

Response to Grand Jury Report

Report Title: **4.2 Privatization of Mental Health Delivery Services**

Report Date: **June 9, 2014**

Response by: **Gerardo "Gerry" Gonzalez, Chief of Police, Willits**

Findings

I (we) agree with the findings numbered: **9**

I (we) disagree wholly or partially with the findings numbered:

Attach a statement specifying the findings or portions of the findings that are disputed, and include an explanation of the reasons therefore.

Recommendations

Recommendations numbered **xxx** have been implemented.

Attach a statement describing the implement actions.

Recommendations numbered **3** have not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future.

Attach a statement with the schedule for implementation(s).

Recommendations numbered **xxx** require further analysis.

Attach an explanation, and the scope and parameters of the analyses or studies, and a timeframe for the matter to be prepared for discussion by the officer or head of the agency or department being investigated or reviewed, including the governing body of the public agency when applicable. This timeframe shall not exceed six months from the date of publication of the grand jury report.

Recommendations numbered **xxx** will not be implemented because they are not warranted or are not reasonable.

Attach an explanation.

Signature: _____

Gerardo Gonzalez

Date: July 23, 2014

Number of pages attached: 1

Mendocino County Grand Jury Report

“PRIVATIZATION OF MENTAL HEALTH DELIVERY SERVICES”

Willits Police Department Response

Narrative Summary of Required Responses to Grand Jury Findings:

Finding # 9: Calls to 911 for mental health crises are not referred directly to an access center when no crime is reported. I (we) agree with the findings numbered: **9**

Narrative Summary of Required Responses to Grand Jury Recommendations:

Recommendation # 3: When no crime has been committed, dispatchers refer mental health Emergency 911 calls directly to an access center during the hours that the access center is fully staffed.

(F9). Recommendations numbered **3** has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future.

Currently, Willits Police Department 911 Dispatchers screen calls involving mental health related service requests. Not all calls are initiated by the client or person in crisis. Most come from referrals from other agencies, hospital, concerned friends or family. Thus, requiring initial contact for evaluation by an officer in the field who responds and determines if the subject(s) meet the criteria for a 5150 W&I detention or whether he/she needs a referral to the Mental Health access center and how to best facilitate getting him/her connected with those services. In cases where an individual inquires about getting help and indicates that they are not currently a threat to themselves or others or that call comes from friends or family with a non-emergency inquiry then these callers are referred to the Access center.

The current state of the mental health system has continued to evolve since the private contractor took over and has been fine tuned as we have gone along through meetings with the local hospital and the Ortner group contractors. There are times when calls for mental health service have worked out without problems and other times when there have been delays, misunderstandings and/or issues at the Hospital. The Willits Police Department is committed to working with the Ortner Group, Howard Hospital, and others to facilitate the delivery of mental health services in our community. We understand that the process is evolving and will work to implement this recommendation within the scope of the information provide to us by patients, reporting parties, and the contractor.