



County of Monterey

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

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June 21, 2024

The Honorable Stephanie Hulsey
Judge of the Superior Court
c/o Office of the County Counsel
Attention: Sandra Ontiveros
168 W. Alisal Street, 3rd Floor
Salinas, CA 93901

**RE: Response to 2023-2024 Monterey County Civil Grand Jury Report –
“Monterey County’s Response to Community Members Experiencing a Mental Health Crisis”**

Honorable Judge Hulsey:

This correspondence serves as the County of Monterey Board of Supervisors (Board) response to the 2023-2024 Monterey County Civil Grand Jury Report titled “Monterey County’s Response to Community Members Experiencing a Mental Health Crisis.”

As requested via letter dated April 5, 2024 from the Monterey County Civil Grand Jury, enclosed please find the Board’s response to Findings F1-F5 and Recommendations R1-R5 to the referenced FY 2023-2024 Report.

Please contact me if you have any questions or require additional information.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

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Sonia M. De La Rosa
County Administrative Officer

Enclosure



Please find below the -Monterey County Board of Supervisors' ("Respondent") response to the 2023-24 Civil Grand Jury report entitled **Monterey County's Response to Community Members Experiencing a Mental Health Crisis** -.

Findings

F1. In 2022, there were 662 sworn officers in Monterey County. Those without the 40-hour Crisis Intervention Training (CIT), offered twice a year for 35 first responders per session, are unlikely to be as effective at responding to people in crisis, leading to potentially dangerous outcomes for officers and community members.

Response to F1: The Respondent agrees with the finding.

F2. There has not been a comprehensive public awareness campaign to inform County residents of a specific crisis line number and the new 24/7 (as of January 1, 2024) capacity of the Mobile Crisis Team to respond to individuals experiencing a mental health crisis causing the public to remain unaware of the availability of this resource.

Response to F2: The Respondent disagrees partially with the finding. The County, through the Health Department, has actively engaged in a public awareness campaign regarding the Community Crisis Line and Mobile Crisis Response through "988". Both have resulted in active and expanding usage of resources.

F3. The Mapping Project found no formal collaboration exists among the various entities that respond to people with mental health difficulties who are in crisis. A case-by-case response is not a consistent or effective strategy and does not serve the community well.

Response to F3: The Respondent disagrees partially with the findings. Since 2010, the County, through the Health Department, has been an active partner in the County of Monterey Inter-Agency Law Enforcement/Mental Health Protocol-. The Monterey County Behavioral Health Crisis Negotiation Team Inter-Agency Agreement began in 2009, was amended in 2015 and is pending an update with the addition of the mobile crisis services. The coordination and collaboration with local agencies -has expanded with the implementation of mobile crisis services, including the current Mobile Crisis Services Pilot with the City of Salinas which began on December 31, 2023.

F4. Salinas Police Department (SPD) and Monterey County's Sheriff's Office (MCSO) have not prepared annual training needs assessments and plans as required by their internal policies. Consequently, their training plans are out of date leaving officers and deputies less equipped/prepared to respond to crisis calls for service and putting themselves and the public at risk.

Response to F4: The Respondent disagrees wholly with the finding. Sheriff Nieto assumed office in January 2023 and implemented a training needs assessment shortly thereafter. In result, training deficiencies were addressed and incorporated into their annual training plan; a copy of the most updated plan can be found here:

<https://montereysheriff.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/Monterey-County-Training-Plan-2024.pdf>

F5. Current standards, policies, practices, operating procedures, and education and training materials are not conspicuously posted on either SPD or MCSO websites causing them to be out of compliance with California Senate Bill 978 and making it more difficult for the public to obtain such information.

Response to F5: The Respondent agrees with the finding.

Recommendations

R1. Monterey County Department of Behavioral Health develop a Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) -certified, abbreviated in-service training course on CIT by December 31, 2024, designed for law enforcement officers who have not taken the 40-hour course to be facilitated annually by Field Training Officers.

Response to R1: The Respondent will not implement the recommendation because it is not warranted as the County, through the Health Department, has basic mental health awareness and de-escalation training for officers in place. The Health Department will continue to partner with law enforcement entities to develop and implement trainings as appropriate.

R2. Monterey County increase its public awareness campaign regarding the Mobile Crisis Team's 24/7 availability to include more social media posts, news articles, and advertising by July 31, 2024.

Response to R2: The Respondent implemented this recommendation with plans to increase public awareness in FY 2024-25.

R3. Monterey County appoint a liaison to establish regular meetings among entities such as Monterey County Behavioral Health, Law Enforcement Agencies, 911 dispatchers, hospital Emergency Room staff, and relevant nonprofit service providers that respond to individuals with mental health difficulties by July 31, 2024.

Response to R3: The Respondent implemented this recommendation; the County's Homeless Services Director assumed the responsibility to convene regular meetings with the pertinent agencies since 2023, with the Health Department as an active participant.

R4. The Salinas Police Chief and the Monterey County Sheriff prioritize the completion of an annual training needs assessment and plan by no later than July 31, 2024, and by the end of each fiscal year thereafter.

Response to R4: The Respondent implemented this recommendation; the Sheriff's Office training needs assessment was conducted prior to this grand jury report.

R5. The Salinas Police Department and Monterey County Sheriff's Office conspicuously post all current standards, policies, practices, operating procedures, and education and training materials to their websites by June 30, 2024.

Response to R5: The Respondent implemented this recommendation; the Sheriff's Office posted their current standards, policies, practices, operating procedures, and education and training materials to their website at:
https://montereysheriff.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/policy_manual_2023-09-27.pdf