



Shasta County

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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June 28, 2016

The Honorable Gregory Gaul
Presiding Judge, Shasta County Superior Court
1500 Court St., Rm. 205
Redding, CA 96001

Dear Judge Gaul:

Re: A Mental Health Crisis, Following the Call, the First 72 Hours Matter

The Shasta County Board of Supervisors appreciates the time and dedication which the 2015-2016 Grand Jurors contributed to their charge. The following findings and recommendations are under serious consideration and discussions are being held regarding solutions to any unresolved problems.

RESPONSES AND FINDINGS

A. A Mental Health Crisis, Following the Call, the First 72 Hours Matter

FINDINGS

The Grand Jury findings:

F1. *There is a need for a Mobil Crisis Stabilization Team to reduce the strain on law enforcement and hospital emergency rooms, while providing vital care, support and referrals to individuals and families experiencing a mental health crisis.*

Response: The Board of Supervisors agrees with the finding. The County continues to explore options that will enhance services to those in crisis, including how to improve 'real-time' collaboration between providers.

F2. *The stigma of mental illness contributes to the use of hospital emergency rooms to access mental health services, resulting in crowded emergency rooms, delayed treatment, and long waits for all patients seeking medical or mental health care.*

Response: The Board of Supervisors disagrees wholly with the finding that crowded emergency rooms, delayed treatment and long waits for patients seeking medical or mental health care treatment are a result of a mental health stigma. The Board of Supervisors and Health and Human Services takes the opportunity to discuss, educate and promote awareness and treatment for mental illness in efforts to reduce stigma. Shasta County supports “Stand Against Stigma, Changing minds about mental illness,” “Brave Faces and Voices” and many other programs offered by Shasta County Health and Human Services. Thousands of Shasta County residents receive outpatient specialty mental health services from the Health and Human Services Agency each year. Additionally, there are many other factors that affect the number of users of emergency room services including, but not limited, uninsured or underinsured patients, access to urgent care centers, and general cost of medical care. The County is unaware of any verifiable data that stigma relating to mental health results in congestion of emergency rooms.

F3. *The public, in particular families who are experiencing a first-time mental health crisis, is often not aware of available services at the Shasta County Mental Health walk-in clinic, resulting in lack of early intervention and treatment.*

Response: The Board of Supervisors partially disagrees with the finding that families who are experiencing a first-time mental health crisis are often not aware of available services. The Board of Supervisors and Health and Human Services continues ongoing efforts to educate the public about mental health services available at numerous providers throughout the County, as well as additional mental health services offered by a variety of organizations and individual professionals currently operating in our community.

F4. *The Shasta County Mental Health walk-in clinic is not available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, resulting in the need to access care through hospital emergency rooms.*

Response: The Board of Supervisors agrees with the finding. Shasta County is undertaking a project to enhance and expand opportunities for services outside normal business hours by creating a mental health resource center.

F6. *There are only 16 adult psychiatric beds in Shasta County and none available for children. This results in delayed treatment, long waits in emergency rooms, and separating patients from their support system. With the limited number of beds for adults and none for children, treatment time increases because of the time necessary for transporting patients outside Shasta County.*

Response: The Board of Supervisors agrees with the finding. The County continues its efforts to promote private enterprises to develop additional psychiatric beds, including opportunities for children. Currently, one such facility is under development in Tehama County, which is much closer than facilities we currently contract with.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Grand Jury recommends:

R1. *The Grand Jury recommends that by December 31, 2016, the Board of Supervisors direct Shasta County Mental Health Services to develop a plan that provides a permanent Mobile Crisis Stabilization Team in partnership with law enforcement to address crisis situations in the field, utilizing new Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) funding.*

Response: The recommendation requires further analysis. The Board of Supervisors supports the idea of a Mobil Crisis Stabilization Team, however costs, funding and staffing must be analyzed and funding and staffing secured prior to creating such a team. The Board of Supervisors will direct staff to review opportunities for funding and staffing a Mobil Crisis Stabilization Team by November 30, 2016.

R2. *The Grand Jury recommends that by December 31, 2016, the Board of Supervisors adopts a plan with Shasta County Mental Health Services to establish a Mental Health Resource Center with expanded hours to provide and support and counseling services.*

Response: The recommendation has not yet been implemented but will be by June 30, 2017. Shasta County has been working with non-profit organizations to contract for mental health services and the creation of a resource center that will provide support and counseling services to both adults, children, and their families.

R3. *The Grand Jury recommends that by December 31, 2016, the Board of Supervisors directs Shasta County Mental Health Services to expand the hours of the Mental Health walk-in clinic, to include nights and weekends, until the proposed Mental Health Resource Center is open to the public.*

Response: The recommendation requires further analysis. The Board of Supervisors will direct staff to evaluate the costs to expand the hours of operation of the Mental Health walk-in clinic and review opportunities for funding by November 30, 2016.

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R4. *The Grand Jury recommends that by December 31, 2016, the Board of Supervisors directs Shasta County Mental Health Services to initiate an ongoing campaign to promote public awareness of current mental health services available to children and adults in Shasta County.*

Response: The recommendation has been implemented.

R6. *The Grand Jury recommends that by December 31, 2016, the Board of Supervisors adopts a plan with Shasta County Mental Health Services to work with Restpadd and other interested providers to locate additional facilities in Shasta County that will increase the number of inpatient psychiatric beds for adults.*

Response: The recommendation has been implemented.

This concludes the responses of the Shasta County Board of Supervisors to the FY 2015-2016 Grand Jury Report, The Mental Health Crisis, Following the Call, the First 72 Hours Matter.

Sincerely,



PAM GIACOMINI, Chairman
Board of Supervisors
County of Shasta

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