



JOHN D'AGOSTINI

SHERIFF - CORONER - PUBLIC ADMINISTRATOR
COUNTY OF EL DORADO
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

June 7, 2017

The Honorable Suzanne N. Kingsbury
Presiding Judge of the El Dorado County Superior Court
1354 Johnson Blvd.
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150

RE: Report Nos. Case15-11, June 9, 2016 – El Dorado County Jails Inspection

The Honorable Suzanne N. Kingsbury,

This Office has received and reviewed a report by the 2016-2017 Grand Jury relating to the "RESPONSES TO THE 2015-2016 GRAND JURY REPORTS, Looking Back and Looking Ahead 2016-2017 Grand Jury Case No. GJ-16-015".

Sheriff's Response to Specific Findings

- F3. The Sheriff of El Dorado County has deigned to ignore the defects identified in his responses to the 2015-2016 Grand Jury Report communicated to him by this Grand Jury in its letter of April 3, 2017.

The Sheriff disagrees wholly or partially with the finding.

The Sheriff would not willfully ignore a letter sent by the Grand Jury requesting a further response to a recommendation. The Sheriff, nor his Office has any record of ever receiving a letter from the Grand Jury dated April 3, 2017. Had a letter been received a response would have been submitted within 30 days of receipt.

Sheriff's Response to the Grand Jury Recommendations

- R1. The Sheriff of El Dorado County submit, forthwith, an amended and legally sufficient response to Recommendation 1 of the 2015-2016, El Dorado County Grand Jury report, published June 9, 2016, Case Number GJ-15-11.

"Serving El Dorado County Since 1850"

HEADQUARTERS- 300 FAIR LANE, PLACERVILLE, CA 95667
JAIL DIVISION- 300 FORNI ROAD, PLACERVILLE, CA 95667
TAHOE JAIL- 1051 AL TAHOE BLVD., SOUTH LAKE TAHOE, CA 96150
TAHOE PATROL- 1360 JOHNSON BLVD., SUITE 100, SOUTH LAKE TAHOE, CA 96150

The recommendation has been implemented. See below response to GJ-16-015 R1.

- R1. Conversion of a regular cell into a safety cell will provide a higher level of care for mental health inmates at SLT.

The recommendation will not be implemented, because it is not warranted.

The safety cell is an empty cell, with padded walls and a hole in the floor for sanitation. An individual is isolated and placed in the cell because they actively pose a threat to themselves or others due to a mental disorder. Only inmates who are actively displaying suicidal ideation or gestures; and/or display violent behavior which results in the destruction of property or reveals intent to cause harm to self or others will be placed in a safety cell.

The inmate in a safety cell is checked on a minimum of twice every thirty minutes and will be removed from the safety cell when they are no longer displaying behaviors which lead to their placement.

Further analysis of the need for converting a cell into an improved safety cell was determined not warranted. The current safety cell meets all Title 15 and Title 24 requirements of a safety cell, including monitoring.

Through our analysis it was determined it would be more beneficial to our inmates, and cost efficient, to convert one of our two Sobering cells into a Transitional / Step down cell for those individuals coming out of the safety cell.

The inmate in the Transitional cell receives checks twice every thirty minutes from the Floor Officer and is also monitored via camera by the control personnel. It is also padded for safety but similar to the traditional housing cell the inmate will be returning to.

This Transitional cell will provide a higher level of care for mental health inmates at South Lake Tahoe. This cell conversion is currently underway and expected to be in operation within six months.

Sincerely,



John D'Agostini
Sheriff-Coroner-Public Administrator