

From: [Board Of Supervisors](#)
To: [Jesseka Rodriguez](#)
Subject: FW: Gemma house - contracts
Date: Wednesday, May 14, 2025 9:48:38 AM

From: Annie Boheler <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, May 13, 2025 6:34 PM
To: Board Of Supervisors <boardofsupervisors@santacruzcountyca.gov>
Subject: Gemma house - contracts

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Hello Santa Cruz county board of supervisors,

I work as a case manager at the Gemma house and have been there for about 10 months. New life has informed us that the program is shutting down as they did not 'feel' like the county would approve funding. It is my understanding that at least a good portion of funding has already been approved with more funds potentially along the way.

Is the house ,owned by the county, in a sublease contract from the county? Since Janus has been handed over a contract from New Life, does this contract include both the entity that is Gemma as well as the house? We are being told Gemma is shutting down and simultaneously being told that Janus is continuing Gemma. Which is it? Who is responsible for making the current residents homeless? We are all losing our jobs however that is much less of a concern of mine than the impacts on clients and the three other women who were about to come in the house in the next few weeks. The impacts of this transition being mishandled can be considered criminal.

There is a group of us staff, including myself a registered medical provider and RADT in training, who are interested in honoring the Gemma house and respecting the current residents who are also in need of transition. I will be going to the Family Justice Center Alliance launch meeting tomorrow at Cabrillo to continue to be collaborative with other healthcare professionals. When I told my licensed boss, the director of Gemma Janelle N, that I have an NPI and we can work out proper billing to reduce the pressure on funding needs, I was ignored. The CEO of New life, Stacey, has been telling us all along that funding is an issue yet the contract (which one - the one from HSA-SUDs or just the building?) was already handed over to Janus.

I am currently working in conversation with the county behavioral health department to see if any of these questions can be answered. Reporters from the Good times and Lookout have reached out to us as well. Please assist.

All the residents have been asked to rehome themselves and one client has already relapsed since this stressful situation has presented itself just a few weeks ago. So far, the only support new life has offered to the current residents is an outdated resource list of general supports such as Walnut Avenue.

thank you for your time and consideration,

Annie Boheler

she / we / they



“The miracle is not to walk on water. The miracle is to walk on the green earth, dwelling deeply in the present moment and feeling truly alive.”

– *Thich Nhat Hanh*

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From: [Board Of Supervisors](#)
To: [Jesseka Rodriguez](#)
Subject: Fwd: Funding Changes Inquiry
Date: Friday, May 9, 2025 2:20:18 PM

From: Annie Boheler [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, April 30, 2025 6:25:45 PM
To: Board Of Supervisors <boardofsupervisors@santacruzcountyca.gov>
Subject: Funding Changes Inquiry

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Hello SC county board of supervisors,

I was present and commented yesterday morning, thank you for listening to community. The Gemma transitional house for women is a housing program first and foremost. I am very concerned about the programs that are on the chopping block. I am very grateful for any conversations and leveraging you can use to support services for historically marginalized populations and the vulnerable.

Are you concerned about what it means for the future of Santa Cruz when programs like these are being threatened? We in the community are hearing about plans to expand the jail, is this true?

I am writing from a personal place of concern and while I am staff at the Gemma house, I do not represent them. I first and foremost feel hugely concerned about those who directly utilize this space for housing as they improve their lives. Gemma leads by example for a womens' safe space, which unfortunately is a high need and a rare space.

Thank you very much for your efforts and consideration.

Annie Boheler
Case Manager at the Gemma House