



COUNTY of SONOMA
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

Rita Scardaci, PHN, MPH – Director
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September 4, 2008

The Honorable Gary Owen, Presiding Judge
Sonoma County Superior Court
600 Administration Drive
Santa Rosa, California

RE: Response to the 2007-2008 Sonoma County Grand Jury Report

Dear Honorable Judge Owen:

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the above stated Grand Jury Report. The following is the Department of Health Services' response to the Report titled "*The Central Library at Risk.*"

THE CENTRAL LIBRARY AT RISK

Required responses to recommendation

R8 Sonoma County Mental Health Division and shelter management personnel should expand their commitment to training and on-site intervention. (Page 24)

Response: This recommendation will be implemented. Department of Health Services, Mental Health Division staff will continue to work closely with Library staff, homeless shelter personnel and Santa Rosa law enforcement agencies to mitigate potential problems related to homelessness at the Santa Rosa Central Library (Central Library). As noted in the Grand Jury's report, the Mental Health Division's Community Intervention Program (CIP) has been effective at mitigating many of the problems related to the homeless at the Central Library. CIP staff provide advocacy, assessment, referrals, psychiatric consultation, case management and coordination, benefits counseling, and crisis intervention services. The CIP staff spend a significant amount of time in downtown Santa Rosa (and the Central Library) because of its proximity to homeless shelters. Mental Health staff have worked closely with Central Library staff providing consultation and training in how to mitigate potential problems.

The Mental Health Division through its CIP program will continue to work with downtown law enforcement, Central Library staff, and shelter management to reduce disruptions by homeless individuals, and mitigate potential problems. CIP staff will provide Library staff with 2 trainings in FY 08-09. In addition, CIP staff will

continue their efforts to provide outreach to the homeless mentally ill located downtown to increase their awareness of local mental health resources and engage them in mental health services.

If you have any questions, or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at 707-565-4778.

Sincerely,



Rita Scardaci, PHN, M.P.H., Director
Department of Health Services
County of Sonoma

cc: Sonoma County Board of Supervisors
Bob Deis, Sonoma County Administrator
Denise Gordon, Sonoma County Court Executive Officer
Janice Atkinson, Sonoma County Clerk, Recorder, Assessor
Kathleen Kane, Executive Director, Community Development Commission
Sandra Cooper, Sonoma County Library Director
Art Ewart, Director, Dept. of Health Services, Mental Health Division
Don Schwartz, Administrative Analyst III, Sonoma County Administrator's Office