Mental Health Treatment Act Citizen's Oversight Committee



Mendocino County Administration Center 501 Low Gap Road, Room 1010 Ukiah, CA 95482 707.463.4441

measureb@mendocinocounty.org

MEETING AGENDA

County Administration Center, Conference Room C May 22, 2019 - 1:00 PM

1. OPEN SESSION / ROLL CALL

2. PUBLIC EXPRESSION

Members of the public are welcome to address the Committee on items not listed on the agenda, but within the jurisdiction of the Committee. The Committee is prohibited by law from taking action on matters not on the agenda, but may ask questions to clarify the speaker's comment. The Committee limits testimony on matters not on the agenda to 3 minutes per person and not more than 10 minutes for a particular subject at the discretion of the Chair of the Committee.

To best facilitate these items, please review and complete the public comment/speaker form available at the back of the conference room and present to the Clerk. If you wish to submit written comments, please provide 15 copies to the Clerk of the Board staff, located in the County Administration Center, Room 1010. All meetings are recorded, so speakers are reminded to announce their names as they approach to podium to speak

3. <u>COMMITTEE MATTERS</u>

- 3a) Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Expenditure Report on Measure B Tax Funds
- 3b) Approval of Minutes of the March 27, 2019, Meeting
- 3c) Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Status Report from Chair on Activities Related to the Mental Health Treatment Act Citizen's Oversight Committee
- 3d) Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Update on Status of the Architect RFQ and Related Feasibility Study
- 3e) Discussion and Possible Action Regarding an Informational Presentation on the Brown Act

4. <u>COMMITTEE MEMBER REPORTS</u>

4a) Committee Member Reports Regarding Items of General Interest

5. <u>COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED AND FILED</u>

5a) Letter to all Mental Health Treatment Act Citizen's Oversight Committee Members from Member Allman, dated April 8, 2019

Communications received and filed are retained by the Clerk throughout the Committee proceedings. To review items described in this section, please contact the Committee Clerk, in Room 1010.

ADJOURNMENT

The Committee complies with ADA requirements and upon request, will attempt to reasonably accommodate individuals with disabilities by making meeting materials available in appropriate formats (pursuant to Government Code section 54953.2) Anyone requiring reasonable accommodation to participate in the meeting should contact the Committee clerk by calling (707) 463-4441 at least five days prior to the meeting.

Additional information regarding the Committee may be obtained by referencing: www.mendocinocounty.org/community/mental-health-oversight-committee

Agenda Summary



ITEM 3A

Meeting Date:	5/22/2019	
Contact:	Lloyd Weer, Auditor-Controller	
		Time Allocated for Item: 5 mins

AGENDA TITLE:

Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Expenditure Report on Measure B Tax Funds

SUMMARY OF REQUEST / BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The Committee will receive a report from the Mendocino County Auditor/Controller regarding the Measure B tax fund balance.

