

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING  
January 28, 2020

**“For all items *NOT* on the agenda”**

**(Each Speaker Limited to 3 Minutes)**

**Voluntary Sign-In Sheet**

- ✓ 1. *Vernon Price*
- ✓ 2. *Thomas Mulder*
3. *Margaret A Gainer*
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RE: Formal Grievance concerning Health and Human Services Director, Connie Beck

Dear Humboldt County Board of Supervisors,

I come to you today with a heavy heart and broken spirit. On February 27, 2019, I had the honor and privilege to have a meeting with our Director of Health and Human Services, Connie Beck which was scheduled by Director Beck's Executive Assistance at 4:15 p.m. to 4:45 p.m. in the small Mezzanine conference room located at 507 F Street (known as the Pro Building). The purpose and intent of this meeting was to discuss a grievance previously submitted to Humboldt County Mental Health. I, as well as the Patients' Rights Advocate, Melody Beltz and the DHHS Compliance and Privacy Officer, Amy Cone arrived slightly prior to the scheduled start time, however, Director Beck did not arrive until after 4:30 p.m.. At the conclusion of the meeting, Director Beck said directly to me, "can I ask you a question," I responded affirmatively, she went on, "Mr. Price, have you taken your medication?"

I found this question extremely disturbing and emotionally traumatizing. As a consumer of Mental Health Services in Humboldt County, I am trying to overcome the stigma associated with mental illness and manage my symptoms so that I am in control of the mental illness and the mental illness is not in control of me. How can the battle against Mental Health stigma be fought when the leadership of Humboldt County Department of Health and Human Services demonstrates it during a business meeting? I bring this information to you today because this unethical behavior does not fit the standards of public leadership and the memory of this moment has disturbed me for the past 11 months.

Sadly, this is not the only situation of this kind that I have experienced with Humboldt County leadership. I request that you take this as a high priority item and address this at your earliest convenience. I will be providing other similar instances, in writing, in the near future.

Thank you for your time, concern and attention to this request. Please feel free to contact me, at any time, at the information listed below.

Vernon Lee Price  
459 Bayside Court # E  
Arcata, CA 95521  
(707) 298-9868 Cell  
(707) 630-3483 Home

Sincerely,



Vernon Lee Price