



County of Orange

County Executive Office

August 10, 2021

Honorable Erick L. Larsh
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court of California
700 Civic Center Drive West
Santa Ana, CA 92701

Subject: Response to Grand Jury Report, "A Look Behind the Bars of the Orange County Jails"

Dear Judge Larsh:

Per your request, and in accordance with Penal Code 933, please find the County of Orange response to the subject report as approved by the Board of Supervisors. The respondents are the Orange County Board of Supervisors and the County Executive Office.

If you have any questions, please contact Lala Oca Ragen of the County Executive Office at 714-834-7219.

Sincerely,

Digitally signed by Frank Kim
DN: cn=Frank Kim, o=County
of Orange, ou=CEO,
email=frank.kim@ocgov.com,
c=US
Date: 2021.08.11 13:24:44
-07:00

Frank Kim
County Executive Officer

Enclosures

cc: Orange County Grand Jury
Lilly Simmering, Deputy County Executive Officer
Lala Oca Ragen, Director, Performance Management and Policy



Responses to Findings and Recommendations
2020-21 Grand Jury Report:

“A Look Behind the Bars of the Orange County Jails”

SUMMARY RESPONSE STATEMENT:

On June 14, 2021, the Grand Jury released a report entitled “A Look Behind the Bars of the Orange County Jails.” This report directed responses to findings and recommendations to the Orange County Board of Supervisors. The responses are below:

FINDINGS AND RESPONSES:

F9. CHS direct service staff have not received enough Crisis Intervention Training.

Response: Disagrees wholly with the finding. Crisis Intervention Training is specialized training geared toward law enforcement personnel. CHS provides Nonviolent Crisis Intervention training – initial and biannual recertification - for clinical staff working directly with individuals in mental health units. This training is developed for healthcare professionals.

F10. Lack of mandatory COVID testing for CHS staff creates a high risk of infection to inmates and others.

Response: Disagrees partially with the finding. There are multiple safety measures that have been put into place, including voluntary testing, in compliance with current Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommendations to keep infection rates minimized.

F11. CHS and BHS have not integrated their electronic records, thus delaying and limiting their ability to share inmate information.

Response: Disagrees partially with the finding. While the CHS and BHS electronic records are not fully integrated, team members from each division have access to the appropriate records in each system in order to provide coordinated care.

RECOMMENDATIONS AND RESPONSES:

R8. Train all direct service CHS staff in level 1 Crisis Intervention Training, effective immediately. (F9)

Response: The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable. Crisis Intervention Training is developed to train law enforcement personnel. CHS will continue to provide Nonviolent Crisis Intervention and other trainings that are developed specifically for healthcare professionals.

R9. Require mandatory COVID testing for all CHS jail personnel, effective immediately. (F10)

Response: This recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable. CHS will continue to follow prevailing CDC's recommendations in the [Guidance on Management of Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\) in Correctional and Detention Facilities | CDC](#)

R10. Implement integrated software that allows communication and file sharing between CHS and BHS by June 30, 2022. (F11)

Response: The recommendation requires further analysis. CHS will discuss the feasibility of this recommendation with Health Care Agency's Information Technology department and the electronic record vendors for CHS and BHS. CHS will report back in December 2021.