



City of Seal Beach

POLICE DEPARTMENT
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September 23, 2015

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

Subject: Seal Beach 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 Seal Beach 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: Although the Department agrees that some additional training for law enforcement personnel is advisable, this specific recommendation will not be fully implemented because the amount of additional training recommended is not warranted.

The Seal Beach Police Department presently requires all employees to attend a 16-hour POST certified Crisis Intervention Training (CIT 1) course. All officers, including new hires, will have attended this course by June 2016. Additionally, the recently created Crisis Intervention Training (CIT 2) course will be required training for all Seal Beach Police Department sworn employees, and will provide 8 hours of additional training. This course is anticipated to begin in late 2015 or early 2016.

We believe the hours of police academy training regarding interactions with persons with disabilities, and the 24-hours of POST certified Crisis Intervention Training (CIT 1 & 2) that are and will be required for our employees, sufficiently prepare our officers to respond, effectively evaluate, and handle calls involving the mentally ill in the field. So, additional training will be provided, 40 hours of training is not warranted.

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.

A Seal Beach Police Department police officer serves as an instructor at Golden West College and teaches Legal Issues and Tactical Communications, including the implementation of Laura's Law in Orange County, in the CIT 1 course. Additionally, he will be serving as a moderator in the CIT 2 course during the Interactive Video Simulation Training portion of that curriculum. This particular component was previewed for our entire staff here at the Seal Beach Police Department during the first week of June 2015. Additionally, he has provided the latest information from the Orange County Health Care Agency on Laura's Law to all of our sworn officers. Finally, the CIT 1 course offered through the Golden West College Criminal Justice Training Center has incorporated Laura's Law training into their current curriculum.

Sincerely,



Joe Stilinovich
Chief of Police

cc: Mayor and City Council, City Manager