

# Public Comment - Group 1



Lia Graham

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**From:** Andi Henrikson <andisb@msn.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 18, 2024 8:05 PM  
**To:** sbcob  
**Subject:** Re: Implementation of Senate Bill 43 Agenda Meeting on August 20, 2024

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
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**To:** Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors re Agenda meeting on Tuesday, August 20, 2024 and Implementation of Senate Bill 43

On Tuesday, the county Board of Supervisors Agenda includes a progress report by the Dept. of Behavioral Health's planning for implementation of Senate Bill 43, the "Grave Disability" bill.

This is the bill that would at last authorize treatment for persons so ill they cannot meet their need for medical treatment and/or personal safety regardless of whether their grave disability is caused by severe mental illness and/or a severe substance use disorder.

As a parent of such an individual, I beseech this Board to complete our County Application process by the deadline date of December 13, 2024. There is no question our County is severely lacking these facilities and beds. I don't want my daughter behind bars again. I want her to have the proper medical care she deserves and needs.

Thank you.

Regarding the Tuesday, August 20th, county Board of Supervisors meeting, a progress report (File #24-00842) will be presented on planning for implementation of Senate Bill 43, the “Grave Disability” bill, passed in 2023. Our county elected to delay implementation for up to 2 years for planning and preparation. This report outlines the requirements of SB 43, and the final page has a timeline showing how Santa Barbara County gets to implementation in July 2025, with adequate training, additional office space and staffing and identification of possible candidates qualifying under SB43.

What is missing from the report is how the county will meet the need for PHF-type bed space needed to implement SB43. There is mention of constraints in LPS capacity, and of “bed expansion opportunities.”

Can we get more detail about how the bed space will be created, which is essential for the success of this bill?

We have to date not taken the opportunity to apply for behavioral health infrastructure funding which other counties have used to increase their bed space with construction or renovation of acute care hospitals. We have only until Dec 13 to apply for these funds provided under Prop 1. Don’t let this deadline go by again. We can’t increase staffing and office space, and not increase the bed space needed to treat the anticipated increase in clients qualifying for services.

Pamela Wilkinson