

OC BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, 2016 MARCH, APRIL By Wanda Shaffer, LWVNOC

Starting in April, the BOS will schedule meetings on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month. (With two extra days planned for budget hearings on June 14 and 15.) This was suggested by Chair Bartlett and Supervisor Steel....it would enable the BOS and the public to have more time to study the agenda items. So far, the meetings have been run with a good awareness of time.

Up to \$199,500 in the previously approved year-round emergency shelter operation funds were approved to allow armory shelters to remain open for 21 additional days in FY2015-16. CEO Kim suggested the BOS discuss this budget item at their April and May mtgs. "The Armory will be closed when Kramer is solidified.....if you want it continued, a discussion of funds will be needed."

Supervisor Do and Chair Bartlett are heavily involved in an ad hoc committee studying OC Mental Health. Do stated there were over 200 programs in Behavioral Health and stated that many people complained of a lot of phone numbers supplied that could be of no help. Their Mental Health Task Force spent 6 hours hearing the public offer their suggestions and experiences with using the OC mental health services. NAMI was highly praised by many. The Chief Psychiatrist of CHOCS told them that if they could imagine 3 Anaheim Stadiums completely full of mentally ill children in OC, know that there are no beds for children under the age of 12, and there is no in-house treatment. The majority stated that wrap-around services, a cultural awareness and an offering of languages were the best answer. Many stated their loved ones were released from jail w/o their knowing it, due to HPA rules, would like that changed. Many stories of loved ones stuck in an ER bed for 3 days before evaluations and placements were found. This ER stay requires individual supervision by an officer or mental health worker. Many suggested health care doctors be trained in mental health medications and many wanted physical health and mental health care under one system. Many wore shirts stating, "If Only They Had Treated Him Before" .....referring to the tragic story of a 20yr. old son who stabbed his parents and is now being tried for murder. While many were concerned

about the children under 12 not getting care, others were stating that just because a child turned 18 is no reason to release or end treatment. Stories told of young adults arrested and in jail w/o treatment. Then released with a ruling being stable and being given a bus ticket.

Good news in the financial realm....”this year will see paying off the last of the bonds resulting from the 1994 County bankruptcy. Today we have the Treasurer’s Oversight Committee which monitors investments, the Audit Oversight Committee that approves the annual audit plan and selects the external auditors, and the Public Finance Advisory Committee that reviews and advises the BOS whenever the County is considering issuing debt. (All of the committees meet in open session to provide the public the opportunity to attend.) “ From a report by Auditor-Controller Eric Woolery.

Two more heads of departments are retiring! Karen Roper, 52, was the Director of OC Community Services, which consists of Office of Aging, the OC Housing Authority, Veteran Services, Human Relations. Also retiring is Mike Bennett, Agricultural Commissioner. The new appointee is Jeffrey Croy.

A new Animal Care Shelter was approved by various cities, (\$35,000,000) to be built at former Marine Corps Air Station Tustin site. This followed after two OC Grand Jury Reports criticizing present conditions of the OC Animal Shelter. There are plans to keep the site of the present Shelter in case it might meet other purposes.

Contracts have been awarded to companies offering roofing, heating, air conditioning and ventilation, demolition and electrical services. Each of these companies will receive \$4,45,000 EACH. This will start the rebuilding of most of the County office buildings around Hall of Adm.

Concerns have risen about the 400 trees already removed from our OC Parks due to fungus produced from the shot-hole borer. The UCI campus has also been severely affected. Before OC can look like Lake Arrowhead forests, Supervisor Spitzer asked that action be taken now! It was suggested that all campfire logs must be local and not brought in.

