



CITY OF ORANGE

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December 16, 2013

The Honorable Thomas J. Borris
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court
700 Civic Center Drive West
Santa Ana, CA 92701

Re: City of Orange Police Department response to Orange County Grand Jury entitled *To Protect and to Serve: A Look at Tools to Assist Law Enforcement in Achieving Positive Outcomes with the Homeless Mentally Ill*.

Dear Judge Borris:

This is in response to the Orange County Grand Jury study entitled *To Protect and to Serve: A Look at Tools to Assist Law Enforcement in Achieving Positive Outcomes with the Homeless Mentally Ill*, dated June 19, 2013. My staff and I have reviewed the report's summary, findings, and recommendations. In compliance with Penal Code Section 933.05(a) and (b), I am providing the requested answers to the items listed in the *Response Matrix*.

Findings:

F1 Although POST requires continuing education in the area of dealing with individuals who are mentally ill, it does not specify the number of hours or frequency of officer training; nor does it require that such training be documented.

A1 The respondent agrees with the finding.

F2 Field Officers desire more in-depth training in dealing with the mentally ill on the street.

A2 The respondent agrees with the finding based upon information provided in the Grand Jury's report.

F3 There is one officer-in a very few instances two officers-for every one thousand (1,000) citizens in a given city within the County who are expected to deal with the full range of law enforcement issues of that city.

A3 The respondent agrees with the finding. Orange PD is approximately 1.2 officers per 1,000 residents.

F4 Nationally accredited police department police less than 10% of Orange County cities.

A4 The respondent agrees with the finding based upon information provided in the Grand Jury's report.

F5 Not all Orange County cities have at least one officer trained in Crisis Intervention.

A5 The respondent agrees with the finding based upon information provided in the Grand Jury's report. Without a clear operational definition of Crisis Intervention, the Orange Police Department is unable to respond to the question.

F6 There is a broad spectrum of on-going training provided to patrol officers in order to develop their abilities and strategies in dealing with the mentally ill. Some departments provide minimal training; others have comprehensive programs in place.

A6 The respondent agrees with the finding based upon information provided in the Grand Jury's report. The Orange Police Department has, what it believes, is one of the most comprehensive training programs in the county.

F7 Five departments have their patrol officers ride periodically with the homeless liaison officer. Seventeen do not.

A7 The respondent agrees with the finding based upon information provided in the Grand Jury's report.

F8 Departments are reaching out-or beginning to reach out-to neighboring departments and to other skilled professionals, both in dialogue about the mentally ill and homeless issues in their cities, and to learn more effective strategies in dealing with these individuals.

A8 The respondent agrees with the finding based upon information provided in the Grand Jury's report. The Orange Police Department has a long history of developing innovative programs to serve people afflicted with mental illness. Captain Dan Cahill has been an integral part of our most recent efforts in this area. Captain Cahill has been a board member with the Mental Health Association of Orange County since 2008. He has collaborated with Jeanine Loucks, Clinical Coordinator, St. Joseph Behavioral Health Services, in the development of the latest training program for Orange police officers. This training was unique in that it blended clinical diagnosis of specific mental health disorders, interaction with mental health consumers, and specific strategies for dealing with field encounters. Along with St. Joseph Hospital, the City of Santa Ana, the City of Buena Park, the Orange County Hoarding Task Force, and Orange Rotary, a series of instructional videos has been and is being produced for police officers.

F10 All police departments adhere to written policy, procedure and/or protocol regarding contact with mentally ill persons.

A10 The respondent agrees with the finding based upon information provided in the Grand Jury's report.

Recommendations:

R1 Require specific continuing education for all police officers and sheriff's deputies in interacting with the mentally ill and homeless population:

- Orange County City Police Chiefs and the Sheriff-Coroner shall corroborate with the Orange County Chiefs and Sheriff's Association to set the type, hours and frequency of this supplemental training:
 - Include Crisis Intervention Training (perhaps the Memphis model);
 - Training is to be documented. (F1,F2,F3,F4,F5,F6,F7,F8,F10)

A1 The Orange Police Department will implement this training as agreed upon by the Orange County Chiefs and Sheriff's Association.

R2 All Orange County City Police Departments and the Sheriff's Department shall be accredited with a national accreditation agency within five (5) years. (F4)

A2 The recommendation will not be implemented at this time. Please see responses by the Huntington Beach Police Department, Santa Ana Police Department, and Irvine Police Department. We are in agreement with their collective opinions and do not plan to

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seek CALEA certification. The Orange Police Department believes that state standards, the utilization of Lexipol for policy, hiring standards, and Orange Police Department culture provides a more professional outcome than any current national accreditation program might accomplish. Additionally, budget and manpower constraints would make it extraordinarily difficult to accomplish within a five year deadline and could be better invested in existing efforts. Our involvement with the Mental Health Association of Orange County provides continued training and attention to the issues surrounding the homeless mentally ill.

Sincerely,



Robert H. Gustafson, Chief of Police
Orange Police Department

cc: The Orange County Grand Jury
700 Civic Center Drive West
Santa Ana, CA 92701