



County of Santa Clara Mental Health Board

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December 30, 2013

Norma Pate
Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission
1300 17th Street
Sacramento, CA 95811

Dear Ms. Pate:

The Mental Health Board of Santa Clara County is comprised of clients, family members, advocates, and members of the community at large. Our mission is to analyze system needs and to provide input and advice to our Mental Health Director and to our Board of Supervisors. The purpose of this letter is to express our total and enthusiastic support for our Mental Health Department's SB82 Triage Grant Proposal.

We believe that expanding the number of mental health personnel available to provide crisis support services will benefit not only clients and their families, but also our broader communities, including our hospital and justice systems.

The Board strongly supports the goal of providing culturally and linguistically appropriate crisis services when and where they are needed, and providing compassionate mental health treatment in the least restrictive manner possible. We are proud to have participated in the selection of the five sites at which our County will provide triage services. We are confident that the availability of triage personnel at these locations of greatest need will improve access to services and outcomes for people with mental illness and will reduce unnecessary costs associated with emergency room and jail admissions for people with mental illness.

The Mental Health Board of Santa Clara County is proud to support our Mental Health Department's proposal and looks forward to continued collaboration in this new and exciting endeavor.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Carla Holtzclaw".

Carla Holtzclaw
Chair, Santa Clara County Mental Health Board