Dear CCP Executive Committee and At Large Members,

Our Faith Communities and Justice Committee Members would like to express our appreciation for the CCP Workgroup responding to our advocacy for funding reentry supportive housing beds that is a fiscally responsible allocation of realignment funds. We believe this is a just and compassionate response to numerous individuals in jail that should be more appropriately placed in alternative housing. Those who are without homes, suffering with mental illness and incarceration histories are the most vulnerable. This remains not a criminal justice issue but a serious social justice issue.

The March CCP Workgroup Meeting copy of the Draft Public Safety Realignment Plan 2018-2019 states:

A housing subcommittee of various stakeholders will be established through the CCP Workgroup. This committee will inventory existing permanent supported housing options for justice involved individuals, identify any gaps and barriers, and develop a recommendation to move forward to the CCP for consideration. (P24) CLUE SB has been included among the various stakeholders.

We want to share with you why we have persevered in advocating for this intervention to be funded in the realignment budget.

Expanded Supported Housing- Reentry
The Corporation for Supportive Housing (CSH) has been researching reentry supportive housing for over 10 years. It describes supported housing for the reentry population as designed for individuals with chronic health challenges who were homeless upon entry to prison or jail or at risk of homelessness upon

CLUE Mission: CLUE SB is a network of inter-faith community leaders and members organized to address the root causes of local economic injustices to those marginalized in Santa Barbara County.
Supportive housing models have been successful in increasing the residential stability of persons with homelessness and mental health histories, like the impressive results of Pescadero Lofts in Santa Barbara. CSH research affirms that expanding these programs to target those released from incarceration will significantly decrease recidivism in our county.

**Researched Model**

The *Returning Home Initiative* is an evidenced based reentry supportive housing model of CSH. It seeks to: develop a successful pilot of supported housing tailored to formerly incarcerated persons; facilitate the placement of formerly incarcerated persons into supported housing; and document decreased recidivism rates compared to those who do not receive supportive housing. We will propose this model to the sub-committee for our pilot in Santa Barbara.

**Data: Capital Facilities Report and Common Ground**

The Santa Barbara County approved *System of Care- Capital Facilities Report* August 2016 shows the greatest number of beds needed for identified mental health clients is 240 for Permanent Housing with Support. The Common Ground data shows that of 1,455 homeless people surveyed in 2015, 64% reported mental illness and 73% reported histories of incarceration in jail and 26% in prison. CSH research shows that individuals with histories of incarceration, homelessness, and mental illness often cycle through the criminal justice and homelessness systems multiple times and may also use crisis health and mental health services.

**Dr. Austin’s Realignment Report**

Finally, Dr. Austin’s report on realignment funding in 2016 recommended investing $400,000 per year for supported housing in the ongoing realignment budget, in addition to one time only funding. Fortunately, Santa Barbara has very experienced county and city housing authorities that have successfully implemented a wide variety of supportive housing facilities for those homeless and with mental illness. In our recent conversations with them about our goal, they are very willing to help us implement a reentry supportive housing pilot.

We are eager to begin work with the CCP housing sub-committee in HEART. We know there are many questions yet to be answered and also know that we have experienced creative committee members and are confident we will develop a strong proposal.

Sincerely,

Maureen Earls, CLUE Board
Chair, Criminal Justice Work Group