

June McHuen

From: Jami Morritt
Sent: Tuesday, March 30, 2021 7:39 AM
To: June McHuen; Stacey Boyd
Subject: FW: Public Comment--please verify received--thank you
Attachments: Board of Supervisors.docx March 30 2021.docx

Please distribute. For BGO & the minutes.

-jami

From: Lauren Rettagliata <rettagliata@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 29, 2021 4:23 PM
To: Jami Morritt <Jami.Morritt@cob.cccounty.us>; Lara DeLaney <Lara.DeLaney@cao.cccounty.us>
Subject: Public Comment--please verify received--thank you

Board of Supervisors

RE: D2 on the March 30, 2021 Agenda

http://64.166.146.245/docs/2021/BOS/20210330_1718/45022_Earmark%20Requests%202021--final%20revised.pdf

Oak Grove has been a site for years that was envisioned as a refuge for youth and young adults with serious mental illness. Since 2015, community advocates have partnered through CPAW and the Mental Health Commission to bring this prime location back into use. There have been hundreds of hours of meetings on the need to again reopen this location with housing. Though the Mobile Crisis HUB is needed without housing for those in crisis ---- it is a HUB to nowhere. As you are all aware for years people with a serious mental illness have been to quickly evaluated and then released to a situation where they do not get the needed intensive ongoing treatment that is required for the serious nature of their illness. This location already has the floor plan for a treatment center with housing. There are considerable costs involved to make it viable. However, the seriousness of the illness that people have when a 5150 is initiated needs to be dealt with. It cannot be continually seen as too expensive. Serious mental illness in many of those who live on our streets or are frequently in our hospitals and jails cannot be treated and cared for without the correct type of housing. For many with a persistent serious mental illness more than Housing First in scattered site master leases is needed.

It is understood how quickly government funding deadlines come. However, the fact that housing was not part of the "ask" in the proposal submitted is very concerning. The original Board of Supervisors' order did entail housing as its main component. Cited here: July 30, 2019

http://64.166.146.245/public//print/ag_memo_pdf_popup.cfm?seq=38828&rev_num=0&mode=CUSTOM

Will the Board of Supervisors make sure that housing for those with a serious mental illness who need supported services on site is developed if this project goes forward without the housing? Diversion is very important, but people must have a place to be diverted to---or their very life is placed in jeopardy.

When a 5150 is issued the seriousness of a 5150 alone dictates that a person needs a full Psychiatric Evaluation not a referral to community treatment or a cooling off period at a Mobile Crisis Hub. I am afraid that I see this project as prolonging the revolving door process of holding someone for a short period and then releasing them

back into the very bad situation that they were in. Where will those with a serious mental illness be diverted to? This county does not have access to the needed permanent or temporary housing for its most ill.

Another concern that I believe you as County Supervisors can address is the caveat that only nonprofits can benefit from any funding received. Can you make our Congressional Representatives and Senators aware that in the field of Behavioral Health many of the Providers are for-profit? Providers of services to those with a serious mental illness should not be penalized. For-profits in Mental Health also care for those who are the most seriously ill. They include Crestwood Behavioral Health, Telecare, California Psychiatric Transitions, Psynergy to name a few who care for the most seriously ill.

Respectfully submitted for consideration,

Lauren Rettagliata