

Response to Santa Barbara County Grand Jury Report:

“Suicide in Custody”

Report Summary

- Published June 29, 2019
- The Grand Jury concluded that: “The Jury’s role in this case is to investigate the circumstances of the death, determine the facts, and make recommendations with the goal of improving local government operations”.
- The Board of Supervisors are named as responders to Finding and Recommendation 9.

Finding 9

- “The Jail is operating without National Commission on Correctional Health Care (NCCCHC) accreditation, contrary to the contract requirement”.
- The Board of Supervisors agrees with Finding 9.

Recommendation 9

- “That the Board of Supervisors closely examine the provisions of the existing medical provider contract and enforce all of the current provider’s obligations, especially with regard to the continuing failure to obtain National Commission on Correctional Health Care (NCCHC) accreditation for the Jail”.
- Recommendation 9 has been implemented, the Sheriff, along with representatives from WellPath, are scheduled to present to the Board of Supervisors on September 17, 2019, the annual report of their provision of health care at the Jail, which will include a report of their progress in securing NCCHC accreditation.

Recommended Actions:

- a) Consider and adopt the responses in Attachment A as the Board of Supervisors response to the 2018-2019 Grand Jury report entitled “Suicide in Custody”, Attachment B; and
- b) Authorize the Chair to sign the letter included in Attachment A and forward the letter and responses to the Presiding Judge of Santa Barbara County Superior Court; and
- c) Determine pursuant to CEQA Guidelines 15378(b)(5) that the above actions are not a project subject to CEQA review, because they are government administrative activities that does not result in direct or indirect physical changes to the environment.