

Lenzi, Chelsea

From: Sharon Carroll <sebcarroll@att.net>
Sent: Tuesday, December 08, 2015 7:19 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: Please Pass Laura's Law

Please Pass Laura's Law!

My 24 year old son has been in Santa Barbara County Jail for 6 weeks waiting for a bed in a California State Mental Hospital, for 'restoration therapy'.

He has been in the CARES program for a little more than a year. My son was diagnosed schizophrenic with psychotic episodes, and has extreme social phobia. He has been isolating himself for the past 7-8 years, he has also been suicidal for all those years. He became very angry about his life and started taking that out on me. My son does not believe there is anything wrong with him, and has been non compliant with CARES on and off the entire time.

I placed call after call asking someone to come to my home and talk to him, the Sheriffs and SB Police, of course CARES, I called therapists no one could help. He was returned home after a 51-50 his first suicide threat, and that was it, no support at all, I didn't know about CARES still. CARES did send out an assessment team and put him on the 51-50 hold. They did not follow up. It wasn't until he hit me that CARES got involve a crime was committed. When I was calling for help his condition was not as advanced as it is now. It would have made such a difference in his and mine if someone would have reached out to him.

My first contacts with CARES; I was told to stay out of it and let them take care of my son. As weeks progressed he continued to decline my contact at CARES told me my only action was to call the police over and over until he stopped his behavior towards me. He has a felony and a misdemeanor hanging over him, because I CALLED THE POLICE LIKE I WAS INSTRUCTED!

My son has mental health issues, HE IS NOT A CRIMINAL!!!
My son is brilliant he is very articulate, he has poured himself over the internet learning these past years and can talk about many many many different topics. He is was also very athletic he played all the sports in his youth, roller hockey was his favorite he played for years he even joined the All Stars traveling team, we had so much fun. His interests turned to video games where he excelled, he played in his first tournament in Bellflower he was 13 year old. He later teamed up with a couple brothers from San Diego and traveled the States competing and winning. He was so excited about his future and his life. He has such a big heart, he dreams of helping people with their problems.

He can get that back! He needs support. Every single person out there with a mental health issue no matter their age, sex or race deserves a chance, needs help.
There is much to do passing Laura's Law is one of the many steps in the right direction.

Please Pass Laura's Law!

Sharon Carroll
Santa Barbara, CA