



COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA
Making a Difference Since 1962
Alcohol, Drug & Mental Health Services
Administration
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Ann Detrick, PhD
Director

For Reference Only

Summary of Public Comments: Prevention & Early Intervention and
Technological Needs Plans.

January 22, 2010

- Rebecca Robertson, Executive Director of Sojourn Services Inc, requested Sojourn services to be considered to take an active role in the newly expanded services of 0-5 programs to be implemented in the North County. She provided background and qualifications of the agency, which is already serving the 0-5 population in that region and asked to be considered before the decision as to which program is chosen to implement the MHSA plan.
- John Ackerman, MD. A retired psychiatrist recounted programs in Alaska that provided a balanced meal and acupuncture to participants. He requested that this approach be used in Santa Barbara County PEI programs to stabilize at-risk individuals. Mr. Ackerman indicated acupuncturists could be recruited through the Medical Reserve Corps.
- Suzanne Riordan, a family advocate stated that the lack of mental health and dual diagnosis services unnecessarily force people with mental illness into the criminal justice system. She recommended that ADMHS proactively approach the criminal justice system and build crisis response and alternatives to incarceration. A residential treatment center for individuals with co-occurring disorders should be established. In addition, ADMHS should work more closely with her family advocacy organization. She also objected to a perceived \$60,000 reduction in the PEI program to transition-age youth. Dr. Detrick explained that the budgetary change was not a reduction in program funding, but instead a conservative addition of projected Medi-Cal revenue.
- Mark Muller, a representative of Santa Maria Bonita School District asked why a school-based PEI program was being funded only in Carpinteria. Dr. Detrick explained that Carpinteria is under-served compared to other regions; the PEI program is an attempt to ensure that Carpinteria receives some mental health services.
- John Mudie, a consumer requested assurance that computers for consumers under the Technological Needs Plan are adequately maintained.

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