



Councilmember Linda Maio
District 1

CONSENT CALENDAR
September 10, 2013

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
From: Councilmember Linda Maio, District 1
Subject: Costs to the County, Cities, Families, and the Community of Persons with Mental Health Disabilities, who Present Themselves in Crises Multiple Times

RECOMMENDATION

Request the Alameda County Board of Supervisors to accumulate the costs to the public of frequent recurrences of persons in crises requiring emergency mental health services.

BACKGROUND

Families routinely report that their loved ones with serious mental health issues, who are often homeless, are frequently in crisis out on the street. They are then picked up by the police who take them into County services, often by ambulance. After a short time in a facility they go through a hearing process that generally finds them back out on the street with a very short time, only to have the same cycle repeated over and over. The cost of this frequent access to services: police, ambulance, sheriff, hospital staff, facilities, hearing officers and advocates, etc., once gathered and accumulated, is bound to be startlingly high. The cost to the patient, their families, and the community is immeasurable in terms of pain and suffering. For example, one family reports that for 5 months their insurance was billed \$75,000 for ambulance, paramedics, and hospital charges for their son's many recurrences of crises.

The County is working diligently to improve its response to this patient group. We request that in preparation for considering the appropriate changes that the County also collect the financial data of what it is costing, from specific sectors, due to the revolving door nature of our current system.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

None

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