



March 19, 2014

Dear Local Mental Health Board members,

NAMI-Yolo has concerns about the following issues impacting the lives of community members who live with mental illness.

1. Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Housing

Affordable housing is a critical issue for people living with mental illness. As part of the Mental Health Services Act, \$3M was allocated for housing in Yolo County for people with mental illness. That was 7 years ago.

The current plan is to team with Yolo County Housing to build multiple housing units on the site of the old Yolo General Hospital where CommuniCare currently operates the Peterson Clinic. This property has asbestos and formaldehyde problems that need to be mitigated before construction begins. 15 out of 75 units would be reserved for people with mental illness, which comes to \$200,000 per unit.

It's been 7 years and ground has not been broken. Among our many questions are:

- When is this project scheduled to be completed?
- Why is the process taking so long when people with mental illness are desperate for housing?
- Has the bidding started? When? Have there been any bidders? If not, is there a Plan B?
- Why is the per-unit cost so high? Couldn't there be a more efficient plan?
- Is there any interest earned for the past seven years on this \$3M? If so, who gets it?
- Why not consider [Pacifico](#), a 4 building apartment complex owned by the City of Davis and managed by Yolo Housing. It is highly underutilized because of its co-op housing configuration, with 2 out of 4 buildings standing empty. Couldn't it be retrofitted for housing for people with mental illness?

2. Woodland Hospital Psychiatric Unit Beds

Woodland Hospital provides psychiatric beds for Northern California. Seven northern California counties have contracts for beds. Yolo County does not. Often there are no psychiatric beds available to Yolo County residents. An explanation as to why Yolo County does not contract for beds would help in understanding this situation.

3. Crisis Intervention Team Training (CIT) for County Sheriff staff (see attached for statistics on training)

Crisis Intervention Team Training is designed to educate and prepare police officers who come into contact with people with mental illness. This training is an invaluable investment when officers are able to de-escalate a crisis and settle a situation on scene with appropriate skills and pertinent knowledge.

The Sheriff's staff, according to personnel in the Sheriff's administration, includes 78 sworn officers and 97 guards for a total of 175. The Sheriff's 2% attendance pales in comparison to the 63% and 46% attendance by the Winters PD and the Davis PD. The Yolo Jail, under the jurisdiction of the Sheriff is the largest mental health facility in the county. Why has more staff not had CIT training? Are there comparable alternative trainings?

We appeal to our Local Mental Health Board to help find answers to these questions.

Sincerely,

Nancy Temple, President, NAMI-Yolo

CIT Attendance at Disability Response Trainings							
CIT Attendance							
	Total All Agencies	Major Yolo Law Enforcement Attendees					
Training Date		Davis Police	UC Davis	West Sac PD	Winters PD	Woodland PD	Yolo Sheriff
(month/year)	(#)	(#)	(#)	(#)	(#)	(#)	(#)
Apr-10	18	5		2	1	3	
Jul-10	14	3			1		2
Sep-10	22	4		2	1	1	
Apr-11	17	1		1		1	
Jun-11	22	2	2	2			
Aug-11	23	2		2	1	4	
Dec-11	22	3		2		2	
Jun-12	15						
Aug-12	14	1				1	
Nov-12	27	3		1	1	2	
Mar-13	22	1		1		1	
Nov-13	16	1					
Totals	232	26	2	13	5	15	2
Officers		56	53	63	8	59	175
Coverage		46%	4%	21%	63%	25%	1%

Totals do not Include

Davis - chief & command staff

Winters - 2 unfilled positions

Woodland- 1 unfilled position

Yolo Sheriff totals includes sworn officers (78) and prison guards (97)