



City of Santa Barbara
Police Department

www.sbpd.com
www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov

Camerino Sanchez

Chief's Office
Tel: 805.897.2395
Fax: 805.897.2439

March 17, 2015

General Information
Tel: 805.897.2300
Fax: 805.897.2434

Ms. Holly Phipps, MCRP
County of San Luis Obispo
976 Osos Street, Room 300
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408

Animal Control
Tel: 805.963.1513
Fax: 805.963.1514

Dear Ms. Phipps,

Business Office
Tel: 805.897.2400
Fax: 805.897.2420

I am Chief of Police for the Santa Barbara Police Department. I understand you are the County of San Luis Obispo's Project Planner for a new non-forensic acute care psychiatric facility being proposed in Templeton, CA.

Community Services
Tel: 805.897.3717
Fax: 805.897.3733

The Architect for that project (Jan Hochhauser) contacted me inquiring about the Police Department's experience regarding facilities that service individuals with a need for mental health care in our community.

Dispatch
Tel: 805.897.2410
Fax: 805.897.2302

I worked with Jan Hochhauser when the Mental Health Association facility was proposed and approved on Garden Street. I am also familiar with the psychiatric unit at Santa Barbara Cottage Hospital, where we have an outstanding relationship.

Office of Emergency Services
Tel: 805.879.3725
Fax: 805.897.2420

Often the public has concerns about impacts to safety and security in neighborhoods around or near these facilities. My experience in Santa Barbara indicates that, in fact, there are no exacerbated threats to the public in neighborhoods around these facilities that provide mental health care. The Police Department's records / incident reporting does not indicate such a problem due to the presence of these facilities.

Parking
Tel: 805.897.2360
Fax: 805.897.2437

Furthermore, I believe that the ability to provide mental health care is a valuable resource that contributes to the general health, well-being, and public safety for our community.

Patrol
Tel: 805.897.2392
Fax: 805.897.2434

Should you have further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Records
Tel: 805.897.2355
Fax: 805.897.2434

Sincerely,

Cam Sanchez

CS/bas

215 E. Figueroa St.
Santa Barbara, CA
93101

PO Box 539
Santa Barbara, CA
93102-0539



Transitions-Mental Health Association

Inspiring hope, growth, recovery and wellness in our communities.

June 26, 2015

Holly Phipps
SLO County Planning & Building Department
976 Osos Street, #200 Room 300
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408

Dear Ms. Phipps:

As a local provider of mental health services, Transitions-Mental Health Association supports the proposed Behavioral Health Hospital in Templeton. We recognize the stigma that still exists about mental illness, but we urge you to recognize this project as a desperately needed resource for our community. The mentally ill patients that would seek treatment at this new facility are living among us. The question is, would we prefer they be treated or remain untreated? Untreated mental illness can lead to deterioration in one's health and can lead to unfortunate consequences, sometimes with community-wide impact. Mental illness deserves to be seen for what it is: a health condition affecting a person's ability to function, just like so many other physical health conditions for which hospitals and treatment centers exist countywide.

The planned hospital would be a voluntary facility, not a locked or forensic facility. Patients would be admitted by a medical professional or loved one for acute, short-term care and support services. A patient could ask to be released by an attending physician at any time. It would have controlled access and staff, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Staff would work with the patient and their family to enable the best possible outcome, working toward a transition back into the community as quickly as clinically appropriate.

The hospital project is meant to treat almost anyone: children, adolescents, adults and geriatric people. This will be the only facility of its kind in San Luis Obispo County and will fill gaps currently existing in the county – gaps that cause tremendous difficulty for family members, doctors and the person in treatment. The San Luis Obispo Behavioral Health Department transports hundreds of County residents each year to psychiatric hospitals, some as far away as Sacramento.

The California Hospital Association projects a need of 138 beds for a county of our size. The proposed facility would consist of 82 primary beds and 8 swing beds. The County Behavioral Health Department currently has 16 beds at its Psychiatric Health Facility, but those beds are frequently full, and are sometimes inappropriate for an acute, voluntary patient or a child in mental health crisis.

