AGENCY'S RESPONSE PROCEDURE

RESPONSE TO GRAND JURY REPORT

The governance of responses to the Grand Jury Final Report is contained in Penal Code §933 and §933.05. Responses must be submitted within 60 or 90 days. Elected officials must respond within sixty (60) days, governing bodies (for example, the Board of Supervisors) must respond within ninety (90) days. Please submit all responses in writing and digital format to the Presiding Judge and the Grand Jury Foreperson.

Report Title: Mental Health Services in Yolo County
Report Date: May 12, 2014
Response by: Dan Bellard
Title: Police Chief

FINDINGS

☐ I (we) agree with the findings numbered:

☐ I (we) disagree wholly or partially with the findings numbered:

RECOMMENDATIONS

☒ Recommendations numbered: 1, 2 have been implemented (attach a summary describing the implemented actions).

☐ Recommendations numbered: 3 require further analysis (attach an explanation of the analysis or study, and the time frame for the matter to be prepared by the officer or director of the agency or department being investigated or reviewed; including the governing body where applicable. The time frame shall not exceed six (6) months from the date of the Grand Jury Report).

☐ Recommendations numbered: 4 will not be implemented because they are not warranted and/or are not reasonable (attach an explanation).

Date: ______ Signed: __________________________

Total number of pages attached: 3
June 23, 2014

TO: Honorable Daniel Maguire
Superior Court of California
724 Court Street, Woodland, CA 95695

FROM: Daniel Bellini
Woodland Police Department
1000 Lincoln Avenue, Woodland, CA 95695

SUBJECT: Response to Grand Jury Report
Mental Health Crisis Services in Yolo County

The Woodland Police Department is in receipt of the Grand Jury Report: “Mental Health Crisis Services in Yolo County” dated May 12, 2014. The Grand Jury requested a response from the Woodland Police Department specifically to recommendations R1 and R2. This memorandum is being submitted in direct response to the Grand Jury’s request.

R1. “Given the increase in 5150 calls in Yolo County, law enforcement agencies should develop a plan by October 1, 2014 to provide more officers with Crisis Intervention Training or departmental in-service training to help them respond to calls involving mental health issues.”

The Woodland Police Department currently has 60 sworn police officers. All of the sworn officers are in compliance with the requirements and standards as set forth by P.O.S.T. regarding in-service training in responding to mental health crisis. Additionally, the Department sends officers to an extended 32-hour course on Crisis Intervention Training offered through Yolo County ADMH and sponsored by the Woodland Police Department for certification through P.O.S.T. Although there are shorter, less vigorous CIT courses available, the Woodland Police Department has committed to sending officers to the extended CIT training. As of July 2014, approximately 1/3 of the sworn officers will have received the 32-hour Crisis Intervention Training.

The Yolo County CIT training is offered four times each year. Scheduling officers for this training is dependent on staffing levels and the ability of the Department to adequately staff and respond to calls for service to ensure public safety. In response to the Grand Jury’s report, the Woodland Police Department has identified an additional CIT training provider which offers an extended CIT training course (24-hour course).
This will provide the Department with supplementary training dates enabling the Department to increase the number of officers receiving the extended CIT training. Additionally, the Woodland Police Department will focus first on sending those officers assigned to our patrol division to the extended CIT training (those officers most likely to be first responders to an incident involving an individual in mental health crisis). It is the Department’s goal to have all sworn officers attend the extended CIT course.

R2. “By October 1, 2014, Yolo County law enforcement agencies should develop an integrated response plan so certified Crisis Intervention Training officers are the first responders on calls involving individuals in mental health crisis.”

As previously mentioned, all Woodland Police Department sworn officers are in compliance with the requirements and standards set forth by P.O.S.T. concerning responses to individuals in mental health crisis and the Department is working towards having all officers additionally trained in the extended CIT course.

In order to provide timely assistance and avoid an extended response, when the Woodland Police Department receives a call for service involving an individual in mental health crisis, the officer working that area of the city will respond to the call. If that officer is already involved on another priority call, the nearest available officer will be dispatched to the call. Waiting for an officer who has attended the extended 32-hour CIT course to be the first responder to calls involving an individual in mental health crisis will unnecessarily delay our department’s response and could result in an extended wait for assistance.

The above recommendation by the Grand Jury will be attained once the Woodland Police Department has accomplished the goal set forth in R1.