

Alcohol, Drug & Mental Health Services

M E M O R A N D U M



Date: June 9, 2015
To: Honorable Board of Supervisors
From: Alice Gleghorn, PhD, Director, ADMHS
Subject: Clarification between ADMHS Proposed Budget and CLUE/FACT Public Comment
CC: Mona Miyasato, CEO

In response to public comment at the Board of Supervisor's Budget Sessions, I would like to clarify the differences between the budget proposed by ADMHS and the separate initiatives that have been proposed by CLUE and Families ACT.

I have been told that the CLUE and Families ACT group sent a letter to some or all members of the Board before Monday proposing several initiatives to promote increased housing for the mentally ill. Although I am apparently mentioned in the letter, I have not actually seen the letter, so I do not have detailed information on what is being proposed. This letter and its proposed initiatives are completely separate from what ADMHS has proposed in the budget currently before the Board. However, the \$500,000 amount cited in public testimony is the same amount as several line items in the Departmental budget. Therefore, some confusion has developed between what ADMHS has proposed with regards to housing and what CLUE/FACT has proposed.

ADMHS proposed to begin restoring safe and stable housing options for mentally ill clients by funding two 6 bed programs with the Mental Wellness Center focusing on clients who have been declared Incompetent to Stand Trial (IST) or clients being discharged from the Psychiatric Health Facility (PHF) following a crisis service. This is an expansion request for \$1.0 million dollars. This option was chosen after careful consideration of multiple strategies as one with a high probability of reducing demand for inpatient services for IST clients by providing a viable outpatient alternative for treatment, competency restoration, and safe and stable housing. We have also proposed adding a 1.0 FTE to assist in discharge planning for PHF clients, further reducing PHF administrative (non-acute) days. While ADMHS intends to pursue additional strategies to increase housing for our most complex clients, we are not bringing forward any additional budget requests related to housing at this time due to other urgent and competing priorities.

While ADMHS and the CLUE/FACT advocacy groups share a desire to increase housing options, the CLUE/FACT proposal is being brought forward independently and without consultation from ADMHS. There is overlap between the membership of CLUE/FACT and the ADMHS Action Team focused on housing (HEART), but the advocacy before the Board is not sponsored by the HEART team.

I am, as always, available should you have any questions or concerns.