



September 7th, 2015

Hon. Doreen Farr
Hon. Janet Wolf
Hon. Salud Carbajal
Hon. Peter Adam
Hon. Steve Lavagnino

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Subject: Corizon contract renewal

PODER (People Organized for the Defense and Equal Rights of Santa Barbara) joins FamiliesACT! and other prison reform activists in petitioning the Board of Supervisors to terminate the county's contract with Corizon. Until a more reputable health service provider can be found to replace Corizon, PODER urges the Board of Supervisors to create an independent oversight position to handle the many inmate medical grievances in county jail. Additionally, PODER is currently looking into the possibility of filing a citizen's complaint with the grand jury concerning Corizon's role in Raymond Herrera's death.

Below is a quick overview of Corizon's record of medical abuse and neglect locally and nationally.

Sept. 3, 2015

"The deaths of 11 Allegheny County Jail inmates helped make contract negotiations between the county and Corizon Health, the jail's former medical care provider, impossible, a letter from the company's CEO stated. The county ended its contract with Corizon and took over health care at the jail at midnight Tuesday."

<http://triblive.com/news/allegheny/9028606-74/jail-corizon-county#axzz3knbVgzF7>

July 8, 2015

The local Santa Barbara community paid respects to inmate Raymond Herrera who died in county jail on June 15th when he did not receive proper medical care by Corizon and county jail staff.

<http://m.keyt.com/news/vigil-held-for-inmate-who-died-in-custody/34067896>

June 11, 2015

After the NYC Dept. of Investigations issued a report on Corizon that "found that Corizon did not provide adequate screening or supervision of its employees..." (<http://www.scribd.com/doc/268267709/DOI-Corizon-Report>), the Mayor

announced the termination of Corizon's contract with the city.

<https://www.bostonglobe.com/news/nation/2015/06/10/after-critical-probe-nyc-drops-jail-health-care-contractor/HHH2RXLjf0f9YTcU5EvKtL/story.html>

Feb. 10, 2015

"A record-breaking settlement [of over 8 million dollars] over the death of an Oakland man who died after being beaten and tased by Santa Rita Jail deputies requires better health care in Alameda County jails and is projected to set a higher standard of care in jails and prisons nationwide."

http://www.contracostatimes.com/breaking-news/ci_27500344/alameda-county-8-3-million-jail-death-settlement

March 15, 2014

"Nicholas T. Christie, incarcerated at the Lee County jail in Ft. Myers, Florida, died on March 31, 2009 after being repeatedly pepper sprayed by deputies while strapped to a restraint chair. Following three years of litigation, Lee County officials agreed in May 2013 to pay a record settlement of \$4 million to Christie's estate. The jail's for-profit medical contractor, Prison Health Services (PHS), now known as Corizon, was named as a defendant in the federal lawsuit and included in the settlement agreement."

<https://www.prisonlegalnews.org/news/2014/mar/15/florida-county-agrees-to-pay-4-million-to-deceased-prisoners-estate/>

Sept. 30, 2014

"Florida's top prison official wrote a scathing letter last week to private inmate health care provider Corizon, claiming the firm's services are inadequate."

http://www.al.com/news/index.ssf/2014/09/cause_for_concern_read_florida.html

April 4, 2013

"Investigators with the Santa Barbara Sheriff's Department are looking into the circumstances surrounding the death of James Lawrence Baumann, a jovial, belligerent, mentally ill 51-year-old homeless man known to friends on the streets as "Half Brain" because of a brain injury he'd sustained earlier in life. He collapsed while being booked into County Jail last Saturday and never recovered. Medical authorities withdrew life support four days later. An autopsy has been performed on Baumann, who had a serious history of substance abuse and mental illness, but the results will not be available for several weeks."

<http://www.independent.com/news/2013/apr/04/authorities-investigating-homeless-mans-death/>

2010-2011

In A Grand Jury Investigation entitled *Homeless Mentally Ill Indigent Recidivism - This*

is not Good for the County, finding 2c stated: “The contract between Prison Health Services, Inc. and Santa Barbara County for the mental health care of inmates, includes the provision that intake screening will be conducted by a mental health professional; however, this is not being done.”

sbcgj.org/2011/HomelessMentallyIll.pdf