

Hayes, Kathy

From: Simone Whipple <simone@asis.com>
Sent: Monday, April 5, 2021 6:28 PM
To: COB
Subject: item 3, AB 1976 for agenda on 4/6/21

BOS Humboldt County,

I'm writing in support of AB 1976 as a member of NAMI (National Alliance for Mental Illness), as a member of FAB (Family Advisory Board) for HCMH, and as a concerned community member.

While you accurately state that funding was not part of this bill, 22 other counties have found ways to fund, and implement 'Laura's Law'. There are many opportunities to find, and implement funding for AB 1976, and we must have the time to do so.

I received notification of the BOS meeting on Saturday 4/2 (hardly enough time to complete research, and take action on this item).

I read the list of 'similar' county services. These are not in any way, like AB 1976.

What we have now in Humboldt County are a series of emergency actions, after-the-fact actions, and inadequate emergency housing at Sempervirons, or incarceration at the jail. Non of these services addresses the need to monitor severely mentally ill people who have the lack of insight to take their meds on a regular basis, and are free to make this 'choice' for themselves.

THESE PEOPLE ARE MENTALLY ILL, AND NOT CRIMINALS. They may; however carry out criminal acts when NOT on medication.

The recent stabbing in broad daylight, in central Arcata would very likely been entirely avoided, if the schizophrenic perpetrator of this violence had been cared for under AB1976.

Please work with those of us who need more than 2 days to find the funding necessary to bring AB1976 into Humboldt County. This will serve everyone in our county, and not just the severely mentally ill.

There is absolutely no reason that we cannot achieve what 22 other California counties have achieved.

Sincerely,
Suzanne Whipple