Mendocino County - Measure B Funds Mental Health Treatment Act Revenue and Expenses - Life to Date Fund 1224, Budget Unit 4052 Invoice, CRP Running Date Journal No. Description **Amount Balance Revenues:** 6/26/2018 CRP 186100 Measure B Sales Tax Proceeds - April 2018 (517,255)(517,255)7/25/2018 CRP 187369 Measure B Sales Tax Proceeds - May 2018 (591,270)(1,108,526)8/27/2018 CRP 188827 Measure B Sales Tax Proceeds - June 2018 (1,606,571) (498,046)9/25/2018 | CRP 190117 | Measure B Sales Tax Proceeds - July 2018 (638,771)(2,245,342)10/25/2018 | CRP 191396 | Measure B Sales Tax Proceeds - August 2018 (872,413) (3,117,756)11/29/2018 CRP 192854 Measure B Sales Tax Proceeds - September 2018 (941,205)(4.058,961)12/26/2018 CRP 194251 Measure B Sales Tax Proceeds - October 2018 (652,942)(4,711,904)1/25/2018 CRP 195438 Measure B Sales Tax Proceeds - November 2018 (654,379)(5,366,283)(6,180,289)2/26/2019 CRP 196949 Measure B Sales Tax Proceeds - December 2018 (814,006) 3/26/2019 CRP 198350 Measure B Sales Tax Proceeds - January 2018 (644,639)(6,824,928)4/25/2019 CRP 199691 | Measure B Sales Tax Proceeds - February 2018 (659,211)(7,484,140)Measure B Sales Tax Proceeds - March 2018 **Expenses:** 5/4/2018 INV 2018-1 Lee D. Kemper - Behavioral Health Needs Assessment 13,011 13,011 6/18/2018 INV 2018-2 Lee D. Kemper - Behavioral Health Needs Assessment 10,282 23,293 6/30/2018 GEN JE 2703 | Assessor Clerk Recorder - Election Costs 184,871 161,578 7/17/2018 INV 2018-3 Lee D. Kemper - Behavioral Health Needs Assessment 14,177 199,048 Life to Date Revenue (7,484,140)199,048 Life to Date Expense **Life to Date Interest Earnings** (36,414)**Balance** (7,321,506)





ITEM 3B

Meeting Date:	5/22/2019
Contact:	Karla Van Hagen, Committee Clerk
	Time Allocated for Item: 5 mins

AGENDA TITLE:

Approval of Minutes of the March 27, 2019, Meeting

Mental Health Treatment Act Citizen's Oversight Committee



Mendocino County Administration Center 501 Low Gap Road, Room 1010 Ukiah, CA 95482 707.463.4441

measureb@mendocinocounty.org

March 27, 2019 Minutes

AGENDA ITEM NO. 1 – CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL (1:02 P.M.)

Committee Members Present: Mr. Thomas Allman; Ms. Carmel J. Angelo; Dr. Ace Barash; Mr. Jed Diamond; Mr. Ross Liberty; Ms. Jan McGourty; Dr. Jenine Miller; Ms. Donna Moschetti; Ms. Shannon Riley; and Mr. Lloyd Weer.

Committee Member Absent: Mr. Ross Liberty and Ms. Shannon Riley.

2. PUBLIC EXPRESSION

Presenter/s: None.

3. COMMITTEE MATTERS

3a) Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Expenditure Report on Measure B Tax Funds

Presenter/s: Auditor-Controller Weer.

Public Comment: Ms. Carole Hester.

Committee Action: No action taken.

Auditor-Controller Weer reported that the live to date revenue was \$6,180,289; to date expenses remained unchanged at \$199,048; and interest earned was \$15,943.00; for a total current balance of \$5,997,185.

3b) Approval of Minutes of the February 27, 2019, Meeting

Presenter/s: Chair Barash.

Public Comment: None.

Committee Action: Upon motion by Member Moschetti, seconded by Member Allman, and carried unanimously, IT IS ORDERED that minutes of the February 27, 2019, meeting, are hereby approved.

3c) Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Report from the Chair Regarding Direction Provided by the Board of Supervisors at their March 12, 2019, Meeting

Presenter/s: Chair Barash.

Public Comment: None.

The Chair provided an update regarding his March 12, 2019, report to the Board of Supervisors in which the Board approved the Committee's request to approve a Project Manager for the Committee. He also noted that, as part of the Behavioral Health Advisory Board, Ms. McGourty requested that the Board of Supervisors recommend that the Committee study the Kemper Report and prioritize further services.

Committee Action: No action taken.

3d) Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Current Provision of County Behavioral Health Services

Presenter/s: Member Miller.

Public Comment: Ms. Jo Bradley; Mr. John Freemont; and Ms. Carole Hester.

Dr. Miller provided an overview of the Mental Health Services currently being provided by Mendocino County including those that can be reimbursed by special mental health MediCal services, outpatient treatment, as well as other services offered outside of Mendocino County.

Committee Action: No action taken.

