



COUNTY OF MONTEREY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Elsa Mendoza Jimenez, Director of Health

Administration Animal Services Behavioral Health Clinic Services
Emergency Medical Services Environmental Health Public Administrator/Public Guardian Public Health

February 14, 2024

Christine Lerable, Foreperson
Monterey County Civil Grand Jury
168 W. Alisal Street, 3rd Floor
Salinas, CA 93901

Via email to: clerable@montereycograndjury.com

Dear Foreperson, Lerable,

The Health Department is in receipt of your notice dated February 1, 2024 regarding a status update on the 2022-23 Monterey County Civil Grand Jury's recommendations in its report entitled "[Public Guardian, The Final Helping Hand: A Mandate to Care](#)".

As noted, the Board of Supervisor's [response to the report](#), agreed to provide the following as related to the Health Department:

Recommendation #2: The Public Guardian Bureau adopt an approved and accessible policies and procedures manual to standardize operations and assure that staff is fully aware of and compliant with the stated policies and procedures by December 31, 2023.

Update: Completed. Public Guardian Bureau staff were reminded that policies must be followed and where to access such policies on the Public Guardian's shared document drive. Continuous review of existing and new policies occurs during mandatory bi-weekly staff meetings.

Recommendation #3: The Public Guardian Bureau (PGB) initiate on-going mandatory training for staff on best practices for working with clients with mental illness by September 30, 2023.

Update: Ongoing. During the month of December, all PGB deputy staff became members of NAMI, National Alliance of Mental Illness to facilitate access to training, resources, and information on mental illnesses. Appropriate PGB staff will be attending NAMI's conference in June 2024.

Recommendation #4: The Public Guardian Bureau initiate on-going mandatory training for staff

on best practices for working with criminally charged clients by September 30, 2023.

Update: On-going trainings for criminally charged clients are presented by County Counsel to Deputy staff as needed during their mandatory bi-weekly meetings. Next scheduled training is March 11, 2024.

Recommendations #5: The Public Guardian Bureau update its website and brochure to include information about Capacity Declarations, referral procedures, self-determination, and family as first option by December 31, 2023.

Update: In progress. PGB staff has been working with Health Information Technology staff to update its webpages and brochure. The PGB expects to have these activities completed by March 31, 2024.

Recommendation #6: The Public Guardian Bureau evaluate the benefits of specialized caseload assignments versus mixed caseload assignments by December 31, 2023.

Update: Completed. After review and discussion with staff and County Public Conservator/Guardian, it was determined that mixed caseloads are in the best interest of the public and the clients we serve.

Recommendation #7: The Monterey County Health Department pursue mechanisms and options to have LPS conservatees housed within Monterey County to enable more family support, efficient use of staff time, and easier transition to lower level of care within the County by March 31, 2024.

Update: In progress. The Department received State funds to invest in Bridge Housing and a Mental Health Rehabilitation Facility (MHRF). About 110 units will become available under Bridge Housing by early 2025 and about 100 beds will become available at the MHRF in 2027.

Should you have any questions regarding update, please do not hesitate to contact me at (831) 755-4526 or jimenezem@co.monterey.ca.us.

Sincerely,



Elsa Mendoza Jimenez, MPH
Director of Health Services
County Public Administrator/Conservator/Guardian

cc. Lori Medina, Director, County of Monterey Department of Social Services
Sandra Ontiveros, MAIL, County Counsel Civil Grand Jury Liaison