

July 7, 2009

Honorable Judge J. William McLafferty
Santa Barbara County Superior Court
1100 Anacapa St., 2nd Floor
Santa Barbara, CA 93121-1107

**Board of Supervisors' Responses to Fiscal Year 2008-2009 Grand Jury Report
"Alcohol, Drug, and Mental Health Services- An Uncertain Financial Future"**

Dear Judge McLafferty:

During its regular meeting on July 7, 2009, the Board of Supervisors (Board) adopted the following as the Board's response to the relevant findings and recommendations in the Fiscal Year 2008-2009 Grand Jury Report entitled, "Alcohol, Drug and Mental Health Services- An Uncertain Financial Future."

FINDING 1:

The ShareCare billing software has not performed as expected, and has failed to bill Medi-Cal and Medicare in a timely manner.

Response: The Board agrees with this finding.

RECOMMENDATION 1:

That in the future the Alcohol, Drug and Mental Health Services Department purchase only proven software and maintain a backup program until the new program is fully implemented and functional.

Response: The Board adopted the response of the County Executive Office as its response: "The County Executive Office agrees with this recommendation. Staff in the Alcohol, Drug, and Mental Health Services Department is presently working to ensure that Medi-Cal and Medicare billings are brought current and that adequate backup systems are in place. We further recommend that in accordance with the new County Information Technology

Strategic Plan and structure that information technology staff will review all pertinent proposals, contracts, and purchases for hardware and software.”

FINDING 2

Many of the financial liabilities of the past eight years would never have been incurred if adequate accounting systems had been in place.

Response: The Board agrees with this finding.

RECOMMENDATION 2

That the Santa Barbara County Auditor-Controller continue to review and monitor the accounting activities of the Alcohol, Drug and Mental Health Services Department.

Response: The Board adopted the response of the County Executive Office as its response: “The County Executive Office agrees with this recommendation and recognizes the significant effort the Auditor-Controller has made in assisting ADMHS with its accounting and business practices. In addition, CEO staff is working closely with the Auditor-Controller and ADMHS staff in order to improve accounting processes.”

The Board thanks the Grand Jury for its findings and recommendations on this important matter.

Sincerely,

Joseph Centeno, Chair
County of Santa Barbara
Board of Supervisors

cc: Ted Sten, Grand Jury Foreman
Michael F. Brown, County Executive Officer
Robert Geis, Auditor-Controller
Dr. Ann Detrick, Director, Alcohol, Drug and Mental Health Services