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SONORA POLICE DEPARTMENT

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Mark Stinson, *Chief of Police*


FILED

OCT 01 2014

Superior Court of California
County of Tuolumne

By:  Clerk

29 September 2014

Honorable Judge Donald Segerstrom 
Tuolumne County Superior Court
Sonora, CA 95370

Re: 2014 Tuolumne County Grand Jury Report
Second Response

Honorable Judge Segerstrom;

I have reviewed the 2014 Tuolumne County Grand Jury Report. The following is my response addressing the findings involving the Sonora Police Department.

- 1. Page 23, Findings R-16:** The Grand Jury recommends that Sonora Regional Medical Center (SRMC) and the community partners make every effort in FY 2014-2015 to establish a secure room for potential 5150 patients.

RESPONSE: Agree

The need for a secure room to hold people whom are in crises is greatly needed in our community. Each year, the need for such a room becomes more and more critical; not only for the safety of staff members, but for the safety of the person in crises as well.

The Sonora Police Department was not contacted during this Grand Jury's inquire into this topic. This Department was very vocal when the County decided to close Tuolumne General Hospital, eliminating the only licensed and secure room in the County for people whom were in crises and may be harmful to themselves or others.

The Sonora Police Department will provide any assistance requested by SRMC regarding this matter. However, SRMC is a privately owned and operated nonprofit facility, which this department has no control of when it comes to establishing a secure holding room.

A secure holding room requires very unique and specific licensing, which is required by the State. This licensing is mandated before the operation of such a room. There is also a funding and staffing issue for the establishment of such a room, which this agency is unable to assist with.

The Sonora Police Department will try and assist the nonprofit hospital SRMC with anything they request of us. Any timelines will need to be established by SRMC and not this agency. Again, this Department has no control of what a privately owned business does and doesn't want to do when it comes to this topic.

This has been a topic of discussion every since the closure of the secure room operated by Tuolumne County. Being both a local and State member of the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), I have followed this issue in our community very closely. SRMC is trying their best to deal with this ever increasing issue.

The Sonora Police Department will continue to work with and support SRMC on this topic, while encouraging them to establish a secure room at one of their facilities in the County.

Please contact me if you should have any questions.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. Stinson', written over a horizontal line.

Mark Stinson
Chief of Police