3e) Discussion and Possible Action Including Review of Kemper Report, as Recommended by the Board of Supervisors

Presenter/s: Member McGourty.

Public Comment: Ms. Jo Bradley.

The Committee discussed the Board of Supervisor's action to encourage the Committee to review and prioritize the Kemper Report; and whether the Committee had already done that, via their recommendation to the Board. It was agreed that the Ad Hoc would review the report regarding administrative policies, strategies, etc., but that it was premature to discuss services or any other recommendations that could possibly impede moving forward with the feasibility study.

Committee Action: Upon motion by Member McGourty, seconded by Member Miller, and carried 8/1/2, (with Member Mertle dissenting, and Members Riley and Liberty absent), IT IS ORDERED that the Mental Health Treatment Act Citizen's Oversight Committee hereby forms an Ad Hoc Committee consisting of Members McGourty, Diamond, Miller and Moschetti to review the Kemper Report Recommendations. The Committee will exclude study of any services; and will not usurp the original recommendation of the Measure B Committee to move forward with the feasibility study of original recommendation to the Board of Supervisors.

3f) Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Update on Project Management Support for the Committee

Presenter/s: Member Angelo.

Public Comment: None.

Member Angelo reported that on March 12, 2019, the Board of Supervisors approved the adoption of the classification of Administrative Project Manager, and that the position had been posted and would remain open until April 9, 2019. She continued that the posting would remain for no less than 14 days; applications would be screened as they are received; and the small group of volunteer Measure B Committee members would be part of the interview panel. The Committee then briefly discussed the role and responsibility of the successful candidate, as well as the estimated annual cost thereof.

Committee Action: No action taken.

3g) Discussion and Possible Action Including Amendment of Master Meeting Calendar, Changing Meeting Rotation to Bi-Monthly

Presenter/s: Chair Barash.

Public Comment: Ms. Jo Bradley.

The Committee discussed the possibility of amending the master meeting calendar to meet bi-monthly, either at the current time or in the near future, and concluded that the Master Meeting Calendar would remain unchanged at this time, and instead, potential meeting cancellations would be considered on a case-by-case basis. It was then determined that due to the length of time needed for the Feasibility study, as well as the timeline for hiring a Project Manager, the scheduled April meeting would be cancelled.

Committee Action: Upon motion by Member Angelo, seconded by Member Mertle, and carried unanimously, IT IS ORDERED that the Mental Health Treatment Act Citizen's Oversight Committee hereby cancels the April 24, 2019, meeting.

4. COMMITTEE MEMBER REPORTS

4a) Committee Member Reports Regarding Items of General Interest

Public Comment: Ms. Carole Hester; and Mr. Gerry Gonzalez.

5. ADJOURNMENT

THERE BEING NOTHING FURTHER, THE MENTAL HEALTH TREATMENT ACT CITIZENS OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE ADJOURNED AT 2:33 P.M.

Attest: KARLA VAN HAGEN Committee Clerk

The Committee complies with ADA requirements and upon request, will attempt to reasonably accommodate individuals with disabilities by making meeting materials available in appropriate formats (pursuant to Government Code section 54953.2) Anyone requiring reasonable accommodation to participate in the meeting should contact the Committee clerk by calling (707) 463-4441 at least five days prior to the meeting.

Additional information regarding the Committee may be obtained by referencing: www.mendocinocounty.org/community/mental-health-oversight-committee

Agenda Summary



ITEM 3C

Meeting Date:	5/22/2019
Contact:	Ace Barash, District 1 Representative
	Time Allocated for Item: 15 mins

AGENDA TITLE:

Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Status Report from Chair Regarding Activities Related to the Mental Health Treatment Act Citizen's Oversight Committee

SUMMARY OF REQUEST / BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Background:

On February 27, 2019, the Committee advised the Board of Supervisors that the Committee recommends they obtain a Project Manager to assist Committee with their goals.

On March 12, 2019, the Board of Supervisors approved a Project Manager for the Committee.

