



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF VENTURA

GOVERNMENT CENTER, HALL OF ADMINISTRATION
800 SOUTH VICTORIA AVENUE, VENTURA, CALIFORNIA 93009

April 6, 2010

Board of Supervisors
County of Ventura
800 South Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93009

From the Desk of **STEVE BENNETT**
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MEMBERS OF THE BOARD
LINDA PARKS
KATHY I. LONG, CHAIR
PETER C. FOY
JOHN C. ZARAGOZA

SUBJECT: Recommendation of Supervisor Bennett to Convert the Existing 15-bed Hillmont House Mental Health Rehabilitation Center (MHRC) to a Short-Term Social Rehabilitation Facility.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that this Board direct the Behavioral Health Department staff to make the necessary arrangements and program changes to convert the existing 15-bed Hillmont House Mental Health Rehabilitation Center (MHRC) to a Short-Term Social Rehabilitation Facility and make arrangements to accommodate individuals normally placed at Hillmont House at an alternative facility developed at Casa De Esperanza that will similarly meet their treatment needs.

DISCUSSION:

I've had a number of conversations with both Mike Powers and Meloney Roy to gain an understanding of the difficulties the Ventura County Behavioral Health Department has faced trying to find a location for a Short-Term Social Rehabilitation Facility.

During the 2005 Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) planning process, over five-hundred participating stakeholders identified the development of a full-continuum of support services for individuals experiencing a crisis as the top priority for MHSA funding. A project to establish a Short-Term Social Rehabilitation Facility was approved in 2006 as part of that continuum and has remained integral to the Ventura County MHSA Plan since.

After a four-year search, the location that best meets the established criteria is the proposed conversion of the existing Hillmont House Mental Health Rehabilitation Center (MHRC) located on the VCMC Campus.

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The Hillmont House MHRC currently houses fifteen individuals, many of whom have been discharged from the County Inpatient Unit and continue to need intensive residential rehabilitation treatment service. Six of the fifteen beds are set aside for short-term stays, while the other nine are reserved for long-term care up to eighteen months.

The proposal to convert all fifteen available beds at Hillmont House to short-term beds, with the conversion of the facility to Short-Term Social Rehabilitation, optimizes resources, decreases the likelihood of individuals being discharged from the acute unit without adequate supports firmly in place and promotes wellness.


An increase in short-term beds (an additional nine beds over the current six), assures that more individuals leaving the hospital have a safe and seamless transition back to their own communities and appropriate aftercare treatment programs. This will reduce the likeliness of homelessness and recidivism.

No construction is anticipated to convert Hillmont House's license from Mental Health Rehabilitation to Short-Term Social Rehabilitation meaning that this solution is low-impact, low-cost.

Staff has assured me they will work with all clients and their families affected by any changes at Hillmont House or Casa de Esperanza and interested stakeholders to assure as smooth a transition as possible.

The institution of a Short-Term Social Rehabilitation Facility will make our public mental health system stronger and our community healthier. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have questions or concerns.

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steve Bennett", with a stylized, cursive script.

Steve Bennett
Supervisor, First District