



Clarity & Unity United

1500 State Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
clue@cluesb.org

August 23, 2015

**Board of Supervisors
County of Santa Barbara
105 East Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101**

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Dear Members of the Board of Supervisors,

CLUESB would like to provide the following input on the renewal of the Corizon Contract on the agenda for the Board of Supervisors' Meeting next Tuesday, August 25th. This decision is important, especially to those of us in faith communities. We urge you to consider how it will directly impact the lives of so many of those suffering from physical and/or mental health needs while in our county jail. It is also an economic justice issue. We are working together with you to find ways to provide alternative housing and treatment for those in our county jail with mental illness who belong in alternative housing and treatment. We call on you to consider this input as you respond with compassion and take responsibility for implementing economic justice. CLUESB supports:

- 1) **Complaint Review:** a serious Board consideration of the follow up on inmate complaints regarding the quality of Corizon care in our SB County jail
- 2) **Regular Board Reports:** procedures put in place requiring regular Board reports on inmate physical and mental health treatment complaints
- 3) **Formal Evaluation of Jail Health Services:** an outside evaluation of current Corizon services for physical and mental health jail services, like that of TriWest for ADMHS, with recommendations regarding continuing or replacing the current provider. Additionally it could provide input regarding the possibility of the County returning to ADMHS as the service provider.
- 4) **One Year Contract:** limit any 2015-6 contract with a "for profit" provider. This allows time for a thorough evaluation of the current services.
- 5) **Reduction and Redirection:** reduction of jail inmates with mental illness should be an outcome of recent changes and needs accurate documentation. These changes include: millions of dollars in recent ADMHS grant money for SB County crisis interventions, the training of officers for appropriate responses to those with mental illness, prop 47 implementation, along with others. There is little documented certainty

about how those with mental illness in jail are: identified, treated uniquely for different kinds of mental

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illness, tracked to identify frequent users of jail and mental health services, and specific interventions that have succeeded in reducing the number of those who belong in alternative facilities. Accurate accounting for **the reduction** seems to call for a reduction of the service contract. Economic justice calls us to **redirect jail contract money saved** to community supportive housing or prevention.

- 6) **Transparency with Line Item Accounting:** a requirement of transparency for the Corizon contract line item budget expenses, accounting for the millions of dollars contracted for both physical and mental health jail services. In prior years the public had access to its line item budget.

The lives of those incarcerated with physical and mental health needs are in your hands. We ask you to consider carefully our input.

Sincerely,
Maureen Earls
maurenearls00@gmail.com
CLUE SB Board

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