

[Draft] Resolution Commending: Progress Foundation, Innovation Behavioral Health Services

WHEREAS, the Progress Foundation is dedicated to promoting rehabilitation and recovery for individuals experiencing mental health conditions, fostering the highest possible level of independence and self-determination for those they serve.

WHEREAS, the foundation has a rich history, established in 1969 amidst the de-institutionalization movement, with consistent leadership under Executive Director Steve Fields, that focused on supporting individuals transitioning from state psychiatric hospitals into community settings.

WHEREAS, the foundation recognizes that local treatment systems have historically been ill-equipped to support individuals with mental illness, and therefore, it has committed itself to developing supportive, community-based programs that prevent individuals from returning to institutions or correctional facilities.

WHEREAS, their commitment to social rehabilitation includes utilizing relationships and the environment as fundamental components of treatment to decrease alienation and to provide a supportive community.

WHEREAS, their recovery model emphasizes connectedness, hope, identity, empowerment, and the importance of treating all individuals with respect and dignity, thus ensuring that each of us makes conscious efforts to eliminate labeling and discrimination.

WHEREAS, the principles of social rehabilitation that guide the foundation's work include:

1. Promoting a normalizing, homelike environment that supports wellness and therapeutic engagement.
2. Implementing multidisciplinary staffing, where genuine interest and compassion are prioritized over formal qualifications.
3. Involving clients in decision-making, recognizing their expertise in defining their own treatment needs.
4. Providing program flexibility and individualized treatment to cater to each client's unique challenges.
5. Embracing a willingness to take risks and empowering clients to make their own choices about safety and personal goals.

WHEREAS, the foundation's crisis stabilization units, acute diversion units, residential treatment facilities, year-long transitional housing, supported and independent living options, and referral systems are critical components of their comprehensive approach to mental health care.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Progress Foundation has reaffirmed its commitment to enhancing the quality and accessibility of mental health services in the community, continually striving for improvement and innovation in their programs and practices and upholding their mission to empower clients on their path to recovery and independence.

FURTHER RESOLVED that the San Francisco Behavioral Health Commission expresses our gratitude and commends the Progress Foundation for its work over the last 56 years in addressing the needs of individuals in the City and County of San Francisco who experience mental disorders and homelessness. The services that the Progress Foundation provides should serve as a blueprint for programs that view community members as integral to community interventions, such as spreading awareness about mental health, creating safe spaces for clients, and encouraging members to share their experiences, and for the delivery of mental health services in the community.

Approved and adopted on this date, February 11, 2025 ---This should be the date it's on the commission's agenda