The funding will come from private insurance, managed care companies, Medicare, military plans and other funding sources as available to the level of care. There will be no need for municipal or county funding for the overall project. There will be no need for services from the Templeton School District for the children admitted to the facility, as has been rumored.

We fully support plans for the Behavioral Health Hospital in Templeton and urge you to approve this important community facility. There should be no place in our community where treatment for children, adults and seniors with mental illness is limited due to fear and discrimination. When we have the opportunity to provide quality treatment on par with the treatment for those with physical illness, we should welcome the opportunity with open arms.

Sincerely,

Jill Bolster-White
Executive Director

SANTA BARBARA COTTAGE HOSPITAL



POST OFFICE BOX 689
PUEBLO AT BATH STREET
SANTA BARBARA, CA 93102-0689
WWW.COTTAGEHEALTHSYSTEM.ORG

805 | 682-7111

Paul Erickson, MD
Santa Barbara Cottage Hospital
400 West Pueblo St.
Santa Barbara, CA 93105

July 15, 2015

Ms. Holly Phipps
County of San Luis Obispo Planning Department
976 Osos Street, Room 300
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408

Re: Acute Care Psychiatric Hospital Proposal for Templeton , California

Dear Ms. Phipps,

I am writing in support of the application for a new acute care psychiatric hospital on Las Tablas Road in Templeton CA. I am the Medical director for Psychiatry and Addiction Medicine at Santa Barbara Cottage Hospital. I met with the Architect and Owner to provide assistance in the design and programming for the facility.

There is significant unmet need for psychiatric treatment facilities in California and in our region. I understand that there are concerns about public safety in the neighborhoods near a psychiatric facility that is proposed.

In Santa Barbara we provide several kinds of psychiatric services for the community including an inpatient psychiatry unit. We have no problem with safety or other problems for the community. In fact we are very much appreciated by the community for the services we provide to many families. The community benefits greatly from accessible, quality treatment for psychiatric illnesses.

I support the application to provide additional resources for mental health care for the San Luis Obispo Community, and believe it will bring substantial benefit to the citizens of your county.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Paul Erickson, MD'.

Paul Erickson

George L. Baker

28434 Oak Valley Road
Castaic, CA 91384

Office: (323) 769-9002

Email: GeorgeLeeBaker@Gmail.com

March 19, 2015

Ms. Holly Phipps, MCRP
County of San Luis Obispo
976 Osos Street, Room 300
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408

Dear Holly,

I understand you are the county's Planner processing an application for a new acute care psychiatric hospital on Las Tablas Rd. in Templeton.

I was the Director of Facilities for CPC Vista del Mar Hospital in Ventura, CA from 1990 to 1994. Vista del Mar is an acute care psychiatric hospital very much like the one you are evaluating in Templeton. The new proposed facility is of similar size to Vista del Mar and services the same type of patients.

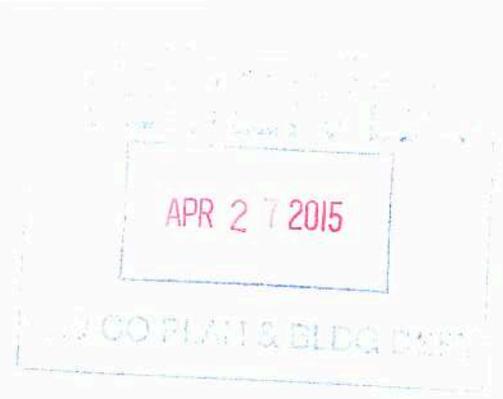
During my tenure at Vista del Mar I am not aware of any incidents with our patient population that perpetrated a threat to the public or adjacent community.

The idea that a facility such as Vista del Mar, or the one I understand that is being planned for Templeton, presents a danger to the public is a mischaracterization of what I experienced when I was involved in administration/management at Vista del Mar.

