



HUMBOLDT COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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September 30, 2019

Honorable Joyce Hinrichs, Presiding Judge
Humboldt County Superior Court
825 5th Street
Eureka, CA 95501

RE: Grand Jury Report: Last Resort

Dear Honorable Joyce Hinrichs,

Attached is my response to the Grand Jury report on Last Resort. We are continuously looking for ways to address the mental health treatment in the correctional facility. The Sheriff's office and DHHS staff assigned to the mental health services at the jail are always looking for ways to improve our processes and services to the community. I appreciate the Grand Jury's report, findings and recommendations.

Sincerely,


Sheriff, County of Humboldt
707.268.3618

RESPONSE TO GRAND JURY REPORT

Report Title: The Last Resort: "Mental Health Services in the Correctional Facility"

Report Date: July 3, 2019

Response by: William F. Honsal, Humboldt County Sheriff

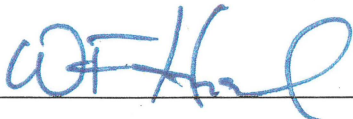
FINDINGS

- 6. The Sheriff's office partially agrees with the Grand Jury's findings.
- 9. The Sheriff's office partially agrees with the Grand Jury's findings.
- 13. The Sheriff's office agrees with the Grand Jury's finding

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3. This Grand Jury recommendation has not yet implemented but will be by 2022.
- 6. This Grand Jury recommendation requires further analysis
- 10. This Grand Jury recommendation requires further analysis
- 11. This Grand Jury recommendation requires further analysis

Date: 9/30/2019

Signed: 

Number of pages attached: 2

RESPONSE TO GRAND JURY REPORT – FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS SUMMARY STATEMENT

Findings

F6-Department of Health and Human Services and Humboldt County Correctional Facility mental health staff are negatively impacted by a lack of dedicated therapeutic environments and counseling to provide care as required by law

Response-**Partially agree with the finding.** If fully staffed with the allocated positions for Mental Health clinicians including the 1.0 FTE Psych Family Nurse Practitioner, It is my belief that the county would be able to provide adequate counseling. I recognize that recruitment and retention of qualified mental health staff is an ongoing challenge. It also should be noted that the correctional facility does have limitations on confidential space. This was recognized and the jail expansion project (SB 863) will assist with this space need.

F9-Difficulty in differentiating between drug induced behavior and mental health issues can lead to treatment errors.

Response – **Partially agree with the finding.** The Sheriff's office staff receive mandatory medical Issues training annually that covers the difference between drug induced behavioral issues and mental health issues. The challenge comes with individuals that have substance abuse disorders and mental illness. Recognizing these co-occurring disorders does require specific training and experience. The Sheriff's office would welcome specific training to better serve the needs of the persons incarcerated in the county facility.

F13 – The legal 5150 implementation in both the Humboldt County Correctional Facility (HCCF) and Sempervirens is at times in dispute amongst Department of Health and Human Services staff and local law enforcement agencies.

Response – **Agree with this finding.** I recognize that both the HCCF and Sempervirens have challenges with persons with mental illness. Since each facility has their own mental health clinicians and supervision, opinions on the degrees of mental illness and the desired treatment options sometimes vary. There are times when a member of the Sheriff's department transports a subject from the correctional facility at the direction of Mental Health staff to Sempervirens on a 5150 and then released within the same day. Sempervirens has limited capacity to house all of the 5150 holds that potentially come in within a 24-hour period.

Recommendations

R3 – The Humboldt County Civil Grand Jury recommend DHHS seek funding to provide physical space and professionals for specialized clinics, substance abuse programs and increased therapeutic counseling inside the Humboldt County Correctional Facility. This action should be completed by January 15, 2020.

Response – **The recommendation has not yet been implemented.** The Sheriff's office will be opening a new re-entry facility, due to \$20 million in funding that was secured in 2015, from SB 863. This facility

will be constructed in the next year and will have dedicated space for mental health treatment. Additionally, HCCF is currently in discussions with the Department of State Hospitals to create a Jail Based Competency Treatment program. This consist of 4-6 beds dedicated to treat inmates deemed by the courts to be incompetent to stand trial based due to their mental illness. The Sheriff's office is working to implement this by the beginning of the year.

R6 – The Humboldt County Civil Grand Jury recommends DHHS provide additional training to law enforcement and correctional staff to better identify the difference between drug induced and mental health issues. This action should be completed by October 1, 2019.

Response – **The recommendation requires further analysis.** This would require a program to be created by DHHS which the Sheriff's Office has no control over. The Sheriff's office is always open to more opportunities to train on substance abuse disorders and mental illness.

R10 – The Humboldt County Civil Grand Jury recommends the legalities of the 5150 protocols and processes be reviewed and studied by all local law enforcement agencies in the county. This action should be completed by October 1, 2019.

Response – **The recommendation requires further analysis.** This recommendation is broad as all law enforcement should be familiar with the legalities of the 5150 protocols. 5150 protocols and processes is an issue that we all are dealing with daily. The county law enforcement executives meet once a month to discuss issues we face in law enforcement. We are always looking for ways to enhance our communications between law enforcement and DHHS mental health staff.

R11 – The Humboldt County Civil Grand Jury recommends DHHS and HCCF improve the implementation of the 5150 process by requiring and providing specific training to all local law enforcement agencies and the HCCF staff to ensure compliance with the law. This action should be completed by January 15, 2020.

Response – **The recommendation requires further analysis.** The Sheriff's Office would be open to attending or facilitating training provided by DHHS to local law enforcement on the implementation of the 5150 process.