

Alexander, Jacquelyne

From: juliejooge <juliejooge@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 19, 2018 7:29 PM
To: Wolf, Janet; Hartmann, Joan; Adam, Peter; Lavagnino, Steve; Williams, Das; sbcob
Subject: PUBLIC COMMENT re need for CIT COORDINATOR

Dear County Supervisors,

I am writing to tell you about an incident that occurred early Easter morning April 1, 2018 around 12:00am.

My daughter who has mental health issues had been drinking and was yelling outside our home. My younger daughter calmly talked to her and was able to have her come inside our house.

They had ordered a pizza and the daughter with challenges went in her room and was peaceful and good.

Apparently a neighbor had called 911. About 5 to 10 minutes later there was a knock at our door. It was one of the SB County Sheriffs wondering what the situation was. He thought she was still outside but my daughter let him know she was in her room and had mental health issues. He wanted to just check on her quickly.

Shortly afterwards his partner, F. Arnoldi showed up. This simple situation where my daughter was quiet and in her room, escalated needlessly.

The officers obviously had no training in crisis intervention. My daughter was handcuffed, taken to jail and now faces court appearances with charges of evading an officer and assault on an officer. She does not need to be locked up, nor put through court trials and receive felonies for being frightened and avoiding an officer. The incident was escalated instead of de-escalated.

Crisis Intervention Training should be essential for all uniformed officers. It teaches effective and compassionate approaches to de-escalation, not aggravation. My daughter was sitting quietly in her room, ready to finally eat something more significant. But instead was needlessly arrested and jailed. I am asking you to please fund a full time CIT Coordinator position, which is so necessary for our community.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Julie A. Marvin

Alexander, Jacquelyne

From: Jill Mackay <jmackay8@cox.net>
Sent: Thursday, April 19, 2018 8:49 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: CIT program

To the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors.

PLEASE continue to fund and train law enforcement officers in Crisis Intervention Training.

Our son had a relapse of his mental illness before Thanksgiving last year and we really appreciated the skill and kindness with which the officers (CIT trained), who were called to his home address, approached him. Unfortunately, the Mobile Crisis Team failed to show up, as often happens, and our son grew more and more agitated. The officers had to try and persuade him to leave his home which he resisted, throwing water from a cat's dish at one officer and stamping on his toe. They were still very patient, but had to handcuff him at this point and arrested him on two counts of assault and battery. He was taken to the county jail for the night and harmed himself by digging a pencil repeatedly into his hand.

Frantic calls were made to the Public Defender's Office to try and get him assessed and placed in a Mental Health facility where his symptoms could be treated. Finally, the next evening he was assessed by the Mobile Crisis team and taken to Cottage Hospital and two days later he was transferred to Vista del Mar in Ventura. He was evacuated two days later after the fire swept through that area. The hand which he'd injured had never been treated and was now seriously infected and he was taken to the hospital ER for i/v antibiotics, then finally transferred to the PHF in Santa Barbara. Here, after three weeks he was reasonably stabilized on medication, but still needed lots of supervision before he could live safely on his own again. My husband and I were determined to help him everyday, but it has been exhausting and we aren't young. If there had been a 'step down' facility where he could have spent more time recovering, received some talk therapy and guidance, as well as medication supervision, that would have been the very best thing. We need to find the dollars to create that kind of rehab facility here in Santa Barbara.

Thanks for listening.

Jill and Hugh Mackay

Alexander, Jacquelyne

From: Nina Boelsterli <aflneverquit@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, April 20, 2018 6:07 AM
To: sbcob
Subject: CIT
Attachments: Letter-2.pdf

To: Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors-Sheriff Department Budget Hearing,

This letter is a plea from a desperate mother, with a mentally ill son who is current incarcerated because he was arrested while in the "throes of a mental crisis."

My son was arrested on 1/22/2017 he was walking down the street not bothering anyone he just looked a little off. Truth be told he was. He suffers from PTSD and is BiPolar. He had not slept for 3 days, and had just got laid off of his job and was walking home, he looked very disheveled. He had not stolen anything, he had not assaulted anyone, had no drugs or alcohol in his possession. He was not yelling and disturbing the community. He simply was walking down the street on Hollister. The police had not been called to respond to any disturbance, they just happened to drive by him and thought he looked off.

This was a chance for our first responders to either be a hero and help a person with mental illness or escalate the a situation. This is what happend.

My son was confronted by two sheriffs and immediately grabbed. My son who is 22 years old with his whole future ahead of him now faces 2 felonies, and an infraction. He charged with Felony 1-obstruct/resist executive officer. Felony 2--Battery against police officer. Infraction-Pedestrian, must yield right-of -way outside of crosswalk.

My son now is in what they call in the loop, the revolving door. While my son is dealing with these charges and trying to find help for his condition. He has had one more run in with the police. This time we called them for help.

My son had spent three days in the hospital, and had just been released, very prematurely. He needed to be back in the hospital. I called the hospital and they said I need to call 911. They are the only ones who can call CARES to come out. I called 911, I made it clear my son was mentally ill, can asked again if someone from CARES could respond. NO, the police have to be the first responders. . I called back and said can you make sure they are CIT trained? I will make the rest of this letter short. CARES was not called, my son now has another felony charge.

He sits, in an orange suit, in solitary confinement, in the mental area of the jail. His mental health is deteriorating everyday, We have a place for him to receive the care he needs. We are just in now dealing with the court system which is very slow, expensive and difficult to navigate. I hope to not only help my son but others facing this crisis.

With police calls involving mental health on the rise, it is imperative that police officers receive mental health and crisis intervention training. Our first responders need to be heros. Let's give them the training they deserve and need to better serve our community. I beg you to understand the need of a full time CIT coordinator in our community. Thanks for your help and support in this endeavor.

Yours faithfully,

Nina Boelstelri