



The City of Brea Police Department

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August 26, 2013

Presiding Judge Thomas J. Borris
Superior Court of Orange County
700 Civic Center Drive West
Santa Ana, CA 92701

Reference: Grand Jury Report– A Look at Tools to Assist Law Enforcement in Achieving Positive Outcomes with the Homeless Mentally III

Honorable Judge Borris:

On June 19, 2013, the Orange County Grand Jury released a report on *A Look at Tools to Assist Law Enforcement in Achieving Positive Outcomes with the Homeless Mentally III*. In compliance with California Penal Code 933 and applicable subsections, the Brea Police Department is forwarding it's response to you:

Grand Jury Findings for F1, F2, F3, F4, F5, F6, F7, F8 & F10:

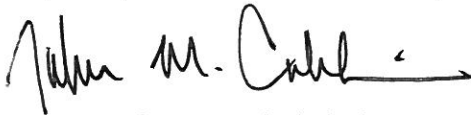
1. **POST requires continuing education in dealing with mentally ill individuals but does not specify the number of hours, frequency or require that it be documented:** Training at the Brea Police Department occurs throughout the field training program and during briefing. The Department currently has 15 officers who have completed the POST Crisis Intervention Training Course. Training is also documented within the Field Training Officer (FTO) Manual by the training officer.
2. **Field officers desire more in-depth training in dealing with the mentally ill on the street:** For several years the Brea Police Department has recognized the need for patrol officers to be provided in-depth training in dealing with the mentally ill on the street. Since January 2011 the department has sent 15 officers and supervisors to Crisis Intervention Training.
3. **There is typically one officer expected to deal with the Homeless/Mentally III issues within their city:** The Brea Police Department has five liaison officers assigned to our Homeless Liaison Unit. This is an ancillary assignment consisting of five patrol officers and a lieutenant.

4. **Less than 10% of the law enforcement agencies in Orange County are Nationally Accredited:** We currently have a contract with Lexipol, which is America's leading Risk Management resource. We use Lexipol to maintain a policy manual that is up to date and aligns with new case law and emerging issues.
5. **Not all cities have officers trained in Crisis Intervention:** 15 officers and supervisors have completed the Crisis Intervention training to date.
6. **There is a broad spectrum of training provided to patrol officers in order to develop their abilities and strategies in dealing with the mentally ill:** As stated above, in 2013, the Brea Police Department had 112 employees, sworn and non-sworn, 15 officers have completed a 16 hour block of Crisis Intervention Training. This training is also required for all new police officers. In addition to this training, during 2012 there were 6 Briefing Trainings that specifically dealt with strategies in dealing with the homeless and mentally ill. We also continue to send patrol officer to, Effective Police Contacts with the Mentally Ill and Emergency Personnel's Response to Individuals with Mental Illness.
7. **Five departments have their patrol officers ride periodically with the homeless liaison officer:** The Brea Police Department does not require its officers to ride with a homeless liaison officer.
8. **Departments are reaching out to neighboring departments and to other skilled professionals about the mentally ill and homeless issues in their cities to learn more effective strategies in dealing with these individuals:** We are involved in the Orange County Homeless taskforce and one Brea Police Officer is assigned to attend all meetings. We have also had members of the OC Mental Health Agency attend department briefings to provide training and on numerous occasions called on them for advice and expertise on how to respond to specific situations in the field.
9. **Response not required.**
10. **All police departments adhere to written policy, procedure and/or protocol regarding contact with mentally ill persons:** There are many processes in place. All officers are graduates of a POST Academy. Part of the academy involves a three day block of training on Dealing with the Mentally Ill. There is also Learning Domain (LD) 37 specific to dealing with People with Disabilities. LD-37's chapter 4 deals specifically with Mental Illness. Within the Brea Police Policy Manual are two sections that apply, §418 – Mental Illness and §464 – Homeless Persons. All agencies all also governed by Penal Code §13515.25. Our Training Assistant tracks all classes and hours of training for all personnel.
11. **Response not required**

Grand Jury Recommendations for R1 & R2:

1. **Require specific continuing education for all police officers in interacting with the mentally ill and homeless population:**
 - a. **The Orange County Chiefs and Sheriff's Association shall set the type, hours and frequency of this supplemental training which will include Crisis Intervention Training and the training is to be documented:** The Brea Police Department will implement the type, hours and frequency of any supplemental training as decided upon by the Orange County Chiefs and Sheriff's Association.
2. **All Orange County City Police Departments and Sheriff's Department shall be accredited with a national accreditation agency within (5) five years:** The Brea Police Department currently contracts with Lexipol to maintain an up to date Policy Manual. Lexipol monitors recent case law decisions and emerging trends in law enforcement and make changes accordingly. In addition, the Brea Police Department consistently meets or exceeds the annual training requirements established by the California Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training. Although we acknowledge the possible benefit a national accreditation may bring to our organization we feel our association with Lexipol provides similar benefits and do not support the Grand Jury's recommendation requiring national accreditation.
3. **Response not required.**
4. **Response not required.**

The Brea Police Department appreciates this opportunity to respond to the Grand Jury's report and welcomes any further questions or inquires the Jury may have.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John M. Conklin", with a horizontal line extending to the right.

John M. Conklin, Chief of Police
Brea Police Department