



County of Santa Cruz

0103

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

701 OCEAN STREET, SUITE 500, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060-4069
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FIFTH DISTRICT

AGENDA: 4/1/03

March 20, 2003

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
County of Santa Cruz
701 Ocean Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

RE: LONG TERM CARE FACILITIES FORUM

Dear Members of the Board:

Attached is a letter from Larry Friedman, Chairperson of the County's Long Term Care Interagency Commission, conveying the Commission's desire to sponsor a one day forum on "Facilities In Crisis." The purpose of the forum would be to facilitate discussion by a broad coalition of public, private and nonprofit agencies, as well as local community residents, about the need to plan for and provide adequate long term care facilities in our community.

The Commission is aware that the County is not in the position to offer financial assistance to this effort and will be pursuing donations from outside sources to cover the costs. However, I do believe it is appropriate for the Board to support the Commission's desire to sponsor such a forum. Accordingly, I recommend that the Board direct the Chairperson to write to the Long Term Care Interagency Commission indicating the Board's support for the Commission's plans to host a Long Term Care Facilities Forum, at no cost to the County.

Very truly yours,

ELLEN PIRIE, Chairperson
Board of Supervisors

EP:ted
Attachments

cc: Long Term Care Interagency Commission; Human Resources
Agency Director; Health Services Agency Director;
County Administrative Officer

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County of Santa Cruz

LONG TERM CARE INTERAGENCY COMMISSION

PO BOX 1320, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95061
(831) 454-4864 FAX (831) 454-4290
LARRY FRIEDMAN, CHAIR

March 14, 2003

Board of Supervisors
County of Santa Cruz
701 Ocean St.
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Re: Long Term Care Facilities Forum

Dear Board of Supervisors:

Over the last three years, the Long-Term Care Interagency Commission has been exploring possibilities of addressing the growing need for adequate numbers of long-term care facilities in our community.

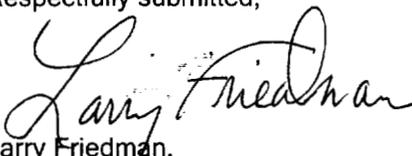
During that time, the County has lost three (3) residential care facilities for the elderly and one (1) skilled nursing facility. Another residential care facility is currently on the market for sale. In that same period of time, three new residential care facilities have opened, none of which accepts low-income residents. Though there has been renovation to existing facilities, there has not been a new skilled nursing facility opened in our County for over 38 years. Our population is not only increasing, it is aging; life-long County residents are having to leave the County in order to find appropriate care at a rate they can afford; and families are experiencing, not only the trauma of placement, but the additional trauma of having to travel 20 to 80 miles to visit their facility-placed family member.

We all share a goal of every senior being able to age gracefully in their home; however, we realize that regardless of the strides made in that direction, there will always be a need for residential care and skilled facilities. Due to diminishing resources at the state and federal levels, it has become apparent that we must address this growing need creatively and explore local community based options in an attempt to meet the needs of this increasing and vulnerable population.

The Long-Term Care Interagency Commission proposes the sponsorship of a one-day forum on "Facilities In Crisis" to be held between the fall of 2003 and spring of 2004. The goal of this forum is to bring together a broad coalition of government agencies, facility staff, professional providers, community social workers and case managers, residents, families, businesses, educational institutions, church communities, volunteer organizations, etc.: 1) to educate the community about this crisis; 2) to creatively explore ways and means of meeting this crisis head-on; and 3) to create a strong community partnership committed to sustaining and improving the long-term care facilities in our community.

The Long Term Care Interagency Commission appreciates your consideration and support in this effort.

Respectfully submitted,


Larry Friedman,
Chairperson



County of Santa Cruz

0105

HUMAN RESOURCES AGENCY

Cecilia Espinola, Administrator

1000 Emeline Avenue, Santa Cruz, CA 95060

(831) 454-4130 or 454-4045 FAX: (831) 454-4642

January 15, 2003

Chairperson Larry Friedman
 Long Term Care Interagency Commission
 P. O. Box 1320
 Santa Cruz, Ca. 95061

Re: Forum on Long Term Care Facilities

Dear Larry :

I am writing to convey the support of the Human Resources Agency for the efforts of the Long Term Care Interagency Commission to sponsor a forum in Fall, 2003 that addresses issues pertaining to the long term care continuum in our community.

As you know, there are several local factors that have created challenges to the long term care system, including the cost of living, the limited affordable housing, and the operating and reimbursement costs for facilities. The availability and affordability of long term care facilities are critical issues to consider, especially for those individuals who can no longer remain in an independent setting.

With the current crisis in the State budget, the problems in long term care need attention and creative involvement from a mixture of government agencies, businesses, professionals, and the citizens of Santa Cruz County. A forum to educate the community and to mobilize a commitment for creating new partnerships is a very worthy endeavor.

I am very supportive of the forum proposal and look forward to further collaboration to make this event happen.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Cecilia Espinola
 Director of Human Resources Agency



County of Santa Cruz

HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY

P.O. BOX 962, 1080 EMELINE AVENUE
SANTA CRUZ, CA 95061
(831) 454-4066 FAX: (831) 454-4770

HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY ADMINISTRATION

January 17, 2003

Chairperson Larry Friedman
Long Term Care Interagency Commission
P.O. Box 1320
Santa Cruz, CA 95061

RE: FORUM ON LONG TERM CARE FACILITIES

Dear Larry:

I am writing to support the efforts of the Long Term Care Interagency Commission to sponsor a forum in Fall 2003. The purpose of the forum is to educate the greater Santa Cruz community on the critical issues pertaining to the long term care continuum in our community.

As you are fully aware, the long term care system is currently facing many challenges and obstacles, which in turn affect frail seniors and their families. These include the lack of affordable housing, the accelerating cost of living, and the operating expenses and reimbursements fees for residential care proprietors. Moreover, due to the current state and local budget crisis, the options for independent living and supportive services for frail seniors will become more restrictive. Compound budget cuts with the lack of residential care facilities in this area will only lessen the chances for seniors to live in familiar surroundings and in their community.

During this fiscal crisis, it is imperative to create partnerships and leverage resources amongst government agencies, businesses, professionals and the residents of Santa Cruz County. I totally support a forum that will educate the community and create commitment from newly formed partnerships to sustain a healthy environment for seniors and their families.

I look forward to working with you on this worthy endeavor.

Sincerely,

Rama Khalsa, Ph.D.
Director of Health Services Agency