



Behavioral Health and Recovery Services

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Providing Mental Health and Substance Use Disorders Treatment Services



MENDOCINO COUNTY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH DIRECTOR'S RESPONSE TO GRAND JURY REPORT TITLED:

COUNTY PROGRAMS OF LAST RESORT: PUBLIC ADMINISTRATOR, PUBLIC CONSERVATOR, AND PUBLIC GUARDIAN

Pursuant to the request of the Grand Jury, the Behavioral Health Director is responding to the following:

- F1. The GJ was concerned that no training manual is available regarding conservatorship proceedings. New staff are therefore reliant upon senior staff in SSD for their training.

The respondent agrees with the finding.

- F2. Due to the lack of a local psychiatric hospital and few nursing homes, patients are often placed far from their families resulting in lack of family support.

The respondent agrees with the finding.

- F3. When the status and conditions of all individuals are not shared with family members regularly, families become concerned about patients' welfare, especially if the patient is placed out-of-the area.

The respondent agrees with the finding.

Response to Recommendations:

- R1. The BHD and SSD establish and regularly update their Policy and Procedure Manuals for these programs. (F1)

The recommendation has been implemented.

Mendocino County Public Conservator Office transferred to Behavioral Health and Recovery Services in 2022. Policy and Procedure creation, review and updating has been instituted to align with program requirements and regulatory changes.

- R2. The BHD and SSD ensure family members are informed of the status of family members in out-of-county facilities on a quarterly basis. (F2, F3)

The recommendation has been implemented.

Mendocino County Public Conservator Office has implemented the process to connect with families members quarterly to provide a status update, when approved by the conserved individual. Information sharing is directed and may be limited based on the wishes of the conservatee.