



County of Orange

California

Michael B. Giancola
County Executive Officer

September 11, 2013

Honorable Thomas J. Borris
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court of California
700 Civic Center Drive West
Santa Ana, CA 92701

Subject: Response to Grand Jury Report, *"To Protect And To Serve: A Look at Tools to Assist Law Enforcement in Achieving Positive Outcomes with the Homeless Mentally Ill"*

Dear Judge Borris:

Per your request, and in accordance with Penal Code 933, please find the County of Orange response to the subject report as approved by the Board of Supervisors. The respondents are the Orange County Health Care Agency and the Board of Supervisors. If you have any questions, please contact Margaret Cady of the County Executive Office at 714-834-3646.

Sincerely,

Michael B. Giancola
County Executive Officer

Enclosure

cc: Orange County Grand Jury Foreman
Mark Denny, Chief Operating Officer
Mark Refowitz, Director, Health Care Agency
Margaret Cady, County Executive Office/Budget

County Executive Office
333 W. Santa Ana Blvd.
Third Floor
Santa Ana, California
92701-4062

Tel: (714) 834-6200
Fax: (714) 834-3018
Web: www.ocgov.com



COUNTY OF ORANGE

Responses to Findings and Recommendations

2012-13 Grand Jury Report entitled “*To Protect And To Serve: A Look at Tools to Assist Law Enforcement in Achieving Positive Outcomes with the Homeless Mentally Ill*”

Introductory Comments

On June 19, 2013, the Grand Jury released a report entitled “*To Protect And To Serve: A Look at Tools to Assist Law Enforcement in Achieving Positive Outcomes with the Homeless Mentally Ill.*” This report directed responses to Findings and Recommendations from the Orange County Health Care Agency, the Board of Supervisors, the Orange County Police Chiefs and the Sheriff-Coroner. The Orange County Police Chiefs and the Sheriff-Coroner will respond separately. The responses to findings and recommendations herein represent a combined response from the Orange County Health Care Agency and the Board of Supervisors.

County Combined Response to Grand Jury Findings

F9. All police departments believe that on-going training should be supported by Mental Health Services Act funding.

Response: *Agrees with the finding.*

F11. Policy and lawmakers in the County of Orange continue to examine Laura’s Law in light of its potential impact on the mentally ill and all citizens for positive outcomes.

Response: *Agrees with the finding.*

County Combined Response to Grand Jury Recommendations

R3. The County of Orange Board of Supervisors shall implement a pilot program for Laura’s Law with the necessary accommodations to insure that the program will function effectively as an essential tool to help those with mental illness, thus benefiting law enforcement, and the citizens of Orange County. (F11)

Response: *The recommendation requires further analysis.*

The County recognizes that treating the mentally ill serves both the interest of the ill and the community as a whole. It is also recognized that mental illness can have a significant impact on healthcare systems, judicial and custody operations, and homelessness. Since SB 585 is currently on the Governor’s desk, the County plans to



COUNTY OF ORANGE

Responses to Findings and Recommendations

2012-13 Grand Jury Report entitled *"To Protect And To Serve: A Look at Tools to Assist Law Enforcement in Achieving Positive Outcomes with the Homeless Mentally Ill"*

reassess any possible implementation of Laura's Law (be it a pilot program, or other applicable program) once the status of this bill is determined. SB 585 will affect the disbursement of Proposition 63 funds and how these funds may assist in the efforts to help the mentally ill in Orange County. In the meantime, the County continues to offer community outreach and support, residential services, crisis stabilization programs, training, and other behavioral and mental health services that benefit the mentally ill in Orange County. This additional analysis should come before the Board of Supervisors prior to December 9, 2013.

- R4. The Orange County Department of Mental Health Services and the Orange County Board of Supervisors shall provide funding for on-going police officer training through Mental Health Services Act. (F9)

Response: *The recommendation has been implemented.*