



County of Santa Cruz

HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY

POST OFFICE BOX 962, 1080 EMELINE AVENUE SANTA CRUZ, CA 95061-0962

(831) 454-4000 FAX: (831) 454-4488 TDD: (831) 454-4123

May 10, 2000

AGENDA: May 23, 2000

Board of Supervisors
County of Santa Cruz
701 Ocean Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

SUBJECT: Report on Adolescent Drug Treatment Program for Youth not in the Juvenile Justice System

Dear Board Members:

Beginning in June of 1998, your Board provided direction to various County departments to develop a plan and recommendations to fill critical gaps in treatment for adolescents with alcohol and drug problems. On December 14, 1999 and February 15, 2000 your Board accepted reports on the progress in developing residential treatment options. These reports identified a temporary site for the program, and proposed study of a long-term site at the prior San Andreas Road location of the Sunflower Youth House. On February 15, 2000 your Board directed the Health Services Agency (HSA) to return on May 23, 2000 with further recommendations concerning the use of the San Andreas Road site.

Current Status of Voluntary Residential Treatment Program

The contractor for the voluntary residential treatment program, Santa Cruz Community Counseling Center (SCCCC), has submitted a license application to the State Department of Social Services, Community Care Licensing Division, to operate a six-bed program. Completion of the license application has required acquisition of a site, physical plant modifications and furnishings, hiring of a program manager, development and approval of a foster care rate, and certification of an on-site school. The State is reviewing the license application, and SCCC anticipates license approval and opening of the program in July of 2000. SCCC plans to operate the program at its current location for approximately two years until a site large enough to accommodate the originally-envisioned 10-bed program can be located and necessary land use permits secured. HSA staff is working with SCCC to identify possible 1999-00 contract start-up savings that can be redirected to 2000-01.

Long-Term Facility Options for Drug Treatment Services

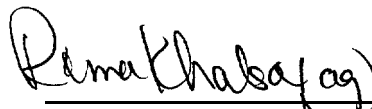
Over the past several months, staff has conducted a comprehensive assessment of the San Andreas Road site, as well as evaluating possible alternative long-term sites for the voluntary adolescent treatment program. The assessment of the San Andreas Road site has identified several significant obstacles to site development. Pesticide use on the adjoining agricultural land would require moving the program off the site for several weeks per year. The existing well is not sufficient to provide adequate water for the facility, and the existing physical plant would require a minimum of \$1.3 million of renovations to meet State foster home licensing and school certification requirements. In addition, there are significant land use issues related to the site.

HSA staff is exploring other long-term site options, including expansion of the current facility to accommodate 10 beds. The owners of the current facility also own the adjoining property, and have indicated an interest in making the adjoining property available to SCCCC for expansion of the existing program.

It is, therefore, RECOMMENDED that your Board:

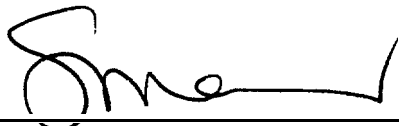
1. Accept and file this report on the status of development of a residential treatment program for adolescents not involved with the juvenile justice system, and options for a long-term site for the program.

Sincerely,



Rama Khalsa, Ph.D., Administrator
Health Services Agency

RECOMMENDED:



Susan A. Mauriello
County Administrative Officer

cc: County Administrative Officer
Auditor Controller
County Counsel
HSA Administration
Mental Health Director
Alcohol and Drug Program Administrator