

CEO_BoardFeedback

From: Cole Niermeyer <CNiermeyer@caminar.org>
Sent: Monday, November 11, 2024 6:01 PM
To: CEO_BoardFeedback
Subject: 11/12 Public Comment

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Hello Board of SMC,

This comment is regarding an issue not currently on the agenda for the 11/19 meeting, but is meant to persuade the board to include this issue in same.

My name is Cole Niermeyer and I am an employee of Caminar's Redwood House, which is closed effective as of 10/21. The team here is still working however, and we were given until the end of the year to place each of the clients we serve, which was 13 out of the 16 maximum capacity at the time of the notification.

The purpose of our program is to serve as a vital step in the rehabilitation process following psychiatric hospitalization. Each county in California is required to house a Crisis Residential Facility, and with the closure of this program this requirement will no longer be fulfilled.

We were told that the program was closing due to a change in CalAim's policy which affected the amount we were reimbursed each day. The financial losses of operating at this state caused the program to be deemed too costly to remain in operation.

The program's closure would be a devastating loss to the community it serves. As it is no longer a lifeline and a bridge to other forms of transitional care, many clients will be sent to the streets or other environments that are not adequate for proper rehabilitation. This is not to mention the suddenness of this news to staff who have served the program for 20 years or more in some cases, who will be expected to work until all clients are properly discharged, receiving no severance pay at the end of it.

This issue ought to be addressed in the board meeting, as it poses serious questions about the state of mental health care in San Mateo County.

Thank you,
Cole

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Cole Niermeyer | Counselor

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CEO_BoardFeedback

From: MSD <msdelumpa@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, November 11, 2024 5:17 PM
To: CEO_BoardFeedback
Subject: 11/12 Meeting: Public Comment

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of San Mateo County. Unless you recognize the sender's email address and know the content is safe, do not click links, open attachments or reply.

Dear Board of Supervisors,

I am a Lead Counselor at Caminar Redwood House and I am writing regarding an item not on the agenda.

Redwood House (RWH) is a crisis residential treatment (CRT) facility in San Mateo County and is scheduled to close at the end of the year. RWH has been serving the adult, with severe mental illness (SMI) population in San Mateo County for over 60 years and provides an alternative to hospitalization. RWH provides a safe space for individuals to rehabilitate with the goal of transitioning back to the community. This sudden closure will have a negative impact on the mental health system as this vulnerable population will have one less resource and we will see more psychiatric hospitalizations, as well as more incarcerations. We need the support of local representatives to help maintain funding and support for this program.

We are urging the closure of Redwood House be added to the agenda of the 11/19 Board of Supervisors meeting.

Thank you for your time,

Marianne

CEO_BoardFeedback

From: Clara Jaeckel <claraejaeckel@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 12, 2024 2:08 AM
To: CEO_BoardFeedback
Subject: public comment for 11/12/2024 agenda item 4

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of San Mateo County. Unless you recognize the sender's email address and know the content is safe, do not click links, open attachments or reply.

My name is Clara Jaeckel and I live in Redwood City. Having an unarmed crisis response service is critical for the safety of people facing mental health issues, so it's very encouraging to see the Mobile Crisis Response Team up and running in San Mateo County and now available with 24/7 coverage.

I urge you to continue pressing for 911 dispatchers to be able to send out the MCRT for relevant calls, to cover the cases where an incident is reported by someone other than the person in crisis who calls 911 rather than 988. Also, please investigate classifying these events as emergencies that qualify the MCRT to bypass traffic as an ambulance would. These changes would greatly enhance the help that the team will be able to provide.

Thank you,
Clara Jaeckel