

## DEL NORTE HEALTHCARE DISTRICT

P.O. Box 2034 • 550 East Washington Blvd., Ste. 400 • Crescent City, CA 95531  
(707) 464-9494

March 14, 2021

Dear Mitch Hanna:

In past discussions, it was decided that a Crisis Stabilization Unit (CSU) would not be implemented for your facility. In recent correspondence with the Director of Health and Human Services, we were informed that the team who came to this decision had determined that a CSU would not be a good solution for our community, that it was not a financially viable model to use here, and specifically that even with having funding to cover the initial costs, the ongoing cost would significantly outweigh the potential reimbursement.

We are writing to you to request that you reconsider this decision. Historically, CSUs are successful and effective in addressing behavioral health challenges, providing suicide prevention services, and preventing individuals from going into higher level care facilities. Procedurally, when a Del Norte County resident goes into Sutter Coast ER while in the midst of a mental health crisis, they are evaluated; if it is determined that the patient is in a suicidal crisis, the patient is then sent to a non-local psychiatric facility. This procedure often requires hours and sometimes even days worth of work in finding a facility with an available bed and coordinating the care in which to facilitate the insurance, registration packet, and transportation to and from the facility. Much of the time, the idea of traveling to a facility that is hours away from their home, exacerbates the stress of the crisis that the patient is already experiencing. From a service standpoint, the time that is spent in the coordination of these efforts means less time spent in assisting others who are in need of mental health services. While the utilization of available psychiatric facilities is important and necessary - much of this can be prevented with the availability of an existing local CSU.

While the potential reimbursement factor is a significant piece to consider, we feel that in consideration of Sutter's budget and the needs of our extremely rural community, the focus should rather be on how to fund a CSU responsibly as opposed to not funding one at all. Not every project your organization implements will necessarily be one which pulls in revenue; this does not constitute a decision not to consider such a project.

We invite you to reach out to us to discuss this further and we thank you in advance for your time in considering this request for our community.

Sincerely,



Del Norte Healthcare District Board of Directors

Kevin Caldwell, M.D., Chair

Mike Young

Elizabeth Austen

Tonya Pearcey, R.N.