

*Dedicated to the Health
of the Whole Community*



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BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES

April 30, 2018

To: Board of Supervisors
Jeffrey V. Smith, M.D., J.D., County Executive

From: Toni Tullys
Director, Behavioral Health Services

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Toni Tullys
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Matt Gerrior
Executive Director, Custody Health Services

Subject: Additional information regarding item 16 on May 1, 2018 agenda

We have received a few questions regarding item 16 on the May 1, 2018 Board Agenda. This memo provides additional information regarding the expansion of the warmline operated by the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) and services available to family and friends.

A growing amount of information and support is available to family members whose loved one has a serious mental illness and is incarcerated. These include the following:

Information and referral to help family members to learn what resources exist to assist their family member and themselves is provided by NAMI currently. These resources include crisis support, family support, peer support, support groups, trainings and community presentations. These resources can be found on NAMI's local website at: <http://www.namisantaclara.org/>

NAMI has developed a web page with specific resources for family members with someone in jail. This includes education and information for family members regarding how to find a loved one who has been incarcerated in the County Jail and many other resources and supports. The link can be accessed at: <http://www.namisantaclara.org/resources/family-member-arrested/>

Since this link is included in a list of services, the Behavioral Health Services Department has requested NAMI add a direct, public facing link to their 'family-member arrested' information. Creating this link will make it easier for family members to access the information and resources. The Department of Correction has added NAMI's weblink to connect family members with someone in jail directly to NAMI resources: <http://www.sccgov.org/sites/doc/Pges/medical.aspx>

A warmline, or help line, currently exists and is available Monday through Friday, from 10 am to 2 pm. The warmline is a resource for anyone seeking information or support for a mental illness – from individuals to families, friends and professionals. Guidance regarding the path of

recovery and non-judgmental support are important offerings of the warmline. NAMI currently responds to 225 calls a month and approximately 3% of the calls are related to a family member in jail or court. Agenda item 16, if approved, would provide funding for NAMI to double the hours of the warmline, expanding the accessibility of individualized support and resources for all families, including those with someone in jail.

Additional information about the warmline can be found at:

<http://www.namisantaclara.org/classes/nami-santa-clara-warmlineinformation-line/>

NAMI also hosts a support group specifically for families with someone in jail. The support group is led by two volunteer "jail moms". A staff member from Custody Health Services is helping with these groups.

The Support Groups for family and friends with incarcerated loved ones who have a mental illness are held on the third Tuesday of the month from 6:00-7:00 pm at NAMI's local office.

To address the needs of Spanish speaking family members, NAMI offers ongoing support groups. One of the BHSD family member partners works closely with family members who have someone in jail and frequently accompanies family members to court as needed. NAMI's detailed 'family-member arrested' web information, monthly support group and access to the two family member volunteers, coupled with the expanded warmline hours, provide specific resources for these families.

It should be noted that the Inmate Medical/Mental Health Concerns page on the Sheriff's Department website are being updated. The information for the page was revamped to guide family members to locating their loved one. The information was translated into Spanish and will be translated into Vietnamese by mid-May. Rather than having 7 fax numbers to choose from, 2 fax numbers (Main Jail and Elmwood) are provided for families to submit the information. The link can be accessed at: <https://www.sccgov.org/sites/doc/Pages/medical.aspx>

Looking ahead, the process currently underway with the Mental Health Services Act three year funding plan and related contract development will result in improvements and we will continue to consider what more needs to be done. NAMI is open to other options to support families with loved ones in jail.

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