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Is crisis needed?

1 message

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To: bosone@edcgov.us, bosthree@edcgov.us, bostwo@edcgov.us, bosfour@edcgov.us, bosfive@edcgov.us

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I heard this week that Don Ashton has or will be sending a letter to Marshall and Barton Hospitals informing them that mental health will no longer provide them with a crisis person during the NOC shift (traditionally 1200 to 8 am).

So it begins, the links I sent you over the past year that point to other county BOS and Mental Health Commission meetings minutes concerning privatized services such as PHF, crisis, warned of back ups in ER's, warehousing of the mentally ill, repeat offenders taking time away from law enforcement.

I would love to rant about the mistreatment of our mentally ill by turning our backs on them through privatization of the PHF here; however, it does not seem to matter, so I will stick to this fact; it is the MOU's between the various agency both private and public, which keeps everyone safe, and keeps our communities resources freed up as much as possible during the middle of the night.

If law enforcement feels a person needs one-on-one attention and cannot hand off this mentally ill person, and the ER's \$10.00 an hour security person is over burdened with other patients and responsibilities. They may have to transport them directly to the PHF for public safety reasons.

I believe this occurred to the Private Acute facilities in Sacramento County when they closed their PHF and why admits in the middle of the night were easy during that time for us; they had to have resources available to handle the "walk ins".

The only other option for the officer is to not put them on a hold and take them directly to the jail. This is both costly and inhumane; probably illegal. Also, due to nurse to patient ratio laws, Marshall and Barton will have to leave people in the ER waiting room until coverage can be obtained. This will cause undue suffering to members of our community and add to health care cost.

I may be wrong; however, I have seen more and more "glass ceilings" in our system. Try and find services for a person suffering from a TBI (traumatic Brain Injury). I would encourage you to have an independent study done but believe that time has past, employees, good ones, are leaving our community, our labor union says that we are now threaten with lay offs and wage reductions. So not only are we loosing jobs, we are loosing quality citizens to other counties. What a pity, but things change, just hope the

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county changes to something better than what it was.

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Section 5150.1.

No peace officer seeking to transport, or having transported, a person to a designated facility for assessment under Section 5150, shall be instructed by mental health personnel to take the person to, or keep the person at, a jail solely because of the unavailability of an acute bed, nor shall the peace officer be forbidden to transport the person directly to the designated facility. No mental health employee from any county, state, city, or any private agency providing Short-Doyle psychiatric emergency services shall interfere with a peace officer performing duties under Section 5150 by preventing the peace officer from entering a designated facility with the person to be assessed, nor shall any employee of such an agency require the peace officer to remove the person without assessment as a condition of allowing the peace officer to depart. "Peace officer" for the purposes of this section also means a jailer seeking to transport or transporting a person in custody to a designated facility for assessment consistent with Section 4011.6 or 4011.8 of the Penal Code and Section 5150.

Section 5150.2.

In each county whenever a peace officer has transported a person to a designated facility for assessment under Section 5150, that officer shall be detained no longer than the time necessary to complete documentation of the factual basis of the detention under Section 5150 and a safe and orderly transfer of physical custody of the person. The documentation shall include detailed information regarding the factual circumstances and observations constituting probable cause for the peace officer to believe that the individual required psychiatric evaluation under the standards of Section 5105. Each county shall establish disposition procedures and guidelines with local law enforcement agencies as necessary to relate to persons not admitted for evaluation and treatment and who decline alternative mental health services and to relate to the safe and orderly transfer of physical custody of persons under Section 5150, including those who have a criminal detention pending.