

COVID



de la Guerra, Sheila **Public Comment**

From: Davenport, Michael - 14 <michael.davenport@rainhail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 13, 2020 8:09 AM
To: sbcob
Cc: Williams, Das; Hart, Gregg; Hartmann, Joan; Adam, Peter; Lavagnino, Steve
Subject: PUBLIC COMMENT FOR BOARD OF SUPERVISORS HEARING OF APRIL 14TH, ITEM D-1; 20-00262.
Attachments: Dear Honorable Members of the Board of Supervisors.pdf

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Dear Clerk of Board,

Please accept the following attachment for public comment and place in the record for Item D-1; 20-00262.

Michael J. Davenport
2110 Alisos Drive
Santa Barbara, CA 33108

April 13, 2020

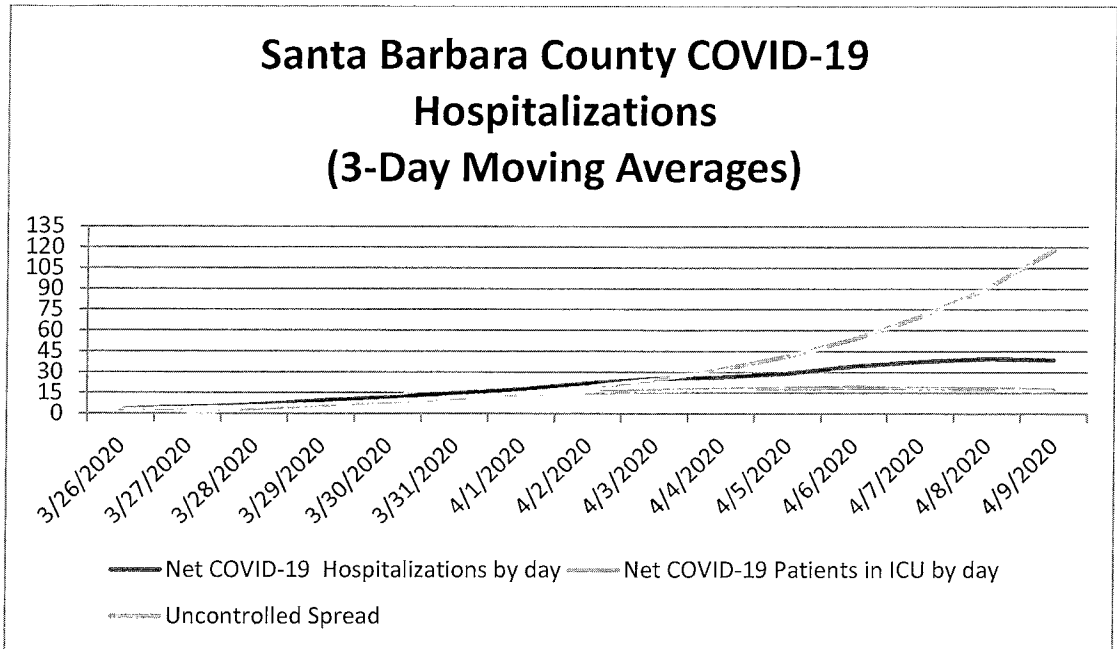
Public Comment for Board of Supervisors Meeting on April 14th, Item No. D-1; 20-00262

