

El Dorado County Board Of Supervisors

Ron Mikulaco
Shiva Frentzen
Brian K. Veerkamp
Michael Ranalli
Sue Novasel

May 28 , 2015

The El Dorado County Mental Health Commission , during it's May 27, 2015 monthly meeting, unanimously passed a motion requesting that the Board of Supervisors allocate \$525,000.00 for use in funding the implementation of a two year Assisted Outpatient / Laura's Law Pilot Program and said allocation to be included in the El Dorado County Fiscal Year 2015 - 2016 Budget. Source of allocation to be from funds received from the State of California Pre- 2004 Mandated Debt Repayment to Counties as indicated in the Governor's May Revise 2015 Budget.

Regards,

Jim Abram
Countywide Chairman
El Dorado County Mental Health Commission

LATE DISTRIBUTION

DATE 5/28/15
BOS 6/1/15

#1

A PLEA TO THE EL DORADO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Ron Mikuloca
Brian Veerkamp
Sue Novasel
Shiva Frentzen
Michael Ranalli

Please do not close the Senior Day Care Center in El Dorado Hills. It means so much to my husband who has alzheimers --- this is the only thing that he actually looks forward to and which improves the limited life that he has left...

I hope that this never happens to your loved one.

Elaine Morse (wife and caregiver of Ronald Morse) :

#1



EDC COB <edc.cob@edcgov.us>

Budget Hearings and Senior Day Care

1 message

LATE DISTRIBUTION
DATE 5/28/15
BOS 6/1/15

Rendy Criddle <r.criddle@sbcglobal.net>

To: edc.cob@edcgov.us

Cc: wanda.demarest@edcgov.us

Thu, May 28, 2015 at 1:06 PM

Dear Board of Supervisors:

I am writing with regard to the Senior Day Care Center and the difficult decisions you must make in order to reduce spending in El Dorado County. Although you may see some savings in reducing services to the seniors and families in this community, in the long run, those savings will ultimately cost seniors and families enormous financial and emotional difficulty. For many, will result in premature placement of their parents into nursing homes. There will be a trickling effect that will last years to come. I am 57 years old and am the sole care taker for my 83 year old mother, all other family members having passed away. I work for the County of El Dorado, however, am not yet ready for retirement. If the Senior Day Care Center were to close, my only options would include a leave of absence to provide care and problem solve her care issues, early retirement which would ultimately have a negative effect on my senior years and ultimately my children, or prematurely place my mother into nursing care. I realize there is a private senior center in Cameron Park, however this facility is not truly a day care center in the true sense of the word. It is more of an "entrance" to a privately run, very expensive SNF and their goal is to place in their SNF. The program run during the day is not meant to be a long term attendance day program for multiple members as the program is run by one staff member. In short, the program would not meet the needs of any of the members currently attending the EDC Senior Day Care Center. In addition, Cameron Park is not a central location as many members come from Pollock Pines, Pleasant Valley and other surrounding areas, making Placerville the choice area being close to the hospital and primary care physicians for easy pick up and return to the Center after appointments. Placing our family members at the center in Cameron Park for many of us is not practical. The private day rate and additional expense for travel alone, if affordable at all, would have such financial impact that most simply would not be able to sustain that expense for any length of time. What about the adjustment to a change in routine and caregivers, which for many of the folks at the Sr Day Care Center is actually extended family? Often when discussing change, resiliency is mentioned as a way to soften the adjustment, which works well with a young, able bodied and reasonable, intact thought process. For the elderly with dementia, change is not greeted with resiliency, rather than with resistance and increased confusion and yes, even hostility toward their primary caregiver and replacement caregivers. Sad but true. Finding caregivers that can be trusted, that can commit to long term and be able to work with all the nuances of someone that is elderly and "special needs" is not an easy task, often resulting in a "revolving door" of caregivers.

With respect to quality of life, having the Sr Center available is survival for the folks who attend. It is their means to continue living a life outside of an institution that is filled with sadness, witnessed death and a grim look into their future on a daily basis, counting the days until it is over. Many wanting it to be over. The end of the road. The members at the Senior Day Care Center may be "elderly and need supervision", but they are not on their way out of life, and more importantly, don't want to be. They are living life fully, with family and friends and enjoying life. For many it gives them the zest to get up every day. Taking the Center away from this population hits at the deepest human level possible. Not having the Sr Day Care will likely result in increased depression for the members (loss of friendships and regular activities) leading to a significant loss in the enjoyment of life, trickling to slow decline in the emotional and physical well being of our family members. I urge you to please find other ways to deal with the cuts you must find, not with the human sacrifice of frail seniors.

Lastly, I cannot end without commenting about all the staff at the Sr Center. My mother has a big, kind heart, but she can have the emotional neediness of a 3 year old. As long as all her needs are met, when she wants/needs it, no problem. Mom has metal implants in both legs, is a fall risk and requires assistance with everything. She is a stroke risk, recently having had a stroke at the Center, resulting in very minimal damage due to the very skilled staff that were able to notice a very small change in her behavior, resulting in a quick response to have her medically checked. The staff at the Center tend to Moms emotional and physical needs for 8 hours a day, 5 days a week, and she is never left for wanting or requiring more. From management,

14-1647 Public Comment

administration, nursing, case management, the day to day caregivers, physical therapy, social activity, ceramics, music, art, meals, volunteers, and support groups for caregivers and inclusion to their family, we are grateful. Finding caregivers that would or could provide the level of care Mom is use to, would be a true challenge and quite unlikely.

I hope the Board takes pride in knowing not only does EDC have the only county run center in the State, but one with exceptionally high quality care as well and stand proudly with us too keep the Sr. Day Center open.

Thank you

Ruby & Rendy Graham

5 year Member at Sr. Day Care