Measure B Staffing Update:

- Project Manager Hring
- Orchard Street Project

Agenda Summary



ITEM 3D

Meeting Date:	5/22/2019
Contact:	Mendocino County Executive Office
	Time Allocated for Item: 30 Mins

AGENDA TITLE:

Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Update on Status of the Architect RFQ and Related Feasibility Study

SUMMARY OF REQUEST / BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

On January 27, 2019, the Committee made a Recommendation to the Board of Supervisors to explore utilizing Measure B funds for the development of a Crisis Stabilization and Crisis Residential Facility and a 24-hour Psychiatric Facility. Further, that the Board of Supervisors direct staff to research options associated with such facility including design/bid/build and potential property or facility locations.

On February 5, 2019, the Board of Supervisors directed County staff to proceed with researching options associated with the development of Crisis Residential Unit(s), Crisis Stabilization Unit(s), Crisis Treatment Unit(s), and 24 Hour Psychiatric Health Facility utilizing Measure B Funds, including design, bid and/or build potential properties or facilities locations.

On February 27, 2019, the Committee Received an update regarding competitive bidding processes related to the development of Crisis Residential Unit(s), Crisis Stabilization Unit(s), and 24 Hour Psychiatric Inpatient Health Facility

Agenda Summary



ITEM 3E

Meeting Date:	5/22/2019	
Contact:	County Counsel	
		Time Allocated for Item: 15 Mins

AGENDA TITLE:

Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Informational Presentation on the Brown Act

SUMMARY OF REQUEST / BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

County Counsel will provide the Committee with a brief presentation on The Brown Act as it pertains to the Committee.

THE BROWN ACT

OPEN MEETINGS FOR LOCAL LEGISLATIVE BODIES

2003

CALIFORNIA ATTORNEY
GENERAL'S OFFICE

THE BROWN ACT

OPEN MEETINGS FOR LOCAL LEGISLATIVE BODIES

Office of the Attorney General Bill Lockyer Attorney General

Prepared by the Division of Civil Law

Chief Assistant Attorney General Andrea Lynn Hoch Deputy Attorney General Ted Prim, Editor



State of California Office of the Attorney General

Bill Lockyer Attorney General

Throughout California's history, local legislative bodies have played a vital role in bringing participatory democracy to the citizens of the state. Local legislative bodies - such as boards, councils and commissions - are created in recognition of the fact that several minds are better than one, and that through debate and discussion, the best ideas will emerge. The law which guarantees the public's right to attend and participate in meetings of local legislative bodies is the Ralph M. Brown Act.

While local legislative bodies generally are required to hold meetings in open forum, the Brown Act recognizes the need, under limited circumstances, for these bodies to meet in private in order to carry out their responsibilities in the best interests of the public. For example, the law contains a personnel exception based on notions of personal privacy, and a pending litigation exception based upon the precept that government agencies should not be disadvantaged in planning litigation strategy. Although the principle of open meetings initially seems simple, application of the law to real life situations can prove to be quite complex.

The purpose of this pamphlet is to provide a brief description of the Brown Act, along with a discussion of court decisions and opinions of this office that add to our understanding by applying it in specific factual contexts. We hope this pamphlet will assist both public officials and those who monitor the performance of local legislative bodies to minimize and resolve disputes over interpretations of the Brown Act. In recent years, both the California Supreme Court and the courts of appeal have recognized the benefit of pamphlets issued by our office. This recognition by the courts, along with many favorable comments from members of the public, strengthens our resolve to continue producing reliable informational materials on the Brown Act and other California laws. Publication of these materials constitutes a tradition of service that we value greatly.

Ideas and suggestions for future editions of this pamphlet are welcomed and should be addressed to the editor.

