

# COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

MARVIN J. SOUTHARD, D.S.W.  
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## DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH

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Reply To: (213) 738-4601  
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October 26, 2000

Eddie Lamon, Chair  
Service Area Six Advisory Committee  
2015 East 131<sup>st</sup> Street  
Compton, California 90222

Dear Ms. Lamon:

Thank you for your recent letter in which you presented the Service Area 6 Advisory Committee's recommendations for the expansion of the AB 34 program, now known as AB 2034. The Department's planning for the AB 2034 allocations was based on an analysis of the estimated number of homeless mentally ill individuals and families in each Service Area. From this analysis, Service Area 6 emerged as the highest need area in Los Angeles County. Accordingly, Service Area 6 will receive the highest allocation of clients to be served by AB 2034 contract providers.

A significant portion of each AB 2034 provider's funding is specifically designated for developing and/or securing permanent housing for the provider's AB 2034 clients. All AB 2034 providers have been encouraged to work together and with their Service Area leaders to assess the specific housing needs within their area and to utilize all possible avenues to meet these needs. The majority of the specific recommendations, which Service Area 6 has made, can be addressed through this forum. The two Service Area 6 Sector Chiefs will have over-all responsibility for ensuring that this important area is addressed. The Department has also obtained the commitment of leaders in the area of low income and special needs housing development to work with the Department centrally and within Service Areas in this regard.

The proposed expansion of the AB 2034 program will give us a significant opportunity to more effectively address the high needs of this population in Service Area 6.

Sincerely,

  
Marvin J. Southard, D.S.W.  
Director of Mental Health

MJS:JA:JKA:j

c: Jim Allen  
Janet Abreu  
Renee Woodruff

Maria Funk, Ph.D.  
Sandra Thomas  
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(AB 2034 SAAC 6)

sabac

# Service Area 6 Advisory Committee

2015 East 131st Street  
Compton, California 90222  
(310) 608-1597

Eddie Lamon, Chairperson  
Haywood McNeill, Vice Chairperson  
Anna Smith, M.D., Secretary

September 26, 2000

Marvin Southard, DSW  
Director of Mental Health  
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DIRECTOR OF MENTAL HEALTH

*\* Jim Allen*  
*draft response*  
*sent 10/5/00*  
*①*

## SERVICE AREA VI ADVISORY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE EXPANSION OF THE AB 34

Dear Dr. Southard:

I am writing to you on behalf of the Service Area Six Advisory Committee (SAAC 6). On Thursday, August 17, 2000, SAAC 6 convened to discuss the proposed expansion of the existing AB 34 Program. The Committee members expressed their concerns regarding the critical housing shortage in our area in general and the growing homeless condition for mentally ill offenders in particular. After a lengthy discussion about the dearth of housing resources, underdeveloped properties, understaffing, underutilization of existing board and cares, IMDs, and a host of other insufficient resources, the Committee members proposed the following recommendations for the expansion of the AB 34 program in Service Area 6:

First, we recommend that the Department strengthen the existing SRP and Interim Funding Program by providing additional staff and technical support to meet the client's emergency housing needs.

Second, we recommend that the Department funds a Service Area Coordinator to assist in program implementation, coordinate programs, develop specialized housing for mentally ill offenders, and to identify housing needs.

Third, we recommend that the Department develop and expand transitional housing that would allow immediate placement and would

Marvin Southard, DSW  
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enable clients to maintain residence until long term and or permanent housing could be arranged. In addition it was recommended that existing board and cares, IMDs, and other acute, and sub-acute facilities be expanded.

Fourth, we recommend that the Department develop Single Residence Occupancy and Room and Board facilities in collaboration with community housing developers which would provide immediate housing and better accessibility for women and children. In addition specialized housing for transitional age youth must be developed.

Fifth, we recommend that the Department renew and expand the existing AB 34 contractors in SA 6 and that Kedren Community Mental Health Center is included in the AB 34 expansion.

Dr. Southard as you are aware, SAAC 6 is committed to the general welfare of the mentally ill which includes ensuring that their basic housing and other service needs are met. Consistent with the Department's goal of improving the quality of life for mentally ill persons, we ask that you consider our suggested recommendations in your decision-making process.

Thank you for your support and commitment to our community.

Sincerely,



Ms. Eddie Lamon, Chair  
Service Area Six Advisory Committee

c: Haywood McNeill  
Jim Allen  
Renée Woodruff  
Sandy Watkins  
Debbie Innes-Gomberg