



March 8, 2007

Nancy Wieben Stock  
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court  
700 Civic Center Drive West  
Santa Ana, CA 92701

Dear Judge Stock:

**RE: 2005-2006 O.C. Grand Jury report- Improving Child Abuse Response**

This letter is the Laguna Beach Police Department's formal response pursuant to California Penal Code §933 and §933.05 concerning the 2005-2006 Orange County Grand Jury report, "Improving Child Abuse Response." Specifically addressed as requested are responses to Findings #6.2, #6.3, #7.1 and #7.2 of the report.

**Finding #6.2 - Expansion of the enhanced protocol is planned:** Once social worker capacity is increased the Orange County Social Services Agency will propose to expand the use of protocol to Orange County Sheriffs Department as well as the following cities:

**1. Laguna Beach**

**Response to Finding #6.2** - The Laguna Beach Police Department will consider supporting the enhanced protocol, once it is received. However, subsequent to receipt of the enhanced protocol, we must assess what costs are associated with its implementation and training to determine if the costs are unfunded as mandates and then develop strategies to fund the implementation and training.

**Finding #6.3 - Law enforcement agency procedures and training on child abuse response:** Orange County Sheriffs Department and other law enforcement agencies that have not been approached by the Social Services Agency on the enhanced protocol, have not included protocol in their procedures nor trained its officers of its use.

**Response to Finding #6.3** - The Laguna Beach Police Department has not yet received the enhanced protocol. Once the Orange County Social Services Agency approaches the Laguna Beach Police Department with the enhanced protocol, we will review it, consider its inclusion in our procedures and enable training for officers to use it. However, prior to implementation and training, we must assess what costs are associated with the training and implementation to determine if the costs are unfunded as mandates, and then develop strategies to fund the training.

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**Finding #7.1 - Law enforcement agency acceptance of SSA Field Response Protocol:**  
All Orange County law enforcement agencies should consider agreeing to the SSA enhanced protocol as social worker capacity is increased to support law enforcement needs. (See Findings 6.1 and 6.2)

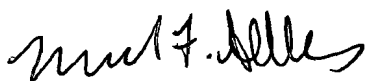
**Response to finding #7.1** - The Laguna Beach Police Department is certainly amenable to consider agreeing to incorporation of the Orange County Social Services Agency enhanced protocol into the Laguna Beach Police Department's policies and procedures. Consideration and agreement will, in part, hinge upon identifying those costs associated with implementation and training to determine if the costs are unfunded as mandates, and then develop strategies to fund those costs.

**Finding #7.2 - Law enforcement training on the enhanced protocol:** After a law enforcement agency agrees to the protocol, it should become part of the agency's procedure and line officers should be trained on the revised procedure. (See finding 6.3)

**Response to finding #7.2** - Once the Laguna Beach Police Department has agreed to incorporate the Orange County Social Services Agency enhanced protocol into the Laguna Beach Police Department's policies and procedures, implementation of the enhanced protocol within our Policy Manual and within our procedures is a simple and quick task. Consideration and agreement will, in part, hinge upon identifying those costs associated with implementation and training to determine if the costs are unfunded as mandates, and then develop strategies to fund those costs.

Please contact me directly at (949) 497-0385 if I can be of further assistance. I do look forward to receiving and reviewing the Orange County Social Services Agency enhanced protocol. The Laguna Beach Police Department stands eager to assist the SSA and all law enforcement in a unified strategy to improve and combat child abuse. As you have seen in each of the responses, implementation and training costs are a key element for acceptance.

Sincerely,



Michael F. Sellers  
Chief of Police