

**Lenzi, Chelsea**

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**From:** Worth Street Reach <info@worthstreetreach.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 17, 2017 9:19 AM  
**Subject:** URGENT: Budget cuts to county mental health and crisis intervention

Dear County Board of Supervisors,

I am a long-time homeless outreach activist in our county. I am going to be short and sweet because I just found out this item is on your agenda this morning.

We cannot cut any of the budget for the mentally ill in crisis. I have 5 people in treatment right now that have been on our streets causing us enormous amounts of funds in recidivism by citations, warrants, hospitalization, short term band-aid treatments and jail time. After 9 years I am finally getting the attention needed for a man who has had over 900 citations and has been beaten senseless in our parks and streets. He is currently sent out of our city due to lack of beds, but doing extremely well.

We were finally gaining some foothold with Behavioral Health that was way behind where they need to be including the amount of beds for treatment and aftercare. Not to mention the huge need for outreach and assessment.

This simply cannot be cut at this crucial turning point. Perhaps cutting top heavy jobs income but not outreach nor treatment.

After many years of working with these clients, I was starting to have some hope and the same with the test of Laura's Law.

If we cannot maintain the good work started how can we know if it will work?

Please find solutions to keep mental health treatment in place.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

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**Deborah Barnes, Founder**

**Worth Street Reach**

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