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**SHERIFF-CORONER DEPARTMENT
COUNTY OF ORANGE
CALIFORNIA**

**JACK ANDERSON
ACTING AS THE
SHERIFF-CORONER**

**EXECUTIVE COMMAND STAFF
J. B. DAVIS
RICK DOSTAL
CHARLES WALTERS**

May 19, 2008

The Honorable Nancy Wieben Stock
Presiding Judge
Orange County Superior Court
700 Civic Center Drive West
Santa Ana, CA 92702

Subject: Response to the Orange County Grand Jury Report, "MAN DOWN!! WILL HE GET HELP?
Nursing Care at Orange County Jail Facilities"

Judge Wieben Stock:

Per your request and in accordance with California Penal Code sections 933 and 933.05,
enclosed please find the Orange County Sheriff's Department response to the above referenced
FY 07-08 Grand Jury Report.

If you have any questions regarding this response document, please contact Executive Director
Rick Dostal at (714) 647-1803

Respectfully,

Jack Anderson, Assistant Sheriff
Acting as Sheriff-Coroner

cc: Ann Andres, Grand Jury Foreman
Members, Board of Supervisors
Thomas G. Mauk, County Executive Officer

PROUDLY SERVING THE UNINCORPORATED AREAS OF ORANGE COUNTY AND THE FOLLOWING CITIES AND AGENCIES:

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**DRUG USE
IS
LIFE ABUSE**

Response to the Grand Jury

**“MAN DOWN!! WILL HE GET UP?
Nursing Care at Orange County’s Jail Facilities”**



**Assistant Sheriff Jack Anderson
Acting as Sheriff**

Orange County Sheriff's Department

**Rick Dostal, Executive Director
Personnel Division
Santa Ana, California
May 19, 2008**

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Finding F-3

Background checks for new nursing employees are over-burdensome and take to long to complete, resulting in fewer applicants and a high drop-out rate for those who have applied.

Response

The Sheriff's Department disagrees with this finding. The Background Investigative process is an essential component of overall jail security to ensure those with questionable pasts or previous criminal behaviors are excluded from contact with inmates and restricted from gaining access to high-security locations and sensitive information. The Background Investigative process does require time to complete but need not be lengthy. Most background investigations are completed in a time period between six weeks and three months at the maximum. The lengthiest delays involve the failure of the applicant to provide necessary information and documents. Many of the nurse applicants who drop out of the Background Investigative process do so because their investigations reveal character or behavioral flaws, past criminal conduct, drug use, poor prior work performance or a host of other problems.

Recommendation R-3

Health Care and Orange County Sheriff representatives develop an expedited and streamlined process for checking backgrounds for nursing applicants.

Response

This recommendation has been implemented. To assist the Health Care Agency in hiring qualified candidates, the Sheriff's Department has since adjusted the staffing levels dedicated to non-sworn investigations that include nurse applicants so future delays will be minimized. The Orange County Sheriff's Department is committed to ensuring those who have access to our jails are of the highest caliber. Dropping standards could foster malfeasance, liability, and impact the safety of our jails. We will however, continue to work with the Health Care Agency to hire qualified applicants in a timely manner.