

8/6/2020

Hello, I am a member of this community who is requesting that this public comment be read aloud at the Measure B Committee's next available meeting. I am personally afraid to attend due to COVID-19.

The work you are doing is important and I want to thank each and every one of you. I want to make sure that you understand the plight of the mentally ill. None of you has any personal experience with mental illness. You are all high functioning members of the community with healthy mental capabilities. You are clearly driven, pay attention, and have everything you need to be successful. I write this so you better understand those you are trying to serve. The mentally ill.

Many of the mentally ill do not maintain eye contact. Have unkempt hair. Make muddled and confused statements. In professional environments, often mentally ill folks cannot make progress on professional goals. Many mentally ill folks will ignore professional advice or stew over that advice over long periods of time with no action. If they don't like the answer, the mentally ill may create an alternate fantasy that they are more than happy to live in over extended periods of time. You can usually easily identify many of the mentally ill because they incessantly touch their faces when bored or look down. Many mentally ill people fidget and move around, shifting their weight from side to side. Many mentally ill men will have bushy and unkempt hair that looks slightly overgrown. Mentally ill women will often have the same choice of hair style.

When groups of mentally ill people congregate to socialize or conduct business, these individual traits are often magnified. Often there is little organization and a consequent lack of coordinated group activities towards a single end. If there is a series of meetings, each meeting will occur with little connection to prior meetings and little long term thought. It's as if every day is a new day with a new set of problems and priorities. When in a group, if one member is allowed to speak, the other members of the group do not listen, but instead are often preoccupied with what they might say, if they are called upon. The number one rule is to try not to look stupid. People who look like they're interested in what is being said but do so in order that their own mental illness remains just below the surface.

Thank you so much for your work on the Measure B Committee! You are all very capable people who have earned a place of leadership in the community. This group has a practical grounding and can get things done! Have faith in yourself (you probably already do!) and look around at your fellow committee members. These are mentally capable people! They can get the job done if you work with them. This is not a train wreck, it is a train to success mountain! Toot! Toot! All aboard!

Signed,



Susan Carroll, Comptche

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