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GRAND JURY SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

September 1, 2011

Bill Brown
Santa Barbara County Sheriff-Coroner
4434 Calle Real
Santa Barbara, CA 93110

Re: Sheriff's Office response – Santa Barbara County Civil Grand Jury 2010-11 report;
“Homeless Mentally Ill Indigent Recidivism”

Dear Sheriff Brown:

Thank you for your response to the 2010-11 Santa Barbara County Grand Jury's (Jury) report as referenced above. The Jury requests clarification of the following Sheriff's Office responses to the findings and recommendations contained in the report.

As you are aware, the Jury may seek clarification from a respondent when a respondent disagrees wholly or in part to a report finding or recommendation and, in the opinion of the Grand Jury, the reason is unclear or requires additional information from the respondent.

In Finding 2a and Recommendation 2a, the Jury asserts the following:

Intake screening for mental illness at the Santa Barbara County Main Jail is currently undertaken by jail staff who have basic training in intake but are not certified mental health professionals.

The Sheriff's Office only partially agrees with this finding yet offers no explanation that disputes the Jury's finding. We are seeking clarification or more information which would explain this discrepancy.

In Finding 2c, the Jury asserts:

The contract between Prison Health Services, Inc. and Santa Barbara County for mental health care of inmates; includes the provision that intake screening will be conducted by a mental health professional; however, this is not being done.

In this case, the Sheriff's Office wholly disagrees with this finding yet offers no explanation that would support such a disagreement. The response leaves it unclear as

to whether a mental health professional is in fact conducting intake screening at the Santa Barbara County Main Jail. This is an important point since much of the Jury's report hinges on this important issue.

Further, in its response to Recommendation 2c, the Sheriff's Office states:

The contract does not mandate that every person who is booked receive a mental health screening by a licenced professional.

This statement seems to contradict the contract language as quoted by the Sheriff's Office in its response to Finding 2c:

PHS mental health professionals will screen inmates for mental health conditions at the time of the Intake Screening, which occurs upon arrival at the facility...

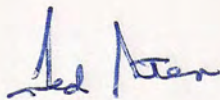
We would appreciate the Sheriff's Office providing additional information which would explain this discrepancy.

In reference to Finding 2d; the Grand Jury requests the cooperation of the Sheriff's Office in providing additional information regarding its response – specifically, the status of discharge planners at the Main Jail. It would be helpful to receive information regarding these employees that would provide clarification of shifts and job function. Specifically, the Jury would appreciate the Sheriff's Office providing the following for each discharge planner.

- Employee date of hire or change to current assignment
- Shift and/or hours worked
- Employee primary work location
- Funding source for each employee (Sheriff or BOCH grant)
- Educational degrees, training certificates and licenses
- Position description

On behalf of the 2011-12 Grand Jury and the citizens of Santa Barbara County, we thank you for your assistance and cooperation in this matter. We look forward to your prompt reply.

Sincerely,

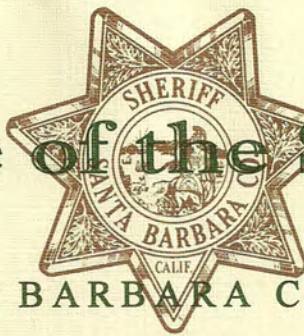


Ted Sten
Foreman
2011-12 Santa Barbara County Civil Grand Jury

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Office of the Sheriff



SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

HEADQUARTERS

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BILL BROWN

Sheriff-Coroner

JIM PETERSON

Undersheriff

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3500 Burton Mesa Road
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70 Newsome Street
New Cuyama, CA 93254
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Solvang, CA 93463
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Sheriff - Coroner Office
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Santa Barbara, CA 93110
Phone (805) 681-4145

Main Jail
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Santa Barbara, CA 93110
Phone (805) 681-4260

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401 E. Cypress #105
Lompoc, CA 93436
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September 15, 2011

Ted Sten, Foreman
Santa Barbara County Grand Jury
Grand Jury Room
County Courthouse
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

RE: Clarification to the Sheriff's Office Response to the Santa Barbara County Civil Grand Jury 2010-2011 Report, "Homeless Mentally Ill Indigent Recidivism."

Dear Mr. Sten,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide clarification to our response to the Grand Jury 2010-2011 Report, "Homeless Mentally Ill Indigent Recidivism."

Finding 2a and Recommendation 2a: Intake screening for mental illness at the Santa Barbara County Main Jail is currently undertaken by jail staff who have basic training in intake but are not certified mental health professionals.

The Sheriff's Office response provided information that included the intake screening process that is first conducted on all inmates during the receiving process. The initial screening is conducted by Jail Custody Staff who have basic training in intake, but are not certified mental health professionals.

Any positive response on the form, or a positive indicator observed by the Receiving Deputy requires an immediate notification to the on-duty mental health therapist or Registered Nurse (RN). The on-duty mental health therapist responds to complete the screening process, or as stated in the contract:

*If a licensed mental health clinician is not on site at the time, nursing staff trained in the triage of mental health referrals will respond immediately to all requests for emergency mental health treatment. Nursing personnel will utilize **Mental Health Evaluation Tools (METs)**, to perform said evaluations. These tools have been well tested in many PHS sites across the country*

resulting in effective and timely referrals to the psychiatrist or mental health clinician. In this case, a member of the mental health staff sees the Inmate on-site as soon as possible.

