



29

OFFICE OF THE
MAYOR

ANNE RUDIN
MAYOR

CITY OF SACRAMENTO
CALIFORNIA

CITY HALL
ROOM 205
915 I STREET
SACRAMENTO, CA
95814-2672

April 11, 1988

916-449-5300

APPROVED
BY THE CITY COUNCIL

APR 12 1988

OFFICE OF THE
CITY CLERK

The Honorable James Streng
Chairperson
Sacramento County Board of Supervisors
700 H Street
Sacramento, California 95814

Dear Jim,

I am writing to express our concern for cuts in mental health programs. We understand the need to reduce staffing when funds are exhausted, but in this case there will be no real savings since the costs of serving the population formerly served by the Mobile Outreach Team will have to be borne by others. Instead of trained, professional mental health workers, law enforcement officials will more frequently be called upon to take care of the mentally ill.

Not only does this put an additional burden on police and sheriff, but escorting the mentally ill to a treatment facility in shackles in the back of a police vehicle represents a sadly regressive step in the care and treatment of mentally ill persons. Since law enforcement officers will probably not be called until the prospective patient is in dire need of referral and treatment, mentally ill persons will not receive the care they need at an early stage. With no source of help for counseling and intervention, they will remain at large until they commit some overt act that requires police attention, putting themselves and those around them at risk.

If reductions cannot be avoided, they should be made on a percentage basis across the board. Elimination of the Mobile Outreach Team represents a 100% reduction for this service. That is too drastic a cut for a population that is already ill served.

The Honorable Jim Streng
April 11, 1988
Page Two

Please let us join you in protesting Short-Doyle funding reductions and in requesting that the governor and state legislature restore funding for the programs needed to care for the mentally ill in a compassionate and humane manner.

Sincerely,

ANNE RUDIN
Mayor

AR:kgt

cc: Chief of Police John Kearns
Sheriff Glenn Craig
County Health Department, Ron Usher



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CITY CLERKS OFFICE
CITY OF SACRAMENTO
APR 14 8 24 AM '88

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