT! The concerns embodied in the phrase Beds Not Jail Cells are a significant component of effectively reducing the numbers of people in the jail who are harmed by jail time and better served by time in supportive housing with treatment in evidenced-based programs.

We strongly support the cooperative efforts of both Behavioral Wellness in the community and Well Path in the jail to develop strategies to “warmly” transition their mutual clients between the jail and our communities.

We are grateful for your serious and continuous efforts to improve the progress of our vital county services and systems, including funding the KPMG Studies, their reports, and the ongoing implementation of their recommendations. In addition, you have facilitated departmental collaboration and progress with consulting Judge Sherrill Ellsworth. We understand this is to serve us ALL in our communities for the health of both our county staff and all of our community members.

Sincerely,

Maureen Earls
Co-Chair
Clue Workgroup

Pam Flynt Tambo
Vice President & Social Policy Chair
LWVSB

Brianda Negrete

From: Pamela Flynt Tambo <pambotambo@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 17, 2023 1:55 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: Statement for BOS 4-19-23 - Public Safety - Public Defender
Attachments: CLUE LWVSB BOS 23-0419 Final.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.

Attached is a statement from CLUE-SB and LWVSB for the BOS budget meeting-Public Safety - Public Defender item on Wednesday on 4-19. Thank you for distributing it to the supervisors and other interested parties.

Sincerely,
Pam Flynt Tambo

805.451.4340
pambotambo@gmail.com

Mental illness is at once the most solitary of afflictions for those experiencing it and the most social of maladies for everyone around them.

Quoted by Andrew Scull, M.D.



CLUE (Clergy & Laity United for Economic Justice) Santa Barbara

April 19, 2023

Budget Workshops: Departmental Budgets – Public Safety/Public Defender

Dear Chair Williams and Members of the Board of Supervisors:

CLUE Santa Barbara and the League of Women Voters of Santa Barbara appreciate working with you and the County Public Safety Department leaders to reform our current criminal justice process. We share common goals to protect public safety, eliminate root causes of harm to people unjustly impacted by the current system, and to discern the most effective and efficient use of County funds to address these goals.

As your Board prepares for the upcoming 2023-34 budget hearings, we ask that you keep in mind the need to continue to prioritize criminal justice reform efforts.

- Many of the people who are booked into County jail suffer principally from mental health or addiction issues. They are better and most cost-effectively served by evidence-based treatment and services in community-based facilities, not in the jail.
- In addition, approximately 80% of those in jail are pretrial, presumed innocent, disproportionately poor, unable to pay bail, and people of color. We need to continue to fund alternatives to reduce the number who are held in County pretrial jail placement.
- Reducing the number of overall County jail beds will provide significant cost savings which can then be used to strengthen our community wellness options.

We understand that your Board has limited funds that are currently available for allocation to County Departments. We support prioritizing the allocation of these funds to the Public Defender's Office pursuant to all their requests as this will address the above stated criminal justice reform efforts.

- Of particular importance is their request for funding of leadership and supervisory support for three (3) Professional Supervisor positions, which include two (2) Legal Office Supervisors and one (1) Racial Justice Act Attorney Supervisor.

- Providing such Supervisorial infrastructure is critical to allow the Public Defender's staff to meet their mandated obligations to effectively represent their clients.

Your allocation of funds to these requests at this time will help meet the priority goal of safely reducing the County jail population while investing in increased support for successful alternative community placement.

Sincerely,

Maureen Earls
Co-Chair
Clue Workgroup

Pam Flynt Tambo
Vice President & Social Policy Chair
LWVSB