



August 21, 2023

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

Re: Huntington Beach City School District's Response to the 2022-23 Orange County Grand Jury Report on *Russian Roulette: Fentanyl in Orange County*

To the Orange County Grand Jury:

The Huntington Beach City School District commends the Grand Jury for its time and attention devoted to studying this very important issue and publishing the Grand Jury Report dated June 21, 2023 entitled: *Russian Roulette: Fentanyl in Orange County*. The District is committed to promoting the health and well-being of all students and staff and recognizes the significant impact fentanyl has on the community.

The District has thoroughly reviewed and considered the Findings and Recommendations in the Report. In accordance with California Penal Code sections 933 and 933.05, the Grand Jury has requested that the District respond to Findings and Recommendations made in the Report. The District responds to the Grand Jury's Findings and Recommendations with the following:

Finding 2

Illicit fentanyl is a pervasive problem in Orange County.

The District agrees with this finding.

Finding 7

Orange County will benefit by establishing a chartered multi-agency Task Force to address the fentanyl crisis in Orange County.

The District agrees with this finding.

Finding 8

As long as there is a demand, producers will find ways to supply drugs. Orange County cannot law enforce its way out of the fentanyl crisis. Education, prevention, and treatment are critical to reducing demand.

The District agrees with this finding.

Finding 9

There is a need to increase public awareness and acknowledgement of the risks of illicit fentanyl.

The District agrees with this finding.

Finding 10

Some educational institutions are not participating in available educational and preventive fentanyl/drug programs.

The District agrees with this finding. While the Grand Jury has determined “some” educational institutions are not participating in available educational and preventive fentanyl/drug programs, the Huntington Beach City School District is participating in available educational and preventative fentanyl/drug programs in partnership with the Orange County Department of Education.

Recommendation 1

By January 1, 2024, the Orange County Board of Supervisors should charter a multi-agency Task Force to address the fentanyl crisis. (F2, F7, F8, F9)

This recommendation has not yet been implemented as it is directed to the Orange County Board of Supervisors and has a January 1, 2024 date for implementation. The Huntington Beach City School District would participate in the “multi-agency Task Force” if invited.

Recommendation 5

By January 1, 2024, the Orange County Department of Education should develop a model fentanyl/opioid educational program to be offered to all K-12 school districts in Orange County. (F2, F8, F9, F10)

This recommendation has not yet been implemented but will be implemented in the future. Specifically, the Orange County Department of Education is developing a health education program to address opioid and fentanyl use among students. The program will include lesson plans, family engagement resources, substance use treatment information, and guidelines for implementation. This program will be shared with all K-12 school districts in Orange County by January 1, 2024. The Huntington Beach City School District will follow the Orange County Department of Education's guidelines for program implementation and utilize resources once made available and starting no later than the beginning of the 2024-25 school year.

Recommendation 6

By October 1, 2023, the Orange County Department of Education should promote the use of currently established and in-place fentanyl and drug-related educational programs offered by OC agencies such as Health Care Agency, OC Sheriff's Department, and non-governmental organizations to all K-12 school districts in Orange County. (F2, F8, F9, F10)

This recommendation has been implemented. The Orange County Department of Education currently supports and promotes existing health education services provided by the Orange County Sheriff's Department, Orange County Health Care Agency, and other County-funded programs. Information about these services is made available through a variety of professional networks administered by the Orange County Department of Education, as well as through focused collaborative events. Orange County Department of Education staff also provide individual referrals to available services when responding to school and district staff inquiries.

Please accept the information provided herein as the District's response to the Orange County Grand Jury's Factual Findings and Recommendation in the Report. Once again, we appreciate the time and attention that the Grand Jury devoted to this very important issue.

Orange County Grand Jury
August 21, 2023
Page 4

Sincerely,



Leisa Winston, Ed.D.
Superintendent
Huntington Beach City School District
lwinston@hbcasd.us
(714) 378-2011