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NAMI-SCC National Alliance for the Mentally Ill

Santa Cruz County
P.O. Box 360, Santa Cruz, CA 95061 www.namisc.org

2/26/2002

To: Local Mental Health Board
From: Desiree Douville, NAMI-SCC
Subject: 7th Avenue Center

Thank you for inviting me to the 6/24/2002 LMHB meeting. I will be forwarding the following to the NAMI-SCC Board, our general membership and post on our award winning web site.

At their 6/24/2002 meeting The LMHB and County Mental Health Staff agreed that 7th Avenue Center is an integral and essential component of the overall treatment system for those with serious and persistent mental illness in Santa Cruz County. The continuing physical improvement of the facility is essential for the mental health community and improves the quality of life for those temporarily living at the facility.

Seeing the need for additional operating space for the patients and staff at 7th Ave. Center, if in the future, Front Street Inc. chooses to pursue the installation of modular buildings (temporarily or permanently) on the property, the LMHB will review and forward their recommendation to the County Board of Supervisors to direct County planning and building staff to support the permit process and possible amendment to the use permit of the site to accommodate additional square footage within planning guidelines.

As the County Mental Health System moves toward the Recovery model of treatment for those with persistent and severe mental illness. The County Mental Health System and contractors such as Front Street Inc. agreed to work cooperatively to implement the principles of recovery as defined by the Village Concept to the treatment program at the facility. It was agreed upon that consistency of principles and modalities of treatment throughout the Santa Cruz County Mental Health System of Care that includes County Mental Health Staff and all contracting agencies and their staff would improve the success rate of reducing crisis acute care for those with severe mental illness.

Sincerely, Desiree Douville

President, National Alliance for the Mentally Ill - Santa Cruz County