

Chair Gjerde and Board Members,

The Measure B report states "The County plans to own the building so it has control over provider costs, acceptance of clients and standards of care." It's worth asking, when was this decision made and by whom?

County Council has issued an opinion that the County may legally construct and co-locate facilities with another entity and control the equity interest of the County and operation of the facility through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the other entity.

Co-location with a hospital facility will provide obvious economies of scale and is arguably the most cost effective and sustainable approach to development and operation of a Psychiatric Health Facility (PHF).

However, if a vocal group of residents is given veto power over the location of a PHF it will never be built. NIMBYism related to a PHF is based on the stigmatization of behavioral health issues and ignorance of how such a facility will operate.

I encourage the Board to make decisions on location of such a facility based on facts, functionality and sustainability, not unfounded fears.

Sincerely,

John McCowen