Dear Honorable Members of the Board of Supervisors,

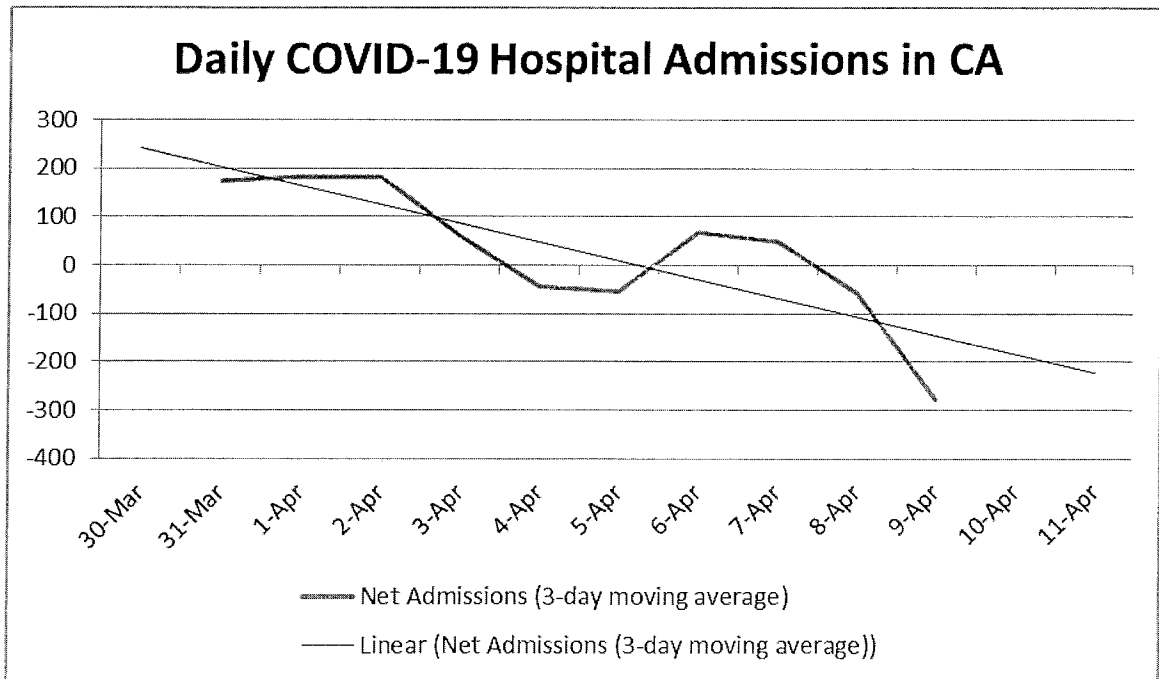
It is heartening to see the way our community has worked together to avert a major outbreak of COVID-19 in Santa Barbara. Now is the time to begin a planning process to safely re-open the Santa Barbara economy and society as soon as possible. By continuing the stay at home order, we are on the precipice of creating emotional and physical health, social and economic harms that could rival those we have sacrificed to avoid. We must set a goal of gradually transitioning to our new lower level of abnormal no later than May 1st. If Sacramento will not take the lead, then we must. Too much is at stake in our precious and now fragile community.

Santa Barbara, along with the rest of the State of California, has proven that social distancing, implemented well before the State mandate, has worked. We know now, as one member of our community has predicted for weeks, that our healthcare capacity is far from being overwhelmed by COVID-19 patients. Governor Newsom issued his unprecedented stay at home order on the basis of a prediction that California would need 50,000 hospital beds to treat critically ill COVID-19 patients. The current data has since shown that California actually needed less than 6,000 beds to meet the worst of the pandemic, and has at least 16,500 more beds, not including the USS Mercy, to handle COVID-19 cases in the future.

Here at home, Santa Barbara County has 376 available beds, plus additional surge capacity, to treat COVID-19 patients. As of April 11th, the total bed census for COVID-19 was at 39, 10 of which are from the federal Lompoc Prison outbreak, with no risk of community transmission. Even including the prisoner patients, hospital bed census for COVID-19 is roughly at 10% of capacity. The County has been stable with between 35 and 42 beds utilized for COVID-19 patients for the past several days. See below chart prepared by Brian Goebel.



The actual data for the State of California demonstrates that hospital admissions for COVID-19 have significantly dropped and are on a continuing downward trend. Soon we will not even need 6000 beds as discharges outnumber new admissions (the number of beds actually needed during the pandemic appears to have been likely much lower in light of new data). We have the healthcare capacity required to execute a sensible public health strategy that carries far fewer collateral costs. See below chart prepared by Brian Goebel.



It is incumbent upon the Board of Supervisors to take charge and lead rather than wait and respond to Sacramento. There has been no cost/benefit analysis as to the number of lives that will be permanently harmed as a result of the stay at home order – people foregoing critical medical screenings that would detect cancer and other fatal diseases, thousands of other thrust into poverty, depression, and addiction. Nor has there been any analysis as to the detriment on school-aged children’s education and physical and mental health. Lay-offs and furloughs are commonplace, including from healthcare facilities such as Sansum Medical Clinic, which furloughed about 50% of its workforce. Reports of domestic abuse are up. If we do not reopen during May, the extended closure will exact a toll on our community never seen in our lifetime and the course of a vicious downward spiral will be fully mapped.

We must lead. Now is the time to create and execute a plan to change the trajectory our community is on. We urge you to do so.

Respectfully,

Michael Davenport
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Santa Barbara, CA