



# Willits Police Department

125 E. Commercial St., Suite 150 • Willits, CA 95490-3146  
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"FOR THE PEOPLE"

## Willits Police Department Response to Grand Jury 2007 Report

RECEIVED  
MAY / 2 2007  
MENDOCINO COUNTY GRAND JURY  
POST OFFICE BOX 629  
UKIAH, CA 95482

RE: Report Titled TRANSPORT IN CRISIS: SAFETY ISSUES IN THE TRANSPORT OF MENTAL HEALTH CLIENTS

Dated: March 22, 2007

Response by : Gerardo Gonzalez

Title : Willits Police Chief

### Findings

- I (we) agree with the findings numbered:  
11,12, 17, 22, 23
- I (we) disagree wholly or partially with the Findings numbered:  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Recommendations

- Recommendations numbered: \_\_\_\_\_  
have been implemented.
- Recommendations numbered: \_\_\_\_\_  
have not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future.
- Recommendations numbered: 4  
require further analysis.
- Recommendations numbered: \_\_\_\_\_  
will not be implemented because they are not warranted and/or are not reasonable.

Date: 4/27/07 Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Gerardo Gonzalez, Willits Police Chief

Total number of pages attached: 3

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## **Willits Police Department Response to 2007 Grand Jury Report Findings and Recommendations.**

### **Report Title: TRANSPORT IN CRISIS: SAFETY ISSUES IN THE TRANSPORT OF MENTAL HEALTH CLIENTS**

**Report Date:** March 22, 2007

#### **Summary**

Mendocino County Department of Mental Health, by order of the Board of Supervisors opened the Crisis Service Center (CSC) in October 2001. The 2006/2007 Grand Jury conducted an investigation of the Crisis Service transport System for clients detained under California Health & Safety Code §5150 (§5150). The Grand Jury found opportunities for corrections and improvements in the transportation system. Required response Willits Police Department Chief (Findings 11-12, 17, 22-23; Recommendation 4)

#### ***Findings***

11. Many clients have a dual diagnosis of mental illness and addiction problems.

**Agree**

12. Many clients have chronic conditions and have been repeatedly hospitalized.

**Agree**

17. The cell phones that drivers use for communication do not function for much of State Route 20 from Ft Bragg to Ukiah and through parts of Lake County.

**Agree**

22. Crisis staff may not touch or restrain clients, only peace officers have that authority by law.

**Agree**

23. If either the driver or client requires the use of a restroom, depending on the escape risk of the client, drivers must locate a police station, a hospital, or provide a portable urinal.

**Agree. Public restrooms exist at the Willits Criminal Justice Center for use by mental health staff.**

## **Recommendations**

4. Cell phones be replaced with a communication system that can reach local law enforcement. (Findings 9, 11, 12, 13, 16, 17, 22, 25).

***Response: Recommendation #4 requires further analysis before it can be implemented. However, the Willits Police Department is ready to enter into dialog to assist in attaining improved communication capabilities to the extent that budgetary and personnel constraints can accommodate the solution(s) that the Mental Health Department chooses to explore.***

***However, the Willits Police Department recognizes that even law enforcement agencies in this county experience lapses in communication given atmospheric, technological, and terrestrial influences on modes of communication currently available.***