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COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

May 31, 2022

Honorable Gustavo Lavayen
Presiding Judge
Santa Barbara Superior Court
312 East Cook Street
Santa Maria, CA 93454

Reference: Further Analysis Related to Santa Barbara Grand Jury report titled, "Suicide in Santa Barbara County Main Jail: A Challenge for Law Enforcement and Health Professionals" published December 20, 2021.

Judge Lavayen:

On March 8, 2022, the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors (Board) submitted responses to the above referenced Civil Grand Jury Report. As directed by the Grand Jury, all responses were provided in accordance with Section 933.05 of the California Penal Code. At that time, the Board determined that Recommendations 3 and 4 required further analysis.

On May 31, 2022, the Board considered and approved the responses containing further analysis related to the Civil Grand Jury Report. Attached herein is information about the further analysis conducted as it relates to Recommendations 3 and 4.

Sincerely,

Joan Hartmann, Chair
Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors

CC: Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors
Pamela Olsen, Foreperson, 2021 Santa Barbara Grand Jury

Attachment A

**Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors
Further Analysis Related to the Santa Barbara County Grand Jury
2021 Report “Suicide in Santa Barbara County Main Jail: A
Challenge for Law Enforcement and Health Professionals”**

Recommendation 3

That the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors propose shorter required response times to initiate medical and mental health protocols during the upcoming contract negotiation process.

Prior Response on March 8, 2022

This recommendation requires further analysis. The Public Health and Behavioral Wellness departments will review the data from the quarterly contract reviews and, if warranted, develop revised contract performance metrics, utilizing best practices, for required response times to initiate medical and mental health care protocols. These potentially revised metrics will be incorporated in the upcoming contract negotiation process which begins in April 2022 and be presented to the Board of Supervisors as part of their approval consideration of the subsequent contract.

Further Analysis

This recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted. The Public Health and Behavioral Wellness departments reviewed data from the quarterly contract monitoring reviews including contract performance metrics outcomes, best practices, and standards for response times of medical and mental health care protocols. Current medical and mental health response times reflect National Commission on Correctional Health Care (NCCHC) standards. If the NCCHC standards are updated or modified, the provider will be required to meet those standards pursuant to contract requirements.

Recommendation 4

That the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors propose that on-site mental health professionals be employed at County jails from 11:00 PM to 7:00 AM daily during the upcoming contract negotiation process.

Prior Response on March 8, 2022

This recommendation requires further analysis. The Public Health and Behavioral Wellness departments, together with the Sheriff’s Department, will evaluate the need for this higher level of contract services. If warranted, this requirement will be incorporated in the upcoming contract negotiation process between the County and Wellpath scheduled to begin in April 2022 and be presented to the Board of Supervisors as part of their approval consideration of the subsequent contract.

Further Analysis

This recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted. The Public Health and Behavioral Wellness departments, together with the Sheriff's Department, evaluated the proposal for this higher level of contract services and concluded that it isn't warranted. When an overnight intake or admission occurs between the hours of 11:00 PM to 7:00 AM daily, a mental health professional is available on-call for the assessment. The Department of Behavioral Wellness staff respond to all crisis calls in the jail when needed, including these night time hours. When the on-call mental health professional based on the assessment or jail staff identifies a crisis call is warranted, a crisis call is immediately made and Behavioral Wellness staff responds in the jail. The mental health services needs during the evening hours are low and an on-site night time role is not justifiable as the current on-call system meets the required assessment timeframes and is supported by Behavioral Wellness crisis response staffing in the jail when called.