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Law Enforcement's Response to Mental Health Calls for Service

The City of Westminster and the Westminster Police Department submit this written response to Maria Hernandez, Presiding Judge of Superior Court, 700 Civic Center Drive West, Santa Ana, CA 92701 and to the Orange County Grand Jury, 700 Civic Center Drive West, Santa Ana, CA 92701 in compliance with Penal Code 933.

F1: Mental health training for law enforcement officers in Orange County exceeds the State's requirements, resulting in law enforcement applying these skills to better evaluate and handle mental health calls for service.

Response: The respondent agrees with the finding.

F2: Law enforcement agencies in Orange County have developed unique ways to deal with mental health calls in their communities based on their particular needs and budgets, enabling law enforcement to better serve their communities.

Response: The respondent agrees with the finding.

F3: Law enforcement collaboration with County PERT clinicians and BE Well mobile response units has been an effective tool when responding to mental health calls for service.

Response: The respondent agrees with the finding.

F4: People with mental illness respond more positively to "soft uniformed" police personnel, which can be effective in de-escalating situations.

Response: The respondent agrees with the finding.

F5: Providing follow-up case management is not only necessary but crucial for the wellbeing of people experiencing mental health issues.

Response: The respondent agrees with the finding.