



ORANGE COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

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**SHERIFF-CORONER
SANDRA HUTCHENS**

OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF

February 21, 2017

Dr. Carrie Carmody, Foreperson
Orange County Grand Jury
700 Civic Center Drive West
Santa Ana, CA 92701

Dear Dr. Carmody:

In response to your request of January 25, 2017, I am providing an update on the progress of responses to the 2015-16 Grand Jury Report entitled, "Our Brothers' Keeper: A Look at the Care and Treatment of Mentally Ill Inmates in Orange County Jails." Enclosed is an update on each recommendation noted in your request.

Should you need any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact my office. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Sandra Hutchens".

Sandra Hutchens
Sheriff-Coroner

cc: Members, Board of Supervisors
Frank Kim, County Executive Officer

Orange County Sheriff's Department
2015-16 Orange County Grand Jury Report: *Our Brothers' Keeper: A Look at the Care and Treatment of Mentally Ill Inmates in Orange County Jails*
Updated Responses to Recommendations- February 21, 2017

R.1

The Sheriff's Department should establish an ad hoc committee by December 31, 2016 to review space utilization in the Intake and Release Center with the goal of establishing additional units where inmates with mental health issues can be housed in closer proximity. F1, F16, F21

Updated Response: This was implemented in June 2016. It is called the Mental Health Operations meeting and occurs every 2 weeks with CHS staff and a Sheriff's Department Sergeant and Deputy. We have discussed, and are moving forward on implementing, turning Mod Sierra into a housing area for suicidal inmates waiting for Mod L housing. Construction plans are moving forward and we will have 2 Mental Health nurses stationed in the new area.

R.4.

The Sheriff's Department and the Health Care Agency / CHS should implement a protocol to ensure an inmate in a safety cell has access to water for washing hands after using the toilet and before and after meals by September 30, 2016.

Updated Response: Implemented in Correctional Health Services policy on August 9, 2016, "Fluids and opportunity to cleanse hands will be offered at a minimum of every 2 hours, as well as given upon inmate request."

R.5.

The Sheriff's Department should develop a plan to eliminate the environmental issue of inmates being excessively cold in safety cells by December 31, 2016. F.3, F21

Updated Response: Implemented in August 2016. New safety gowns were purchased that are very large double as a blanket.

R.8.

The Sheriff's Department and the Health Care Agency/Correctional Health Services should collaborate on a process by December 31, 2016 to collect and analyze the following safety cell data: the average length of stay; the number of times an inmate is moved to the safety cell more than once; the day and times safety cells are most utilized; any injury sustained on the way to, or inside the safety cell; the use of forced medication in conjunction with safety cell use.

Data should be incorporated into risk reduction activities that are monitored by the Sheriff's Department and the Health Care Agency/Correctional Health Services. F7, F17, F18, F21

Updated Response: The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable. Correctional Health Services will continue to collect, track, and analyze safety cell utilization data that is pertinent to patient management and treatment. While we did not implement the full recommendation, we are collecting, tracking and discussing safety cell use.

R.15.

The Sheriff's Department should establish a standing quality management committee that meets at least quarterly to review and analyze data with the goal of improving inmate services by December 31, 2016. The Committee should include representatives from Command Staff, S.A.F.E., JCATT, and Mod L medical, nursing, and case management staff. F18, F19, F21

Updated Response: Partially implemented August 2016. Each facility meets monthly with all parties mentioned except for the SAFE Division as JCATT handles that role in Custody Operations.