



Westminster Police Department

Kevin Baker, Chief of Police

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

Subject: Westminster Police Department Response to Orange County Grand Jury Report, *The Mental Illness Revolving Door: A Problem for Police, Hospitals, and the Health Care Agency*

Your Honor:

The following response is provided by the Westminster Police Department in accordance with Penal Code sections 933 and 933.5 to the findings and recommendations contained in the 2014 – 2015 Orange County Grand Jury report, *Mental Illness Revolving Door: A Problem for Police, Hospitals, and the Health Care Agency*.

Findings:

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

Agency Response: The respondent agrees with this finding based upon the Grand Jury's report.

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

Agency Response: The respondent agrees with this finding based upon 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.)

Agency Response: This recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted.

The Westminster Police Department requires all employees to attend a 16-hour POST certified Crises Intervention Training (CIT) course. In addition, the recently created CIT 2 course will be required training for all Westminster Police Department sworn employees, and will provide 8 hours of additional training. Our department has two in-house Mental Health Professionals from the Health Care Agency that respond to calls involving the mentally ill and provide on-going training to our employees. In addition we participate with Homeless Outreach and Positive Engagement team (HOPE) which is in partnership with the Health Care Agency. This program provides outreach twice a month to engage the homeless, many of whom suffer from mental illness.

We believe the hours of police academy training regarding interactions with persons with disabilities, and the 24-hours of POST certified CIT training (CIT 1 & 2) that are required for our employees, combined with the on-going training our employees receive through our partnership with Orange County Mental Health, sufficiently prepare our officers to respond, effectively evaluate, and handle calls involving the mentally ill in the field.

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

Agency Response: This recommendation has been implemented.

In May 2015, The Westminster Police Department hosted a training event on Laura's Law and a presentation was made by the Health Care Agency. In addition, our in-house Mental Health Clinician recently attended briefing sessions and provided information on Laura's Law. Finally, the CIT 1 course offered by the Orange County Sheriff's Department has incorporated Laura's Law training into the curriculum.

Sincerely,



Kevin Baker
Chief of Police