



San Diego County Sheriff's Department

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9/24/18

William D. Gore, Sheriff

September 14, 2018

Sandra Arkin, Board Chairperson
Citizens' Law Enforcement Review Board
555 West Beech Street, Suite 505
San Diego, CA 92101-3819

CLERB CASE NUMBER: 17-038 / Medical Response

Dear Chairperson Arkin:

The Sheriff's Department welcomes and supports the Citizens' Law Enforcement Review Board's (CLERB) independent review of complaints alleging improper actions by members of this organization. We continuously strive to respond with professionalism and concern to the citizens we serve and the CLERB process provides invaluable input to that end.

The letter from CLERB dated August 16, 2018 identified concerns related to medical practices. While CLERB does not have jurisdiction over Medical Staff, CLERB did raise valid concerns, which we take seriously. Specifically, CLERB requested the following:

1. Medical personnel's initial documentation of medical intake information on paper with subsequent unspecified timeframe entry into the electronic medical record.
2. Medical personnel's failure to initiate an alcohol withdrawal protocol for two days.
3. Medical personnel's failure to review, arrange for review, and/or act in a timely fashion on the results of Mr. Stucki's preliminary chest x-ray.

These recommendations were thoroughly reviewed at all levels in this organization.

In response to the "initial documentation of medical intake information on paper": this practice was changed in July 2018. The medical intake screening is now documented in the computer (JIMS) while the arrestee is being interviewed by medical staff. Additionally, we have two nurses assigned to screen arrestees that come into the facility. This helps to reduce the wait time of the arrestee and ensures they are evaluated sooner. This also reduces the risk of any error in the transfer from paper notes to computerized notes.

Regarding the "failure to initiate alcohol withdrawal protocol for two days": the new computerized intake screening now includes questions related to drug and alcohol use, as well as appearance of the arrestee for obvious signs of alcohol intoxication or signs and symptoms of being under the

CLERB #17-038 / Medical Concerns
Response
September 6, 2018

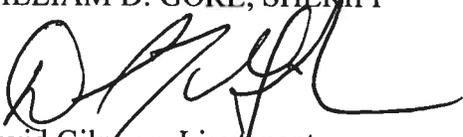
influence of drugs. Based on the medical screening answers the arrestee provides, the medical intake nurses will be able to dictate the proper medical care the arrestee will need. Additionally, our medical staff has access to any prior medical records related to previous bookings of the arrestee, thus allowing us to start medical treatment sooner. For example, an arrestee comes into the facility and is obviously intoxicated. While doing the intake questions, the medical staff sees that the arrestee has prior bookings for alcohol intoxication. The intake medical staff would be able to access the arrestee's previous medical records to see if the arrestee has previously gone through alcohol withdrawal protocols. This valuable information could prompt the intake medical staff to potentially start alcohol protocols on the new booking. Unfortunately, this system is not perfect and relies on the arrestee to provide accurate information to our medical staff and to the arresting officer/deputy. If an arrestee is uncooperative with the booking process or untruthful about their true identity, this could hinder the proactive medical treatment.

Regarding the "failure to review, arrange for review, and/or act in a timely fashion of the chest x-ray": the common practice is to have the chest x-ray read by medical staff prior to classification and housing placement of the arrestee. In this instance, we acknowledge there was a delay in the reading of the chest x-ray. We believe this is an isolated incident and does not represent common practices among our staff. It is our goal to ensure any issue related to tuberculosis is caught as soon as possible to prevent the exposure to other arrestees and staff.

In closing, we appreciate the time and effort of the Citizen's Law Enforcement Review Board. I would like to thank you for your service to the Citizens of San Diego County and the policy recommendations. It is our goal to provide the "Highest quality public safety services" to everyone in San Diego County.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM D. GORE, SHERIFF

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Gilmore', written over the printed name of David Gilmore.

David Gilmore, Lieutenant
Office of the Sheriff
Division of Inspectional Services

DG: adm