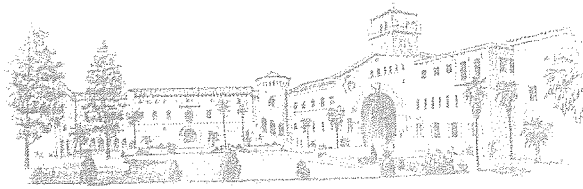


COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

Michael F. Brown
County Executive Officer



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EXECUTIVE OFFICE

June 26, 2009

The Honorable Judge J. William McLafferty
Santa Barbara County Superior Court
1100 Anacapa Street, 2nd Floor
Santa Barbara, CA 93121-1107

Santa Barbara County Grand Jury
Attention: Ted Sten, Foreman
1100 Anacapa Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Dear Judge McLafferty and Mr. Sten:

The County is in receipt of the 2008-2009 Grand Jury Report entitled: "*Alcohol, Drug, and Mental Health Services- An Uncertain Financial Future.*" Please find attached my response to the findings and recommendations of that report.

The Grand Jury requested that the County Executive Office respond to findings and recommendations, numbers 1 and 2. Enclosed with this correspondence are the response to each and accompanying attachments, in both hard copy and electronic form.

I want to extend my appreciation to the Grand Jury for its findings and recommendations on this important matter. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Michael F. Brown
County Executive Officer

Cc: Robert Geis, Auditor-Controller
Dr. Ann Detrick, Director, Alcohol, Drug and Mental Health Services

Attachments

COUNTY EXECUTIVE OFFICE RESPONSE

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY 2008-09 GRAND JURY

“ALCOHOL, DRUG AND MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES- AN UNCERTAIN FINANCIAL FUTURE”

FINDING 1:

The ShareCare billing software has not performed as expected, and has failed to bill Medi-Cal and Medicare in a timely manner.

Response: The County Executive Office agrees with this finding.

RECOMMENDATION 1:

That in the future the Alcohol, Drug and Mental Health Services Department purchase only proven software and maintain a backup program until the new program is fully implemented and functional.

Response: The County Executive Office agrees with this recommendation. Staff in the Alcohol, Drug, and Mental Health Services Department is presently working to ensure that Medi-Cal and Medicare billings are brought current and that adequate backup systems are in place. We further recommend that in accordance with the new County Information Technology Strategic Plan and structure that information technology staff will review all pertinent proposals, contracts, and purchases for hardware and software.

FINDING 2

Many of the financial liabilities of the past eight years would never have been incurred if adequate accounting systems had been in place.

Response: The County Executive Office agrees with this finding.

RECOMMENDATION 2

That the Santa Barbara County Auditor-Controller continue to review and monitor the accounting activities of the Alcohol, Drug and Mental Health Services Department.

Response: The County Executive Office agrees with this recommendation and recognizes the significant effort the Auditor-Controller has made in assisting ADMHS with its accounting and business practices. In addition, CEO staff is working closely with the Auditor-Controller and ADMHS staff in order to improve accounting processes.