



**Tuolumne County
Behavioral Health Department**

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SEP 15 2014


Superior Court of California
County of Tuolumne

BY


Clerk

September 3, 2014

TO: Honorable Judge Donald Segerstrom 

FROM: Rita Austin, Director, Tuolumne County Behavioral Health Department 

SUBJECT: Response to the 2013-14 Tuolumne County Grand Jury Report
Implementation Review of Behavioral Health care, custody, and control in
"5150" incidents

This letter is submitted in written response to the 2013-14 Grand Jury Final Report as it relates to its Implementation Review of Behavioral Health care, custody, and control in "5150" incidents. Each of the Grand Jury Findings and Recommendations is addressed below.

Findings

F15. There is no secured room currently available for patients awaiting medical clearance and/or mental health evaluations.

Response: Agree.

Recommendations

R15. The Jury recommends that SRMC and the community partners make every effort in FY 2014-15 to establish a secure room for potential 5150 patients.

Response: The recommendation will be implemented to the greatest extent possible by the Behavioral Health Department as a partner to the team of care and response to potential 5150 patients awaiting acceptance and transfer of persons to secure settings for treatment of their mental health needs. In addition to utilizing law enforcement partners to respond to uncooperative patients, the Behavioral Health Department is informed that SRMC hired security staff to provide an alternative solution to reduce risk and improve safety to potential 5150 patients. However, SRMC reported legal limitations preventing establishment of a secure room in its facility unless SRMC establishes itself as a facility designated to provide 72 hours of evaluation and treatment of mental illness.