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August 25, 2023

The Honorable Maria D. Hernandez
Presiding Judge
Orange County Superior Court
700 Civic Center Drive West
Santa Ana, CA 92701

Dear Judge Hernandez,

Orange County still faces significant challenges related to illicit fentanyl addiction, poisoning, and death. The availability of illicit fentanyl on the streets and through social media is described as overwhelming. Orange County will benefit by having a chartered fentanyl Task Force to develop, launch, monitor and fine-tune a county-wide plan to reduce the harm caused by illicit fentanyl and other opioids.

Orange County needs leaders from all impacted agencies along with key nongovernment organizations and community leaders to work in unison to prevent fentanyl distribution and use from becoming a widening crisis. A task force could provide full support to law enforcement agencies who must continue to target drug dealers and distributors for prosecution; and work with legislators to adopt drug prevention legislation.

The Westminster School District agrees that Orange County cannot law enforce its way out of this crisis. Expanding public awareness and practicing safeguards are the best preventive measures. Orange County needs influential voices within our communities and schools to highlight the dangers and risks of illicit fentanyl, opioid use, and addiction.

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Please see below for the responses to each Finding (2, 7, 8, 9, and 10) as required in the Orange County Grand Jury report and attached cover letter dated June 14, 2023.

F #	Finding	Agree/ Disagree	Response And Explanation (if Required)
F2	Illicit fentanyl is a pervasive problem in Orange County.	Agree. The Respondent agrees with the finding	The Westminster School District agrees with the finding. Illicit fentanyl is a pervasive problem in Orange County.
F7	Orange County will benefit by establishing a chartered multi-agency Task Force to address the fentanyl crisis in Orange County.	Agree. The Respondent agrees with the finding	The Westminster School District agrees with the finding. Orange County will benefit by establishing a chartered multi-agency Task Force to address the fentanyl crisis in Orange County.
F8	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.	Agree. The Respondent agrees with the finding	The Westminster School District agrees with the finding. 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.
F9	There is a need to increase public awareness and acknowledgement of the risks of illicit fentanyl.	Agree. The Respondent agrees with the finding	The Westminster School District agrees with the finding. There is a need to increase public awareness and acknowledgement of the risks of illicit fentanyl.
F10	Some educational institutions are not participating in available educational and preventive fentanyl/drug programs.	Agree. The Respondent agrees with the finding	The Westminster School District agrees with the finding. While the Grand Jury has determined that “some” educational institutions are not participating in available educational and preventive fentanyl/drug programs, the Westminster School District is, in fact, participating in available educational and preventive fentanyl/drug programs.

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Please see below for the responses to each Recommendation (1, 5, and 6) as required in the Orange County Grand Jury report and attached cover letter dated June 14, 2023.

R #	Recommendation	Implementation	Response and Explanation (if Required)
R1	By January 1, 2024, the Orange County Board of Supervisors should charter a multi-agency Task Force to address the fentanyl crisis.	Recommendation has not yet been implemented but will be with a time frame for implementation.	The recommendation has not yet been implemented as it is directed to the Orange County Board of Supervisors. Should the Orange County Board of Supervisors charter a multi-agency task force to address the fentanyl crisis, the Orange County Department of Education has indicated its willingness to participate on behalf of Orange County school districts. The Westminster School District would participate in such a task force if invited to do so.
R5	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.	Recommendation has not yet been implemented but will be with a time frame for implementation.	The recommendation has not yet been implemented as it is directed to the Orange County Department of Education. The Orange County Department of Education has indicated its intent to develop a model fentanyl/opioid educational program and offer it to all K-12 school districts in Orange County. Should this program be offered to the Westminster School district, it will be considered for review and implementation.
R6	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.	Recommendation has not yet been implemented but will be with a time frame for implementation.	The recommendation has not yet been implemented as it is directed to the Orange County Department of Education. The Orange County Department of Education has indicated that it will promote the use of currently established and in-place fentanyl and drug-related educational programs offered by OC agencies and non-governmental organizations to all K-12 school districts in Orange County. Should these programs be promoted to the Westminster School District, they will be considered for review and implementation.

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Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or concerns.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Gunn Marie Hansen, Ph.D., Superintendent

Westminster School District

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