

#4
6/3/2025

Board of Supervisors June 3rd

We need to rethink our priorities:

I got a couple job postings from the HR department next door.

I just want to show you the salary range for 2 positions -for comparison:

There's the Posting for a **Deputy Sheriff TRAINEE**. It requires a **High School Diploma** and a basic English competency test- Just spelling, vocabulary, and reading comprehension -no MATH at all. The Salary range is **about \$7,900 to \$11,200 per month.**

And I also have a posting for a **Senior Mental Health Client Specialist 1**. This requires a **Master or PhD** AND 2 years of experience. The Salary range for this one is **\$7,600 to \$9,600 per month.**

At the high end that is \$2000 LESS than the Deputy TRAINEE with a High School diploma. Only \$300 less for the highly educated and trained Mental Health Specialist at the low end.

We need to rethink our priorities.

Some people have suggested that being a sheriff's deputy is more dangerous than being a Mental Health care worker. But we go in- without guns- to situations that can be quite dangerous and de-escalate. We are first responders without weapons and for low wages that often don't even cover the cost of living here.

This is shameful.

You can make the difference.

I am asking that we re-examine our priorities and re-fund our mental health care system.

#4
6/3/2025

To: Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors
Re: Funding Mental Health Client Action Network

June 3, 2025

Good Morning,

A volunteer at MHCAN offered to bring this letter to you because I can't attend your meeting today, because I'm scheduled to work. I've been working as a security guard at MHCAN for the past 6 months.

Working at MHCAN can be stressful for staff and volunteers because there are often emotional outbursts that need to be de-escalated. Nevertheless it is a place where people who usually feel rejected by "normals" feel welcome and safe. It's a place where they take showers, wash their clothing and talk with supportive peers. It offers referrals, meals, donated clothing, use of computers, and a place to relax and watch TV shows and movies.

MHCAN is long term support at minimal cost that prevents disturbances to the larger community and costly mental health crises.

Please fund MHCAN as generously as you can.

Thank you.



Tom Cortez
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