

Lenzi, Chelsea

From: Lynne Gibbs <gibbslyn2@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, February 05, 2016 10:49 AM
To: sbcob
Cc: SupervisorCarbajal; Farr, Doreen; Adam, Peter; Lavagnino, Steve; Wolf, Janet; Weber, Erin; Friedman, Eric; O'Gorman, Mary; Nelson, Bob; Bantilan, Cory; CAO email
Subject: BOS Hearing 2/9/2016, Departmental Agenda Item #6

Honorable Supervisors,

Regarding the ADMHS proposed name change, i am sharing below input I gave to Suzanne Grimmesey, ADMHS, on September 30, 2015:

Suzanne,

I'd like to comment on the proposed name change for ADMHS.

Having talked with some family members, most are confused by the name, thinking it implies ADMHS clients with biologically-based brain illnesses should be capable of curing their illness, conforming their behavior to make themselves well.

Most are unaware (and I suspect the Department may be, as well) that the term behavioral wellness is one that has become politicized, associated with a small portion of the mental health industry that strongly opposes Assisted Outpatient Treatment, and other approaches to treatment they deem coercive, such as involuntary inpatient hospitalization (5150s in CA), and assertive community treatment (ACT).

California's Welfare and Institutions code mandates that ADMHS serve persons with the most serious mental illness. At a time during which ADMHS is striving to assure the community that it does indeed care for persons with the most serious illness, this choice of name strikes me as particularly unfortunate. I hope you will reconsider.

Thank you for welcoming our input.

Lynne Gibbs