



City of Needles, California Request for City Council Action

☒ CITY COUNCIL ☐ NPUA

☒ Regular ☐ Special

Meeting Date: November 14, 2023

Title: Letter of Support for Needles Center for Change

Background: Needles Center for Change offers a variety of programs and services that help to support and improve lives in the community of Needles. Access to programs for recovery, DUI, court ordered, and life skills are crucial to our residents. In addition, the Needles Center for Change prevention program helps to strengthen our community and empowers those they serve. The City of Needles is remote and many of our residents do not have access to alternative programs. In many cases, their success depends on the following programs:

The Needles Center for Change Recovery Center serves as an outpatient alcohol, drug treatment and recovery facility for adults and youth.

The Needles Center for Change DUI Program is certified by the State Department of Alcohol and Drug Services and approved by the County of San Bernardino to provide alcohol and drug education and prevention services.

The Environmental Prevention Program (EPP) works to change conditions in the community that contribute to alcohol and other drug abuse among minors.

Needles Deferred Entry of Judgement (PC 1000) is a 16-week education program, approved by the County of San Bernardino, whose participants are referred by Probation or the Court.

Fiscal Impact: None

Recommendation: Authorize the Mayor to sign a letter of support to Supervisor Dawn Rowe supporting Needles Center for Change and the programs they offer to our residents.

Submitted By: Patrick Martinez, City Manager

City Management Review:

Patrick Martinez

Date:

11/9/2023

Approved: ☐

Not Approved: ☐

Tabled: ☐

Other: ☐

Agenda Item: 13



City of Needles

817 Third Street, Needles, California 92363

(760) 326-2113 • FAX (760) 326-6765

www.cityofneedles.com

*Mayor Janet Jemigan
Vice Mayor Kirsten Merritt
Councilmember Tona Belt
Councilmember Ellen Campbell
Councilmember Jamie McCorkle
Councilmember JoAnne Pogue
Councilmember Henry Longbrake
City Manager Patrick Martinez*

November 11, 2023

Supervisor Dawn Rowe
San Bernardino County
385 N. Arrowhead Avenue
San Bernardino, CA 92415

RE: Support for Needles Center for Change

Dear Supervisor Rowe:

We are writing to convey our support for the Needles Center for Change and to encourage the County of San Bernardino actively engage in preserving and sustaining this vital community service.

The Needles Center for Change is a cornerstone of our community, offering an array of programs and services that are instrumental in supporting and enriching the lives of our Needles residents. For many, these programs are not just beneficial but absolutely essential. The City of Needles, due to its remote location, lacks access to alternative resources, making the programs offered by the Needles Center for Change a lifeline for many. We believe that the success and well-being of our residents depend significantly on the following key programs:

1. **Recovery Center:** The Recovery Center is a beacon of hope, providing crucial outpatient alcohol and drug treatment and recovery services for both adults and youth. This includes group and individual counseling, random urinalysis, personalized treatment plans, relapse prevention strategies, anger management support, and parenting guidance. Furthermore, the center serves as a welcoming drop-in hub for drug-free socialization and job search information, complete with on-site computer access. These services are vital for individuals embarking on the path to recovery and healing.
2. **DUI Program:** The Needles Center for Change's DUI Program is a certified and County of San Bernardino-approved initiative, offering indispensable alcohol and drug education and prevention services. These services are particularly essential for individuals who have been convicted of Driving Under the Influence (DUI) and have been mandated by the Department of Motor Vehicles to complete a DUI program for the reinstatement of their driving privileges. The program provides a comprehensive range of courses, including First and Multiple Offender DUI Courses, Wet and Reckless Courses, and an Educational Component tailored for underage participants. The Environmental Prevention Program (EPP) is dedicated to creating conditions within our community that mitigate alcohol and other drug abuse, especially among minors.
3. **Deferred Entry of Judgment (PC 1000):** This 16-week education program, approved by the County of San Bernardino, serves participants referred by Probation or the Court. Its core objective is to reduce drug abuse and prevent repeat criminal offenses among those who successfully complete the program. The Needles Center for Change plays a pivotal role in breaking the cycle of criminal behavior and fostering rehabilitation.

4. Life Skills Groups for CalWORKs Participants: The center also offers structured life skills groups tailored for CalWORKs participants, delivering essential education in a classroom setting. These groups focus on equipping individuals with fundamental job and life skills necessary for personal and professional growth.

The Needles Center for Change embodies a lifeline for our community, and we wholeheartedly believe in its mission. We urge the County of San Bernardino to continue and expand its support for this invaluable institution, which serves as a catalyst for positive change and empowerment in our community.

For all of the reasons stated above, the City of Needles supports the Needles Center for Change.

