



# San Diego County Sheriff's Department

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William B. Kolender, Sheriff

William D. Gore, Undersheriff

July 5, 2007

Honorable Janis Sammartino  
Presiding Judge, San Diego Superior Court  
County Courthouse  
220 West Broadway  
San Diego, CA 92101



Dear Judge Sammartino:

**Response to the San Diego County Grand Jury's Report Dated May 15, 2007**  
**"Medical Credentials of Inmate Health Care Providers"**

Pursuant to California Penal Code Section 933, the following is my response to the Grand Jury's Findings and Recommendations 07-48 through 07-51.

**GRAND JURY FINDINGS**

**Finding:** "The listing of license numbers with expiration dates of all 22 providers were verified by the Grand Jury with the Medical Board of California and the California board of Psychologists."

We Agree

**Finding:** "All 22 licenses were renewed and current with no disciplinary actions taken by other State or Federal Government agencies, as reported by their respective licensing boards. In addition, most providers are Board Certified."

We Agree

**Finding:** "The Grand Jury visited the local PCSD corporate office and reviewed approximately 12 health care provider's credentials files as well as the corporate credentialing policies and procedures manual. Each file contained all the requirements as set forth by both NCQA and Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO) standard, and each document was primary source verified by PCSD with the original issuer of that credential certificate."

We Agree

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**Finding:** “Initial verification by the Grand Jury at the public disclosure website of the Medical Board of California revealed one record of disciplinary action taken. A letter was sent to the Medical Board of California requesting a copy of the original accusation and final administrative disciplinary action. After review, the information was submitted to the Medical Director of the San Diego County Sheriff’s Department. The physician in question had met all the requirements of the Medical Board of California and had completed probation.”

We Agree

**Finding:** “All 152 Registered Nurses’ (RN) (Sheriff’s Detention Nurses) licenses were verified with the Registered Nursing Board of California.”

We Agree

**Finding:** “All 152 Registered Nurses’ licenses were renewed and current. No Licensing Board disciplinary actions were indicated on any license.”

We Agree

**Finding:** “All 36 LVN licenses were renewed and current. No Licensing Board disciplinary actions were indicated on any license.”

We Agree

**Finding:** “At the time of initial verification, at the public disclosure website, one record revealed disciplinary action taken on a Registered Pharmacist’s license. The Registered Pharmacist in question is currently on probation with the California State Board of Pharmacy.”

We Agree

**Finding:** “The Sheriff’s Medical Division is well organized with respect to medical personnel who oversee the various County jails/detention facilities.”

We Agree

**GRAND JURY RECOMMENDATIONS:**

**Grand Jury Recommendation 07-48:**

The 2006-2007 San Diego County Grand Jury recommends that the San Diego County Board of Supervisors and the San Diego County Sheriff’s Department:

“Direct their Medical Director to confirm to the Sheriff that the Credential files of all personnel and organizations supplying health services to the detention facilities are comparable to the standards established by NCQA and JCAHO.

This includes county personnel, contractors, subcontractors, and county personnel on loan to the Sheriff, in all health services disciplines requiring licenses or certificates.”

We Agree; the recommendation has been implemented:

The Medical Services Division complies with the standards established by Title 15 of the California Code of Regulations. These standards are assured and enforced by the Correctional Standards Authority (CSA) of California through annual inspections that include the verification of credentials, licenses and certificates of all providers of health services, including County staff, contract personnel, and subcontract personnel. This independent outside review and reporting process provides assurance that the Medical Services Division complies with all relevant standards.

The standards established by NCQA and JCAHO apply to hospitals and other institutions regulated by the Health and Safety Code and do not necessary apply to this system.

**Grand Jury Recommendation 07-49:**

The 2006-2007 San Diego County Grand Jury recommends that the San Diego County Board of Supervisors and the San Diego County Sheriff’s Department:

“Provide certification on an annual basis to the Board of Supervisors that the health services provided to detention facility inmates in his custody are being provided by individuals and organizations with the proper credentials.”

We Disagree; the recommendation will not be implemented:

As the regulatory body for the delivery of correctional health services, the State of California CSA oversees, regulates, and audits the performance of the Medical Services Division of the San Diego County Sheriff’s Department and not the County Board of Supervisors. The CSA conducts annual audits to assure compliance with the standards articulated in Title 15 of the California Code of Regulations. Audit findings are compiled in a report sent to the Sheriff for information and action as necessary. The CSA performs any and all follow up to assure compliance.

**Grand Jury Recommendation 07-50:**

The 2006-2007 San Diego County Grand Jury recommends that the San Diego County Board of Supervisors and the San Diego County Sheriff’s Department:

“Require that the Medical Director formalize periodic review of the credential files of the major contractors, such as UCSD or any other relevant organization, and health services subcontractors.”

We Agree; this recommendation has been implemented:

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Sheriff's Medical Services Division formally verifies the licensing and credentialing of all licensed and credentialed staff (RN, LVN, Medical Director, and Pharmacy staff) annually.

Additionally, each contracted group through their Medical/Dental Director is now required to submit to the Sheriff's Medical Services Division annually a copy of each physician's/dentist's medical/dental license as well as a copy of their DEA license. After receipt, Sheriff's Medical Services Division staff verifies validity of licenses on the Internet.

**Grand Jury Recommendation 07-51:**

The 2006-2007 San Diego County Grand Jury recommends that the San Diego County Board of Supervisors and the San Diego County Sheriff's Department:

“Direct the Medical Director to obtain Credential Verification Organization Certification from a nationally medical credential specialist such as the National Committee on Quality Assurance (NCQA).”

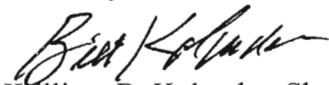
We Disagree; the recommendation will not be implemented:

Implementation of this recommendation is redundant and unnecessary. The Medical Services Division of the San Diego County Sheriff's Department meets the credentialing requirements of the State of California through the process identified in recommendations set forth in O7-50 and verified annually through the Title 15 inspection process conducted annually by the CSA.

In closing, I would like to thank the Grand Jury for their efforts in this investigation.

If they need further clarification or additional discussion, please feel free to contact Commander Al Skoglund of our Detention Services Bureau at (858) 974-2088.

Sincerely,



William B. Kolender, Sheriff

WBK/aas

cc: Members, Board of Supervisors  
Walt F. Ekard, CAO  
Thomas Pastuszka, Director, Clerk of the Board  
David R. Higgins, Foreman, 2006-2007 San Diego County Grand Jury