

MARIPOSA COUNTY RESOLUTION NO. 89-158
A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING CONCERN ABOUT MENTAL HEALTH
CUTS PROPOSED IN THE STATE BUDGET

WHEREAS, State law requires counties to provide local mental health services; and

WHEREAS, the State funds local mental health programs with a 90 percent allocation, requiring a 10 percent match from the counties with populations over 110,000; and

WHEREAS, California was a national leader in "deinstitutionalization" of the State hospitals during the 1960s and 1970s. Mental patients were to be moved from large State institutions to live in their own communities where they would receive more humane and cost-effective treatment. The closure of the State hospitals would realize considerable State savings which was to have been transferred to the counties; and

WHEREAS, the patients were transferred to the counties, but only a fraction of the savings and necessary cost was transferred with them; and

WHEREAS, the transfer of the mental health program began underfunded, and has been steadily eroded by population growth and inflation; and

WHEREAS, the lack of cost-of-living adjustments, coupled with underfunded mandates, has placed a significant burden on counties; and

WHEREAS, the State's Legislative Analyst estimates that county match and overmatch has grown from \$8.4 million in 1980/81 to \$102 million in 1986/87; and

WHEREAS, the California local mental health system is currently in an emergency situation; and

WHEREAS, the Governor's proposed budget suggests the possibility of a \$209 million reduction in local mental health services if certain legislative measures are not passed by the State legislature; and

WHEREAS, this cut would reduce the current level of state resources for the local care and treatment of the mentally ill by more than 40 percent, which is five times the largest cut ever sustained in a single year in local mental health programs since 1957;


NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mariposa County Board of Supervisors opposes any reduction to local mental health programs.

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that because there is a severe crisis in the California public mental health system, the Board of Supervisors will explore legislation or legal means to engage from the mandates of the Short-Doyle (local mental health) Act.


PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Mariposa County Board of Supervisors, a political subdivision of the State of California, this 11th day of April, 1989, by the following vote:

AYES: BAGGETT, PUNTE, ERICKSON, RADANOVICH, TABER
NOES: NONE
ABSENT: NONE
ABSTAINED: NONE



GERTRUDE R. TABER, Chairman
Mariposa County Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:



MARGIE WILLIAMS, Clerk of the Board

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGAL SUFFICIENCY:



JEFFREY G. GREEN, County Counsel