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Ramirez, Angelica

Public Comment- Group 1

**From:** David Ketelaar CA-SANTA MARIA <david.ketelaar@commonspirit.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 19, 2021 8:57 AM  
**To:** sbcob  
**Cc:** Lee, Cherylynn  
**Subject:** public comment for Oct. 19th BOS agenda item #2 21-00955 Co-Response  
**Attachments:** SB BOS Oct. 19th mtg public comment-Co-response.pdf; SB BOS Oct. 19th mtg public comment-Co-response.docx



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To: Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors  
 From: David Ketelaar, M.D.  
 Past President, Medical Staff; physician champion for acute behavioral health services  
 Emergency Department Physician  
 Marian Regional Medical Center  
 Santa Maria, CA 93453

I strongly support the Co-Response project championed by the Sheriff's Department and urge the Board to fully fund county-wide coverage 24 hours per day. As an emergency physician involved in providing services to persons in mental health crises, the co-response model is the gold standard for safety for both our patients and our community. A well run co-response unit, working around the clock is available for acute crises AND to do proactive work to follow up with persons in need. From the hospital perspective, we struggle with arranging expedient follow up care for many patients in crisis, some of whom are high utilizers of emergency department services. The assistance of a co-response team to provide proactive engagement of individuals soon after hospital release will keep many situations from escalating and will improve linkages to services that will ultimately result in decreased emergency department utilization and improved care for our patients. Our hospital, emergency department and upcoming Crisis unit all look forward to partnering more closely with the Behavioral Wellness and Sheriff's departments to improve care for persons in crisis. Please fully fund this program...it is becoming the standard of care for the community.

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**From:** Kayla Petersen <kayla@sbact.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 19, 2021 9:04 AM  
**To:** sbcob  
**Subject:** Dept. Agenda Item #2

**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.**

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Kayla Petersen, and I work for SB ACT in Santa Barbara County. SB ACT coordinates the efforts of numerous agencies to ensure efficient services and solutions to homelessness in SB. We work closely with the Department of Behavioral Wellness and others to make sure that some of the most vulnerable people receive services, and we have seen firsthand the impact of the Co-Response teams connected to both the Sheriff's office and the SBPD.

Since the onset of the pandemic, we have seen a dramatic increase in mental health acuity countywide--individuals on the streets experiencing mental health episodes that require specialized care from licensed professionals. The Co-Response units have provided exactly this. If we lose these Co-Response programs, we lose key care for those most in need in our community. The Co-Response units connect these individuals with services that they need, contributing to longterm solutions. I am entirely in support of the Co-Response teams at the county level receiving the funding needed to continue serving a population in dire need of competent care.

Thank you,

Kayla Petersen

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Kayla Petersen  
Program Coordinator | SB ACT  
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