



ORANGE COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

SHERIFF-CORONER
SANDRA HUTCHENS

August 23, 2018

Honorable Charles Margines
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court
700 Civic Center Drive West
Santa Ana, CA 92701

Subject: Response to Orange County Grand Jury 2017-2018 report, "Preventable Deaths in Orange County Jails."

Dear Judge Margines:

In accordance with Penal Code sections 933 and 933.05, enclosed please find the response to the FY 2017-2018 Orange County Grand Jury report, "Preventable Deaths in Orange County Jails." If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Stu Greenberg".

Stu Greenberg
Assistant Sheriff, Custody Operations

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

Orange County Sheriff's Department
Response to Findings and Recommendations
2017-2018 Orange County Grand Jury Report
"Preventable Deaths in Orange County Jails"

FINDINGS

F.6

Appropriate health care may be delayed when drug and alcohol screening test results collected by outside law enforcement agencies are not provided to the Intake Release Center with the arrestee.

Response: *Partially disagrees with finding.*

A Statement of Booking Officer form is completed by each officer who books an arrestee. This form includes a section to indicate if the arrestee exhibited signs of being under the influence of drugs or alcohol. It is incumbent upon the arresting officer to ensure that this section of the form is completed.

F.7.

Appropriate health care is compromised when medical records, diagnoses and treatment plans are not provided by the hospital when the inmate returns to the Intake Release Center

Response: *The respondent refers to the Health Care Agency for this response.*

F.8.

Inmate care may be compromised because of the lack of a timely referral to a healthcare professional. This is especially problematic on weekends and holidays.

Response: *The respondent refers to the Health Care Agency for this response.*

F.9.

There is no provision to administer intravenous fluids in the Medical Observation Unit, potentially subjecting patients to dehydration.

Response: *The respondent refers to the Health Care Agency for this response.*

RECOMMENDATIONS:

R.4.

By January 1, 2019, the Intake Release Center health assessment should require the inmate to disrobe for a brief visual medical examination by a nurse practitioner or doctor. (F1)

Response: *The respondent refers to the Health Care Agency for this response.*

R.7.

By October 1, 2018, the Orange County Sheriff's Department should require all outside law enforcement agencies' drug and alcohol test results to accompany the arrestee to the Intake Release Center. (F6)

Response: *This recommendation will be partially implemented.*

The Statement of Booking Officer form completed by each officer who books an arrestee includes a section to indicate if the arrestee exhibited signs of being under the influence of drugs or alcohol. The Sheriff's Department will ensure outside agencies are aware of this protocol and will re-brief the issue through the Orange County Chiefs of Police and Sheriff Association.

R.8.

By October 1, 2018, Correctional Health Services should develop a plan to receive the medical records, diagnoses, and treatment plans from hospitals when an inmate returns to the Intake Release Center. (F7)

Response: *The respondent refers to the Health Care Agency for this response.*

R.9.

By October 1, 2018, the results of the intake health assessment should be included in making appropriate housing assignments. (F1, F2, F3, F4)

Response: *The recommendation has been implemented.*

Staff has always utilized the intake health assessment when making determinations on an inmate's housing assignment.

R.10.

By January 1, 2019, Correctional Health Services and the Orange County Sheriff's Department should consider allowing the Medical Observation Unit to dispense intravenous fluids.

Response: *The respondent refers to the Health Care Agency for this response.*

R.11.

By January 1, 2019, the Orange County Sheriff's and Correctional Health Services staff should ensure pink slips are responded to within twenty-four hours. (F8)

Response: *This recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or reasonable.*

Currently Inmate Health Message Slips are responded to four times a day by medical staff. Requests are answered immediately or within 72 hours depending on the specific medical need. This time range recognizes the diversity of each medical requests and ensures resources are available to respond to the most urgent needs first.