Sincerely,

BILL LOCKYER Attorney General

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INTRODUCTION

This pamphlet concerns the provisions of the Ralph M. Brown Act, which govern open meetings for local government bodies. The Brown Act is contained in section 54950 et seq. of the Government Code. Accordingly, all statutory references in this pamphlet are to the Government Code unless otherwise noted. The pamphlet contains a table of contents, which may also serve as a topical outline for the reader. The pamphlet also includes a brief summary of the main provisions of the Brown Act, along with references to the appropriate Government Code sections and chapters of the text. The text includes a discussion of the law along with tips on how the law should be applied in particular situations. Numerous references are made to legal authorities throughout the text. A copy of the Brown Act in its entirety is set forth in the appendix to the pamphlet. Lastly, the pamphlet contains a table of authorities so that the reader can determine all of the places in the text where references are made to a particular authority.

In preparing this pamphlet, we relied on a variety of legal resources. Appellate court cases were consulted and are cited throughout the pamphlet. While most of the more significant cases are discussed, this pamphlet is not intended to be a compendium of all court cases in this area. In addition, we drew upon published opinions and unpublished letter opinions issued by this office. Attorney General opinions, unlike appellate court decisions, are advisory only and do not constitute the law of the state. However, with respect to the Brown Act, the courts have frequently adopted the analysis of Attorney General opinions, and have commented favorably on the service afforded by those opinions and this pamphlet. (*Bell v. Vista Unified School Dist.* (2000) 82 Cal.App.4th 672; *Freedom Newspapers v. Orange County Employees Retirement System* (1993) 6 Cal. 4th 821, 829.)

Published opinions are cited by volume and page number (e.g., 32 Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen. 240 (1958)). Unpublished letter opinions are cited as indexed letters by year and page number (e.g., Cal.Atty.Gen., Indexed Letter, No. IL 76-201 (October 20, 1976).) Published opinions are available through law libraries and some attorneys' offices. As a general rule, indexed letters are available only in the Office of the Attorney General. Copies may be obtained by a request to the Public Inquiry Unit of the Office of the Attorney General.

If you have specific questions or problems, the statutes, cases and opinions should be consulted. You also may wish to refer the matter to the attorney for the agency in question, a private attorney or the district attorney.

The pamphlet is current through January 2003 with respect to statutes, case law, and Attorney General opinions.

SUMMARY OF KEY BROWN ACT PROVISIONS

COVERAGE

PREAMBLE:

Public commissions, boards, councils and other legislative 54950 bodies of local government agencies exist to aid in the conduct of the people's business. The people do not yield their sovereignty to the bodies that serve them. The people insist on remaining informed to retain control over the legislative bodies they have created.

950 Ch. I

GOVERNING BODIES:

Includes city councils, boards of supervisors, and district 54952(a) boards. Also covered are other legislative bodies of local government agencies created by state or federal law.

952(a) Ch. I & II

SUBSIDIARY BODIES:

Includes boards or commissions of a local government agency as well as standing committees of a legislative body. A standing committee has continuing subject matter jurisdiction or a meeting schedule set by its parent body. Less-than-a-quorum advisory committees, other than standing committees, are exempt.

54952(b) Ch. II

PRIVATE OR NONPROFIT CORPORATIONS OR ENTITIES:

Covered only if:

- a. A legislative body delegates some of its 54952(c)(1)(A) Ch. II functions to a private corporation or entity; or
- b. If a legislative body provides some funding to a private corporation or entity and appoints one of its members to serve as a voting member of entity's board of directors.

MEETING DEFINED

INCLUDES:

Any gathering of a quorum of a legislative body to discuss or 54952.2 Ch. III transact business under the body's jurisdiction; serial meetings are prohibited.

EXEMPTS:

- (1) Individual contacts between board members and 54952.2(c)(1) Ch. III others which do not constitute serial meetings;
- (2) Attendance at conferences and other gatherings 54952.2(c)(2), which are open to public so long as members of (3) and (4) legislative bodies do not discuss among themselves business of a specific nature under the body's jurisdiction;
- (3) Attendance at social or ceremonial events 54952.2(c)(5) where no business of the body is discussed.