Sincerely,



George Baker



April 21, 2015

Ms. Holly Phipps, MCRP
County of San Luis Obispo
976 Osos Street, Room 300
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408

Ms. Phipps;

My name is Fran Sauvageau and I am the President and CEO of Meridian Behavioral Health. We are the largest, for profit, provider of behavioral services in the State of Minnesota, with 20 treatment facilities across our state. I have been asked by my colleague Mark Schneider to write this in support of the new acute care psychiatric hospital on Las Tables Road in Templeton California.

I have been in this industry for more than 30 years and have built and operated acute behavioral facilities across the country including Chua Vista, California. So I know that there are always community questions and concerns about the safety of a population in direct proximity to a behavioral facility. However, in my experience, at no time has any facility ever posed a community danger or nuisance. On the contrary, these facilities are great community members bringing highly trained and educated staff into the area. Patients and/or clients seek anonymity and refuge to recover and heal in these facilities and the providers strive to create that environment with aesthetically appealing environments in pastoral settings.

I am 100% confident your community will find the behavioral facility planned for Templeton to be an outstanding community citizen; a safe and stalwart neighbor!

I wish you the best,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "F. M. Sauvageau".

F. M. Sauvageau
President and CEO
Meridian Behavioral Health



SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH BOARD

2180 Johnson Avenue
San Luis Obispo, California 93401
805-781-4719 • FAX 805-781-1273

Martin Bragg
Behavioral Health Board Chair
Marshall Hamilton
Behavioral Health Board Vice Chair
Anne Robin
Behavioral Health Administrator

To: Board of Supervisors
From: Behavioral Health Advisory Board
Re: Need for Additional Inpatient Psychiatric Resources

September 15, 2015

The San Luis Obispo County Behavioral Health Advisory Board recognizes the pressing need for additional inpatient mental health resources in our county.

The County operated Psychiatric Health Facility (PHF) is our only resource in this county for inpatient care. The PHF has a licensed capacity of 16 beds including 2 for the care of children. The PHF is available for only short term treatment. There are no psychiatric resources for medium and long term treatment.

County residents must use resources in distant counties to alleviate their suffering from acute mental illness. In the past year, more than 300 County residents have accessed inpatient care in other counties.

It does not matter if you are rich or poor, if you need inpatient care and treatment for mental illness you are not going to receive it at a location near your home. Imagine the impact of this news on the parents of deeply troubled children whose needs can only be met more than a hundred miles away. Your Health Commission recently wrote to you citing the nationally recognized recommendation that there be 50 inpatient psychiatric beds for every 100,000 residents. In a county of nearly 3000,000 residents, we have no beds other than our short term PHF.

On behalf of our friends, neighbors and relatives struggling with acute and severe mental illness, we urge your Board to recognize and address this critical need for additional behavioral health care resources.

Martin Bragg, Chairperson



October 6, 2015

San Luis Obispo County Planning & Building Department
976 Osos Street #200
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408
Attn: Holly Phipps, Room 300

Re: Increased Access to Inpatient Psychiatric Services in San Luis Obispo County

On behalf of CenCal Health, I am writing in support of increasing access to inpatient psychiatric services in our service area. We are aware of the proposed San Luis Obispo County Mental Health Facility in Templeton, CA.

Our organization is the Medi-Cal Managed Care plan for Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo Counties and arranges for health care services by contracting with local providers. Our mission is to improve the health and wellness of the people on the Central Coast. With the implementation of the Affordable Care Act, we now serve one in five residents of San Luis Obispo County.

Last year, CenCal Health began arranging for mild to moderate mental health care services and coordinates with the County of San Luis Obispo's Public Health Department, who arrange for mental health services for those with severe mental health conditions. Often, Medi-Cal members are treated over 100 miles away because of the lack of available inpatient psychiatric beds in our service area. This challenges CenCal Health's ability to coordinate care between behavioral and physical health providers here locally where patients and their families reside.

Behavioral health access is essential to improvements in health care outcomes, especially in a time of crisis when inpatient behavioral health services are imperative and specifically for the underserved in our community. For these reasons, I write in support of efforts to increase inpatient psychiatric services on the Central Coast.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Robert S. Freeman", is written over a horizontal line.

Robert S. Freeman
Chief Executive Officer

Cc San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors