

City of Seal Beach

POLICE DEPARTMENT



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May 1, 2006

Nancy Wieben Stock
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court
700 Civic Center Drive West
Santa Ana, CA 92701

Re.: 2005-2006 Orange County Grand Jury report, "Improving Child Abuse Response"

Dear Judge Stock:

This letter is the Seal Beach Police Department's formal response pursuant California Penal Code §933 and §933.05 concerning the 2005-2006 Orange County Grand Jury report, "Improving Child Abuse Response." Specifically addressed as requested are responses to Findings #6.2, #6.3, #7.1 and #7.2 of the report.

Finding #6.2 – Expansion of the enhanced protocol is planned: Once social worker capacity is increased, SSA will propose to expand the use of protocol to OCSD as well as the following cities: ..., Seal Beach,

Response to Finding #6.2 -- The Seal Beach Police Department will consider supporting the enhanced protocol, once it is received. However, subsequent to receipt of the enhanced protocol, we must assess what costs are associated with its implementation and training to determine if the costs are unfunded as mandates, and then develop strategies to fund the implementation and training.

Finding #6.3 – Law enforcement agency procedures and training on child abuse response: OCSD and other law enforcement agencies that have not been approached by SSA on the enhanced protocol, have not included protocol in their procedures nor trained its officers of its use.

Response to Finding #6.3 – The Seal Beach Police Department has not yet received the enhanced protocol. Once the SSA approaches the Seal Beach Police Department with the enhanced protocol, we will review it, consider its inclusion in our procedures and enable training for officers to use it. However, prior to implementation and training, we must assess what costs are associated with the training and implementation to determine if the costs are unfunded as mandates, and then develop strategies to fund the training.

Finding #7.1 – Law enforcement agency acceptance of SSA Field Response Protocol:
All Orange County law enforcement agencies should consider agreeing to the SSA enhanced protocol as social worker capacity is increased to support law enforcement needs. (See Findings 6.1 and 6.2)

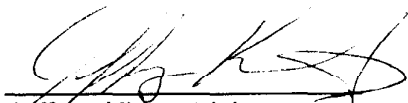
Response to finding #7.1 – The Seal Beach Police Department is certainly amenable to consider agreeing to incorporation of the SSA enhanced protocol into the Seal Beach Police Department's policies and procedures. Consideration and agreement will, in part, hinge upon identifying those costs associated with implementation and training to determine if the costs are unfunded as mandates, and then develop strategies to fund those costs.

Finding #7.2 – Law enforcement training on the enhanced protocol: After a law enforcement agency agrees to the protocol, it should become part of the agency's procedure and line officers should be trained on the revised procedure. (See finding 6.3)

Response to finding #7.1 – Once the Seal Beach Police Department has agreed to incorporate the SSA enhanced protocol into the Seal Beach Police Department's policies and procedures, implementation of the enhanced protocol within our Policy Manual and within our procedures is a simple and quick task. Consideration and agreement will, in part, hinge upon identifying those costs associated with implementation and training to determine if the costs are unfunded as mandates, and then develop strategies to fund those costs.

Please contact me at (562) 799-4123 if I can be of further assistance. I do look forward to receiving and reviewing the SSA enhanced protocol. The Seal Beach Police Department stands eager to assist the SSA and all law enforcement in a unified strategy to improve and combat child abuse. As you have seen in each of the responses, implementation and training costs are a key element for acceptance.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey Kirkpatrick
Chief of Police

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