LOCATIONS OF MEETINGS:

A body must conduct its meetings within the boundaries of its 54954 Ch. IV jurisdiction unless it qualifies for a specific exemption.

TELECONFERENCE MEETINGS:

Teleconference meetings may be held under carefully defined 54953 Ch. III conditions. The meeting notice must specifically identify all teleconference locations, and each such location must be fully accessible to members of the public.

PUBLIC RIGHTS

PUBLIC TESTIMONY:

Public may comment on agenda items before or during 54954.3 Ch. IV & V consideration by legislative body. Time must be set aside for public to comment on any other matters under the body's jurisdiction.

NON-DISCRIMINATORY FACILITIES:

Meetings may not be conducted in a facility that excludes 54953.2; 54961 persons on the basis of their race, religion, color, national origin, ancestry, or sex, or that is inaccessible to disabled persons, or where members of the public may not be present without making a payment or purchase.

COPY OF RECORDING:

Public may obtain a copy, at cost, of an existing tape recording made by the legislative body of its public sessions, and to listen to or view the body's original tape on a tape recorder or viewing device provided by the agency.

54953.5 Ch. V

Ch. V

PUBLIC VOTE:

All votes, except for those cast in permissible closed session, must be cast in public. No secret ballots, whether preliminary or final, are permitted.

54953(c)	Ch. VI
3 1733(0)	C11. V 1

CLOSED MEETING ACTIONS/DOCUMENTS:

At an open session following a closed session, the body must report on final action taken in closed session under specified circumstances. Where final action is taken with respect to contracts, settlement agreements and other specified records, the public may receive copies of such records upon request.

54957.1	Ch. IV, V &
	VI

TAPING OR BROADCASTING:

Meetings may be broadcast, audio-recorded or video-recorded so long as the activity does not constitute a disruption of the proceeding.

54953.5;	
54953.6	

Ch. V

CONDITIONS TO ATTENDANCE:

Public may not be asked to register or identify themselves or to pay fees in order to attend public meetings.

54953.3;
54961

Ch. V

PUBLIC RECORDS:

Materials provided to a majority of a body which are not exempt from disclosure under the Public Records Act must be provided, upon request, to members of the public without delay.

54957.5

Ch. V

REQUIRED NOTICES AND AGENDAS

REGULAR MEETINGS:

Agenda containing brief general description (approximately 54954.2 Ch. IV twenty words in length) of each matter to be considered or discussed must be posted at least 72 hours prior to meeting.

SPECIAL MEETINGS:

Twenty-four hour notice must be provided to members of 54956 Ch. IV legislative body and media outlets including brief general description of matters to be considered or discussed.

EMERGENCY MEETINGS:

One hour notice in case of work stoppage or crippling 54956.5 Ch. IV activity, except in the case of a dire emergency.

CLOSED SESSION AGENDAS:

All items to be considered in closed session must be described 54954.2; Ch. IV in the notice or agenda for the meeting. A model format for 54954.5; closed-session agendas appears in section 54954.5. Prior to 54957.1 and each closed session, the body must orally announce the subject 54957.7 matter of the closed session. If final action is taken in closed session, the body generally must report the action at the conclusion of the closed session.

AGENDA EXCEPTION:

Special procedures permit a body to proceed without an agenda 54954.2(b) Ch. IV in the case of emergency circumstances, or where a need for immediate action came to the attention of the body after posting of the agenda.

CLOSED-SESSION MEETINGS

PERSONNEL EXEMPTION:

The body may conduct a closed session to consider 54957 appointment, employment, evaluation of performance, discipline or dismissal of an employee. With respect to complaints or charges against an employee brought by another person or another employee, the employee must be notified, at least 24 hours in advance, of his or her right to have the hearing conducted in public.

PUBLIC SECURITY:

A body may meet with law enforcement or security personnel 54957 Ch. VI concerning the security of public buildings and services.

