

3/24/20

AI #9

**Subject:** FW: Fresno County Behavioral Health Board Annual Report for 2019  
**Attachments:** 2020 Recomendatons.docx

**From:** Alfred Evans <evansalca@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 23, 2020 2:54 PM  
**To:** District 4 <district4@fresnocountyca.gov>; District 2 <district2@fresnocountyca.gov>; District 1 <district1@fresnocountyca.gov>; District 3 <district3@fresnocountyca.gov>; District 5 <district5@fresnocountyca.gov>  
**Subject:** Fresno County Behavioral Health Board Annual Report for 2019

**CAUTION!!! - EXTERNAL EMAIL - THINK BEFORE YOU CLICK**

Good Afternoon Chairman Mendes and Board of Supervisors,

As one of its responsibilities the Fresno County Behavioral Health Board prepares a report for you each year. In ordinary times, the Chair would attend your meeting and present the report, but these are not ordinary times. I do not think that it would be wise for me to attend the March 24<sup>th</sup> meeting.

However, I do want to thank you for the support that you provide to our Board, and especially for the support that you provide to the Department of Behavioral Health. Our Behavioral Health Board is impressed with the work done by the Department under the leadership of Director Utecht. The dedicated staffs of the Department and its contracted entities provide outstanding services to Fresno County residents who live with mental health and substance use disorders.

I encourage you to read the report, and especially the Site Visit Reports where we learn so much about services provided to our community. Please feel free to email or phone me with any questions, comments, or suggestions.

I am attaching the Board's Recommendations for 2020. Some recommendations are continuations of past concerns; others come from observations during Site Visits, and some come directly from the community through meetings, forums or personal contacts.

Thank you again for your support.

Carolyn Evans

Chair, Fresno County Behavioral Health Board

[evansalca@comcast.net](mailto:evansalca@comcast.net)

559-355-0962

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**Fresno County Behavioral Health Board Recommendations  
to  
Board of Supervisors for the year 2020**

1. Educate and inform the community about behavioral health services that are available, along with a navigation system for accessing those services.
2. Move forward with the development of permanent supportive housing, available to all clients of the Department of Behavioral Health.
3. Increase the number of programs, services, and housing specifically for Transitional Age Youth (TAY), ages 14-26.
4. Establish additional programs, including Sober Living Homes, for individuals with Co-Occurring Substance Use Disorders (SUD) and Mental Health Disorders.
5. Implement Assisted Outpatient Treatment (Laura's Law) for individuals who do not respond to existing programs.
6. Increase the number of Wellness Centers throughout the county, emphasizing resilience and recovery, along with diet, nutrition, and a healthy life style.
7. Expand the behavioral health staff and programs at the Fresno County jail to provide better care for inmates with mental health and substance use disorders.
8. Expand outreach services for individuals who are homeless, who also experience behavioral health disorders.