

## Position Paper for CMHS Website

### **Background**

Chamberlain's Mental Health Services (CMHS) has provided mental health services to South Santa Clara County since 1976. As a long-time contractor for Santa Clara County Department of Behavioral Health Services, we have helped thousands of children, youth & families with issues such as anxiety, depression, anger management, and trauma. Our participants are largely Latino, low-income & disadvantaged.

We have two programs: Outpatient which provides counseling services & medication evaluation, management, & support. Counseling is provided in office, schools & home locations. Our other program is Day Treatment Intensive for children ages 3-11 who face significant behavioral & emotional challenges.

Our aim has always been to promote optimal development so that young people can achieve their potential for meaningful, productive lives. Our approach is holistic: focused on the child in their life settings of family, school, peers, & self.

### **Dilemma**

By a set of unfortunate circumstances, both CMHS programs are in significant jeopardy. As of January 1, 2016, CMHS will lose more than \$800,000 which is greater than 60% of our entire agency budget!

Our Outpatient Program will be reduced nearly \$400,000, which will require the transfer of 90-100 clients away from CMHS.

Our Day Treatment Intensive Program will be forced to close. This is the only program of its kind in SCC, and there is no comparable alternative for the children (ages 3-11) who will be dismissed.

Key elements regarding these programs are shown on the next pages.

### **Call To Action**

CMHS is asking for community support so that we do not lose more than 60% of our budget. Such a reduction would endanger our stability after 40 years of service to South County.

We are asking all who value the continuation of CMHS to Sign the 2 Petitions attached.

**Petition #1** asks Santa Clara County Government to restore the impending reduction in our Outpatient budget.

**Petition #2** asks Santa Clara County Government to extend funding for our Day Treatment Program through June 30, 2016 so that children are not dismissed from services in mid-school year with no available alternative.

**Against the Odds: In 2015 is it still possible for a small but worthy entity to succeed in preserving its valuable services for children/youth/families despite formidable constraints??**

Other sources on this site provide further details about CMHS.