Ch. VI

PENDING LITIGATION:

A body may meet in closed session to receive advice from its 54956.9 Ch. VI legal counsel concerning existing litigation, initiating litigation, or situations involving a significant exposure to litigation. The circumstances which constitute significant exposure to litigation are expressly defined in section 54956.9(b)(3).

LABOR NEGOTIATIONS:

A body may meet in closed session with its negotiator to 54957.6 Ch. VI consider labor negotiations with represented and unrepresented employees. Issues related to budgets and available funds may be considered in closed session, although final decisions concerning salaries of unrepresented employees must be made in public.

REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATIONS:

A body may meet in closed session with its negotiator to 54956.8 Ch. VI consider price and terms of payment in connection with the purchase, sale, exchange or lease of real property.

REMEDIES AND SANCTIONS

CIVIL REMEDIES:

Individuals or the district attorney may file civil lawsuits for 54960; injunctive, mandatory or declaratory relief, or to void action 54960.1

Ch. VII

taken in violation of the Act.

Attorneys' fees are available to prevailing plaintiffs.

54960.5

54959

CRIMINAL SANCTIONS:

The district attorney may seek misdemeanor penalties against a member of a body who attends a meeting where action is taken in violation of the Act, and where the member intended to deprive the public of information which the member knew or has reason to know the public was entitled to receive. Ch. VII

Return to Main Body

THOMAS D. ALLMAN

Sheriff-Coroner



Undersheriff Matthew Kendall

Captain Gregory L. Van Patten
Field Services
Captain Tim Pearce
Corrections

County of Mendocino Office Of The Sheriff-Coroner

April 8, 2019



I would like to thank you for serving our county on the Measure B Committee. We are all on a team that is like none other in California. We have been given an enormous task by the voters to look into the future and advise the Board of Supervisors on spending the tax dollars which have been given a very specific purpose. We will be overseeing the expenditure of almost \$40,000,000 in the next 5 years.

We will soon approach our 1 1/2 year benchmark, yet our accomplishments have been limited. I do not have any doubt that all eleven of us have a sincere concern and goal of improving the hundreds of lives that mental health has victimized. Our rural county is now in a position that no other county in the State has experienced. We are in the position of having the financial resources to start the process of improving the overall foundation of Mental Health Services but for some reason, I believe we are stymied.

The question of putting the cart before the horse exists and is on everyone's mind during our meetings. The question of who has the authority to start discussions with property owners exists and we must have this question answered. The Board of Supervisors is waiting direction for our committee to make decisions, and we apparently have had members approach the Board of Supervisors for direction. The paradigm must be changed. We, the Measure B Committee, must be willing to make very strong decisions and vigorously encourage the Board of Supervisors to follow our direction. The voters were very direct in supporting Measure B, with the caveat that our committee oversee the expenditures. If we make strong recommendations based on fact and fiscal responsibility, it is my belief that the majority of the Board of Supervisors will support our plan.

Let us not allow others to do our hard work, and let us not accept the responsibility of doing other committees' and boards' duties. We can not shirk our mission and we only weaken other committees and boards' responsibilities by spending our precious time with academic questions relating to things that are not on our list of duties.

I am pleading with our committee to make some strong and uncomfortable decisions: Should we spend time and money on the old Howard Hospital building? Should we fully fund the Orchard Street Project? What can we do on the Coast to improve services?

Let's cooperate in the name of improving the quality of lives in our county, and at the same time, assist in reducing Public Safety's massive time involvement with so many mental health contacts. Let's work with our hospitals and reduce bed space currently allocated to long term mental health cases. If you have ever wondered if you can make a difference in Mendocino County, I assure you that now is your time. Let's strive to make a positive difference that in the future will allow the mission and purpose of Measure B to be recognized and appreciated.

Very simply, in the words of George W. Romney, "If not us, then who? If not now, then when?"

Thank you for your service; your dedication is sincerely appreciated.

Sincerely,

THOMAS D. ALLMAN SHERIFF-CORONER

TDA/rb