



**Tuolumne County
Behavioral Health Department**

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Superior Court of California
County of Tuolumne
BY E. B. B. B.
Clerk

September 18, 2013

TO: Honorable Judge, Donald Segerstrom
FROM: Rita Austin, Director, Tuolumne County Behavioral Health Department
SUBJECT: Response to the Tuolumne County Grand Jury Report, 2012-13
Relating to Behavioral Health Programs and Services - Care, Custody, and
Control in "5150" Incidents

This letter is submitted in written response to the 2012-13 Grand Jury Final Report as it relates to Behavioral Health programs and services - care, custody, and control in "5150" incidents. Each of the Grand Jury Findings and Recommendations is addressed below.

Findings

F-1. Tuolumne County BHD staff understand and follow required state codes and regulations.

Response: Agree.

F-2. Tuolumne County BHD staff follow local agency-specific protocols.

Response: Agree.

F-3. Tuolumne County BHD staff is trained in all current policies, procedures, codes and protocols regarding a potential "5150" person.

Response: Agree.

F-4. Monthly interagency team meetings have greatly improved working relationships while assisting in a "5150" incident.

Response: Agree.

F-5. SMRC and surrounding county hospital ERs do not have a secluded or locked room or area to secure a potential "5150" person.

Response: Agree.

F-6. The 2007 Tuolumne County BHD protocols and other Memorandums of Understanding (MOU) revisions are in progress, with no specific completion date noted.

Response: Agree.

Recommendations

R-1. No recommendation.

R-2. No recommendation.

R-3. It is suggested that all involved agencies and appropriate staff receive annual training relating to various aspects of “5150”.

Response: The recommendation has been implemented for the Behavioral Health Department. All appropriate Behavioral Health Department staff receive standard training prior to being authorized for performance of 5150 evaluation and application. Training is offered on an annual basis, with refresher training mandated every two years.

R-4. No recommendation.

R-5. It is recognized that budget, staffing and licensing constraints are an issue, however it is recommended that all agencies involved work together in researching options for a “secured” room or area for the protection of staff and any potential “5150” person.

Response: The recommendation has been implemented. The Behavioral Health Department continues to meet regularly (at least quarterly) and work with SRMC staff and administration for review of safety concerns and strategizing to minimize any risk factors for staff and potential “5150” persons. Lanterman-Petris-Short Act facilities must be authorized and designated to allow for an area that is secured that would prevent or restrict an individual. Currently, Sonora Regional Medical Center does not qualify for this designation.

R-6. It is recommended that all local MOU's and protocols relating to “5150” occurrences be reviewed bi-annually and revised as appropriate. It is further recommended that the 2013-2014 Grand Jury follow the progress of the revisions to completion.

Response: The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but the goal has been established to assure an updated MOU between law enforcement, the Sonora Regional Medical Center and the Behavioral Health Department is completed by the end of fiscal year 2013-14. The draft MOU has been submitted to County Counsel for further review and meetings continue with Sonora Regional Medical Center to develop models for optimal support and coordination of care.