



August 3, 2015

Honorable Glenda Sanders, Presiding Judge  
Orange County Superior Court  
700 Civic Center Drive West  
Santa Ana, CA 92701

Re: 2014-2015 Orange County Grand Jury Report, ***The Mental Illness Revolving Door: A Problem for Police, Hospitals, and the Health Care Agency***

Your Honor:

In accordance with California Penal Code Sections 933 and 933.05, the Buena Park Police Department responds to each of the findings and recommendations in the 2014-2015 Orange County Grand Jury Report as follows:

**Response to Findings**

F.1. Deputy Sheriffs and police officers receive insufficient training on how to evaluate and handle the mentally ill in the field.

*(1) The respondent agrees with the finding based on the Grand Jury's report.*

F. 2. Deputy Sheriffs and police officers receive insufficient training regarding Laura's Law.

*(1) The respondent agrees with the finding based on the Grand Jury's report.*

**Recommendations**

R.1. All law enforcement officers should receive at least 40 hours of comprehensive Crisis Intervention Training on how to handle and evaluate the mentally ill in the field with periodic refresher training. (F.1.)

*(4) The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or not reasonable, with an explanation therefore.*

Due to budget cuts and the lack of appropriate funding, it is not reasonable for the Buena Park Police Department to provide 40 hours of comprehensive Crisis Intervention Training on how to handle and evaluate the mentally ill in the field with periodic refresher training to its personnel. The Buena Park Police Department currently provides ongoing training to its personnel in briefings in the form of a two-hour training DVD on How to Deal with the Mentally Ill. In addition,

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we provided two separate four-hour training days on Dealing with the Mentally Ill to all of our personnel in March 2012 and again in April 2013.

Also, in a response to the 2012-2013 Orange County Grand Jury Report, "To Protect and To Serve" report, which examined tools to assist law enforcement in achieving positive outcomes with the homeless mentally ill, I indicated that since 2008, over 1,487 law enforcement officers throughout Orange County, including Buena Park, have attended a 16-hour POST and STC-approved Crisis Intervention Training session. The goal of this training is to provide a basic understanding of mental health issues, to examine how they intersect with law enforcement, and to provide alternative ideas for responding to the mentally ill.


There are also specific personnel within the Buena Park Police Department, our Community Impact Team, consisting of three officers and one Sergeant, who deal with the homeless and mentally ill in our community on a more frequent basis. These officers receive additional training on dealing with the mentally ill. They just recently attended the "Meeting of the Minds Mental Health" conference in June of this year and they also attend monthly County meetings involving other mental health professionals and police departments within the County to discuss mental health issues.

All of our newer officers, who just completed the police academy, received six hours of training on dealing with the mentally ill in their academy basic training.

R.2. All law enforcement officers should receive mandatory and specific training regarding Laura's Law. (F.2.)

*(2) The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented by the end of 2015. The Buena Park Police Department Training Bureau has recently received a Laura's Law PowerPoint training presentation that will be shown to our personnel during one of our upcoming monthly training days.*

Sincerely,



Corey S. Sianez  
Chief of Police

CSS:cm

cc: Orange County Grand Jury  
700 Civic Center Drive West  
Santa Ana, CA 92701