

**Laura's Law: Assisted Outpatient Treatment**

Monday, April 29<sup>th</sup>, the City and the County held a joint meeting to discuss the issue of homelessness, and received input from staff and non-profits. The exploding population of unhoused individuals in San José requires a more focused approach when it comes to those that are severely mentally ill and those that suffer from strong addictions. I proposed, in a memorandum, that the Board of Supervisors adopt Laura's Law – a state law that allows court ordered assisted outpatient treatment for those that are at a high risk of danger to themselves or others because of their mental illness.

For those with severe addictions, I suggested exploring a conservatorship program to get people the treatment they need, and ensure they stay engaged with treatment. Finally, I recommended that the County utilize the recently-acquired St. Louise Regional Medical Center as an in-patient care facility for those on our streets who are severely mentally ill or battling addiction. My proposals would provide the care these individuals need - services that they might not have the wherewithal to ask for or would never get living on the streets.

Not only has Laura's Law been found to help the mentally ill, it was recently found to lower the cost of taxpayer-provided services by 83 percent in San Francisco. Laura's Law provides intensive case management to participants and helps them find placement in a program that can offer long-term care. Since implementation in San Francisco three years ago, the total

number of Psychiatric Emergency Services dropped by 47 percent; and individuals experiencing repeated incarceration dropped from 81 to 51.

The City and County are undertaking a broad array of activities built around housing. It is important for us to adopt additional tools that will make us even more successful including adopting Laura's Law, conservatorships, and new in-patient facilities – much like for which St. Louise Regional Medical Center would be a great candidate.

I encourage each of you to contact our County Supervisors to encourage them to implement these changes or with your questions and comments regarding this issue.

**Santa Clara County Board of Supervisor's**

- **District 1** – Supervisor Mike Wasserman (408) 299-5010  
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- **District 2** – Supervisor Cindy Chavez (408) 299-5020  
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- **District 3** – Supervisor Dave Cortese (408) 299-5030  
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- **District 4** – Supervisor Susan Ellenberg (408) 299-5040  
susan.ellenberg@bos.sccgov.org
- **District 5** – Supervisor Joe Simitian (408) 299-5050  
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**For More Information:**

- <https://www.sfdph.org/dph/comupg/oservices/mentalHlth/AOT/default.asp>



- [https://www.sfdph.org/dph/files/AOT/SanFranciscoAOTReport-Year3\\_2018.pdf](https://www.sfdph.org/dph/files/AOT/SanFranciscoAOTReport-Year3_2018.pdf)
- <https://www.sfexaminer.com/the-city/new-report-finds-lauras-law-is-helping-the-mentally-ill/>

### **Support for Laura's Law (AOT)**

#### **LAW ENFORCEMENT**

Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Dept., Santa Barbara County Fire Dept.  
 Santa Barbara County District Attorney Santa Barbara Coalition Against Gun Violence  
 Concerned Citizens of Santa Barbara Lompoc Police Dept.  
 California Peace Officers' Association California State Sheriffs' Association County of Ventura, District Attorney Irvine Police Association  
 LA County Police Chief's Association Marin County Sheriff's Office Sacramento County Sheriff's Department San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department Ventura County Sheriff's Department Yolo County Sheriff's Department  
 Oxnard Peace Officers' Association Oxnard Police Department Community Police Advisory Board  
 Baldwin Park Police Department  
 El Monte Police Department  
 Fontana Police Department  
 Fresno Police Department  
 La Habra Police Department  
 Long Beach Police Department Monrovia Police Department  
 Napa Police Department  
 Pasadena Police Department Pleasanton Police Department Ridgecrest Police Department  
 Selma Police Department  
 Suisun City Police Department

#### **MEDICAL COMMUNITY**

California Psychiatric Association California Medical Association  
 California Association of Marriage and Family Therapists  
 Union of American Physicians and Dentists

#### **MUNICIPAL/AGENCIES**

City of Richmond  
 Mayor of San Francisco  
 Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors (in concept)  
 Nevada County Board of Supervisors  
 Nevada County Health Care Agency Ventura County Health Care Agency Ventura County Mental Health Board

#### **COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS**

Downtown Organization of Santa Barbara  
 Cascade Shores Women's Club, Nevada City  
 Older Women's League of California  
 Hollywood Property Owners Association  
 Hollywood Business Improvement District

#### **STATE ORGANIZATIONS**

ACLU Members for LPS Reform  
 SPAN-California (Suicide Prevention Advocacy Network)

#### **NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**

National Sheriffs Association National Crime Prevention Council  
 American Psychiatric Association (APA)  
 American Psychiatric Nurses Assoc.  
 Treatment Advocacy Center National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Mental Illness Policy Org.

#### **RESEARCH AND RELATED ORGANIZATIONS**

Stanley Foundation Research Program  
 Silver Ribbon Campaign for the Brain

Read more

at: <https://mentalillnesspolicy.org/states/california/lauraslawsupporters.html>