



GARDEN GROVE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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

To the Honorable Maria D. Hernandez:

The Garden Grove Unified School District (District) commends the Grand Jury for its time and attention devoted to studying this important issue and publishing the 2023 Grand Jury Report entitled: Russian Roulette: Fentanyl in Orange County (Report). The District is committed to serving all students and families. It recognizes the need to expand public awareness, implement safeguards, and educate on the dangers and risks of illicit fentanyl, opioid use, and addiction.

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 the Findings and Recommendations made in the Report. The District responds to the Grand Jury's Findings and Recommendations with the following:

Please see below for the responses to each **Finding (2,7,8, 9, and 10)** as required in the Orange County Grand Jury Report.

Finding: F2

“Illicit fentanyl is a pervasive problem in Orange County.”

Finding Response: **Respondent agrees with the finding.**

Finding: F7

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

Finding Response: **Respondent agrees with the finding.**



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Finding: 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.”

Finding Response: **Respondent agrees with the finding.**

Finding: F9

“There is a need to increase public awareness and acknowledgment of the risks of illicit fentanyl.”

Finding Response: **Respondent agrees with the finding.**

Finding: F10

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

Finding Response: **Respondent partially agrees with the finding.**

The respondent partially 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, Garden Grove Unified School District is, in fact, participating in available educational and preventive fentanyl/drug programs.

Please see below for the responses to each **Recommendation (1, 5, and 6)** as required in the Orange County Grand Jury report.

Recommendation 1:

“By January 1, 2024, the Orange County Board of Supervisors should charter a multi-agency Task Force to address the fentanyl crisis.”



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Recommendation Response: **Recommendation has not yet been implemented but will be with a time frame for implementation.**

Summary: 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, including Garden Grove Unified School District.

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.”

Recommendation Response: **Recommendation has not yet been implemented but will be with a time frame for implementation.**

Summary: 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 Garden Grove Unified School District, it will be considered for review and implementation.

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 the OC Health Care Agency, OC Sheriff's Department, and non-governmental organizations to all K-12 school districts in Orange County.”

Recommendation Response: **Recommendation has not yet been implemented but will be with a time frame for implementation.**

Summary: 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



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OC agencies and non-governmental organizations to all K-12 school districts in Orange County. Should these programs be promoted to Garden Grove Unified School District, they will be considered for review and implementation.

Overall Summary: GGUSD believes in committing to educating our students and families on the urgency and fatal effects of Fentanyl access and poisoning. Our district also wants to support parents in knowing that Fentanyl presents across all demographics and is not due to parenting style. In addition, our district has been and continues to be committed to educating parents and students on the dangers of social media use. Our district looks forward to working with the Orange County Department of Education to enhance our practices to support our students and families and will consider the presented recommendations.

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

Sincerely,

Gabriela Mafi, Ed.D.