In reviewing our original response, it may have been more accurate to state: During the initial intake screening process conducted by Custody Deputies, any inmate who responds in the affirmative or displays a positive indicator of mental health issues is immediately referred to the on-duty mental health staff. The mental health therapist, or qualified nursing staff, then conducts a mental health screening prior to completing the receiving process.

Finding 2c, the Jury asserts: *The contract between Prison Health Services, Inc. and Santa Barbara County for mental health care of inmates; includes the provision that intake screening will be conducted by a mental health professional; however, this is not being done.*

Our response to this finding provided a lengthy explanation illustrating that the language in the contract was referenced out of context. The Sheriff's Office original response clarified that the contract states:

PHS will provide sufficient qualified mental health/medical staff to respond promptly to requests from security personnel for medical information/intervention, including assessment and monitoring of inmates identified at intake by the medical alert system, as allowed per HIPPA regulations.

As stated in our clarification response to Finding 2a above, this requirement is met when the on-duty mental health/medical staff responds to the Receiving Deputies request and completes a mental health evaluation prior to the conclusion of the receiving process.

In your letter, you state that the Sheriff's Office response to Recommendation 2c contradicts the contract language as quoted in the response to Finding 2c. Please note, the response you are referring to is to Recommendation 2a (not Recommendation 2c. See Page 5 of the Sheriff's Office Response). The statement provided in our response to Recommendation 2a was as follows:

This finding is referenced out of context. The contract between PHS and the County of Santa Barbara states:

"PHS mental health professionals will screen inmates for mental health conditions at time of Intake Screening, which occurs upon arrival at the facility."

To further clarify the Sheriff's Office original response, we ask the members of the Grand Jury to re-read the contract between PHS and the County of Santa Barbara, in particular Exhibit C, Section 2.0 Mental Health Program, in its entirety.

Additionally, we would like to point out that the contract language defines Intake Screening as:

1.20. "Intake Screening": A health assessment performed by the receiving Staff, using approved forms, upon detention of new Inmates or Detainees to detect health problems which require immediate care or pose a risk to Staff or others.

The Sheriff's Office response was not in contradiction to the contract language. In reading the entire Exhibit C, and applying that language to the Policies and Procedures followed by custody staff and medical staff, it is clear that mental health professionals provide mental health screening at the time of intake screening.

Finally, in response to the Grand Jury's request for additional information regarding the response to Finding 2d, we offer the following information:

As required by the contract, PHS has employed, since the beginning of the contract, one full-time employee Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW). This individual has the responsibility for overall discharge planning as described in the contract in Exhibit C:

The LCSW will facilitate, during incarceration and upon notification from the Sheriff's Department of a pending release, continuity of care from the institution into the community. Specifically, the discharge planning program proposed by PHS will include, but not be limited to the following components:

- Referrals to physicians
- Instruction in medication management
- Identification, arrangement and coordination with community-based health care and human services required/requested by Inmates
- Outreach to community healthcare and human services providers
- Development of formalized working arrangements with community health care and human services providers
- Participation in community initiatives as applicable

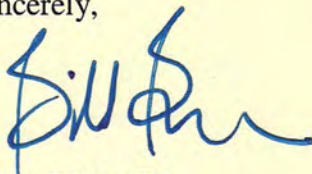
In addition to the responsibilities noted in the preceding paragraphs, the LCSW will also work with the site Medical Director and the mental health team to develop and implement transitional care plans for inmates and will be responsible for developing relationships with state and community mental health centers, agencies and programs.

This position is funded in the contract between PHS Inc., and Santa Barbara County. As a full-time employee, this individual works 40 hours per week at the Santa Barbara County Jail. Attached is a copy of the Job Description, which includes minimum requirements for this position.

For information on the Discharge Planning Coordinator provided by BOCH and ADMHS, we respectfully refer you to those organizations for the information you have requested.

Please feel free to contact me, should you have additional questions.

Sincerely,



BILL BROWN
Sheriff - Coroner



Corizon Health

Mental Health Therapist / Social Worker Position Description

POSITION: Mental Health Therapist / Social worker

SUPERVISED BY: Health Services Administrator

SUPERVISES: Non-supervisory position

QUALIFICATIONS

- Master's degree in psychology, social work, or related field from an accredited college or university
- License or license eligible preferred
- Must have professional experience, knowledge, and skills in group and individual therapy, diagnosis, and treatment of major mental illness, crisis intervention, and psychological evaluation techniques and substance abuse treatment
- Must demonstrate the potential ability to provide mental health services in a correctional environment

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF DUTIES

It is the duty of the Mental Health Therapist to provide quality mental health and substance abuse treatment services to inmates in accordance with all Prison Health Services and site-specific policies and procedures.

RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Provides direct clinical services. Services may include: Intake screenings, psychological evaluations, unit rounds, crisis intervention, group and individual counseling, psychoeducational and substance abuse treatment program groups, evaluation of inmates in segregation, developing individual treatment plans, and development of appropriate aftercare and discharge plans. May be asked to interact with court officials, family, and other health officials. On-call services may be required on a rotating basis.
2. Collaborates with the Multidisciplinary Mental Health Treatment Team in order to determine a patient's appropriate level of mental health care to include discharge planning.
3. Documentation of all mental health interventions in accordance with the policies and procedures of mental health services. Participates in tracking and collecting statistical information for programming. Participates in collecting documentation