

RESPONSE TO GRAND JURY REPORT

Report Title: Custody, Corrections and Other County Facilities

Report Date: June 14, 2022

Response by: Department of Health & Human Resources

FINDINGS

1. The county agrees with the findings numbered F22, F23, F26.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Recommendation numbered R21 is in the process of being implemented.

Date: _____ Signed: _____

Number of pages attached: 3



Administration
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INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
FROM: CONNIE BECK, DIRECTOR
SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO 2021-22 GRAND JURY REPORT "CUSTODY, CORRECTIONS AND OTHER COUNTY FACILITIES"
DATE: AUGUST 16, 2022

In the Grand Jury Report, "Custody, Corrections and Other County Facilities," the Grand Jury has requested that the Department of Health & Human Services respond to Findings F22, F23, and F26 and Recommendation R21. I am proposing the following response as detailed below.

FINDINGS

Finding 22: The Step-Down housing facility approved by the Board of Supervisors two years ago has not been constructed. Currently, without the approved facility, there is inadequate local Step-Down housing for Sempervirens patients. This is a critical community-wide issue. (R1)

Agree

While a contractor has been selected (Willow Glen) for the provision of this services they have yet to secure an adequate space to initiate this service. The contractor has been stymied by NIMBYism and a lack of appropriate spaces for this service.

Finding 23: The Mobile Response Team (MRT) is a key component of evaluating individuals in mental health crises and assessing admittance to Sempervirens from our local hospitals. This unit requires 24/7/365 staff coverage. (R18)



Agree

DHHS-BH has continued to expand the MRT services since its inception in 2018 even though the initial grant that was awarded to stand this program up has since sunset. DHHS-BH continues to seek funding opportunities to continue this program. DHHS-BH has had continuous recruitment on all open positions in MRT program. Those positions are clinician, case managers and peer support specialists. The department has seen a decrease in the number of viable applicants for several years and continues to work with our Employee Services Division in our recruitment efforts. Once the vacant positions are filled the team will be able to expand their service hours to 11 pm nightly.

DHHS-BH continues to explore ways to expand MRT-like services. This past year DHHS-BH has applied for and received the Behavioral Health Justice Intervention Services grant from the California Department of Health Care Services. The grant funds an additional 2 clinicians, 2 case managers and 2 Peer Support personnel who will co-respond with our Humboldt County Sheriff Office Deputies to individuals having a behavioral health crisis in the Sheriff Office's jurisdiction. This program is currently recruiting for these positions. Once filled the two teams will cover 7 days a week of coverage.

Finding 26: The placement of an exposed outside generator that provides power to Sempervirens during electrical outages is unsecured. (R21)

Agree

RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation 21: The Humboldt County Civil Grand Jury recommends Humboldt County Department of Health & Human Services authorize construction of a protective barrier for the Sempervirens outdoor generator to prevent potential vandalism and assure electricity to the building in the event of an electrical outage, effective by December 31, 2022. (F26)

This recommendation is in the process of being implemented.

DHHS-BH has been in communications with the DHHS-Facilities who is currently working with Building Maintenance and Public Works leadership on a design and plan for enclosing the generator. The targeted completion date for this project is estimated to be September 30, 2022.