Sincerely,

Janet Jernigan
Mayor
City of Needles
jjernigan@cityofneedles.com

Polek Law
Frank Polek
3033 5TH AVE STE 400
SAN DIEGO CA 92103-5873

USPS CERTIFIED MAIL



9407 1118 9876 5494 4635 10

Hon. Rick Daniels, City Manager
City of Needles
817 3RD ST
NEEDLES CA 92363-2933



\$4.98 US POSTAGE
FIRST-CLASS
Nov 01 2023
Mailed from ZIP 92103
1 OZ FIRST-CLASS MAIL LETTER
RATE
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November 1, 2023

Employment Development Department
371 West 3rd Street
San Bernardino, CA 92401

Hon. Frank Navarro, Mayor
City of Colton
650 North La Cadena Dr
Colton, CA 92324

Employment Development Department
500 Inland Center Drive
San Bernardino, CA 92408

Hon. Rick Denison, Mayor
City of Yucca Valley
57090 Twentynine Palms Highway
Yucca Valley, CA 92284

San Bernardino County Workforce
Development Board
290 North D Street, Suite 600
San Bernardino, CA 92415

Hon. Rick Daniels, City Manager
City of Needles
817 Third Street
Needles, CA 92363

San Bernardino County Board of
Supervisors
385 North Arrowhead Ave.
San Bernardino, CA 92415

Hon. Paul S. Leon, Mayor
City of Ontario
303 E. B Street
Ontario, CA 91764

Hon. L. Dennis Michael, Mayor
City of Rancho Cucamonga
10500 Civic Center Drive
Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91730

Hon. Helen Tran, Mayor
City of San Bernardino
290 North D. Street
San Bernardino, CA 92401

RE: Notice of Position Elimination and Program Closure

To Whom It May Concern:

Please accept this letter under California Labor Code §1402(b) and the Federal WARN Act that effective December 31, 2023, Mental Health Systems, Inc. dba TURN Behavioral Health Services will be closing certain programs within San Bernardino County and laying off the employees at those locations.

3033 Fifth Avenue, Suite 400, San Diego, CA 92103
619-550-2455 frank@poleklaw.com

Due to recent changes in our business needs and operational requirements, it has become necessary to restructure our organization, resulting in the elimination of certain programs and positions within San Bernardino County. We have had great difficulty receiving sufficient revenue from San Bernardino County for program services to justify the continued expense of operating them.

The following programs within San Bernardino County are being closed and the employees at those locations are being laid off.

<u>Address</u>	<u>Number of Employees Affected</u>
Central Valley RRC and Fontana Center for Change 1076 Santo Antonio Dr., Ste. D Colton, CA 92324	5
Central Valley Prevention Program 790 S. Via Lata, Ste. 250 Colton, CA 92324	4
Joshua Tree and Yucca Valley Center for Change 58945 Business Center Dr. Suites J, N, P Yucca Valley, CA. 92284	8
Needles Center for Change 300 H Street Needles, CA 92363	8
One Stop TAY 316 East E Street Ontario, CA 91764	14
San Bernardino Center for Change and PRIDE 1874 S. Business Center Drive San Bernardino, CA 92408	8
San Bernardino Action 1738 N. Waterman Avenue Suite 1 & 2 San Bernardino, CA 92404	22
Success First Wraparound Program 9547 Center Ave., Ste. 110 Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91730	11
Therapeutic Behavioral Services San Bernardino 790 S. Via Lata, Ste. 300 Colton, CA 92324	8
Inland Empire Admin Office 790 S. Via Lata, Ste. 250 Colton, CA 92324	4

This action is a permanent closure of these programs and is expected to affect a total of 92 employees across various job classifications.

Please note that there is no collective bargaining representative in the company.

The "Statement of Employee Rights" is included in the notice.

Date of Termination: The laid off employees' last day of employment with TURN will be December 31, 2023.

Final Compensation: Employees will receive payment for their hours worked and any accrued vacation up until their last day of employment. The company will also provide any other benefits or compensation that they are entitled to under company policies and applicable laws.

Benefits Continuation: The company will provide the affected employees with information and assistance regarding their options for continuing health insurance coverage through the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act (COBRA). Any employees who inquire about benefits continuation will receive detailed instructions on how to proceed with the COBRA process.

Internal Opportunities: Any employees who are interested in other employment with the company may visit the company's Careers Page for a list of current open positions within TURN. All affected employees are eligible for re-hire. There are, however, no "bumping rights," meaning that employees may not take someone else's position within other programs at TURN due to the length of time they have been with the company.

My contact information is below. Please let me know if I can address any concerns you may have.

Sincerely,



Frank J. Polek
Attorney for Mental Health Services, Inc., dba TURN
Behavioral Health Services

cc: Mental Health Systems, Inc., dba TURN Behavioral Health Services