

KINGS COUNTY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

SYNOPSIS

Kings County Behavioral Health Administration and the Kings View facility build programs that empower individuals and their families to achieve sustained well-being from mental illness and addiction.

WHY THE GRAND JURY INVESTIGATED

Public Interest

AUTHORITY

California Penal Code 925 The Grand Jury may investigate and report on the operations, accounts and records of the officers, departments or functions of the county.

METHOD OF INVESTIGATION

The Grand jury toured the Kings View outpatient counseling facility and interviewed various administrators of the Kings County Behavioral Health Department.

BACKGROUND AND FACTS

The Kings County Behavioral Health Department offers a variety of services to the residents of Kings County.

The Kings View facility is operated by a Fresno based corporation which has a contract with Kings County to provide outpatient mental health services and counseling to the citizens of Kings County.

Kings View has three clinics in the County which are located in Hanford, Avenal, and Corcoran.

During the Grand Jury tour of the Hanford facility it was noted that there were a number of qualified counselors available to meet with the consumers. These counselors range from psychiatrists to clinicians. There is one part-time physician assistant, a nurse practitioner and three full time psychiatric technicians. There are also three part-time psychiatrists assigned to Hanford, and sent, as needed to Avenal and Corcoran.

In fiscal year 2009/2010 they opened 1885 cases for mental health services and currently have 2235 open cases.

Some of the crisis response services offered include veteran services, addiction, wellness and recovery, mental illness and emergency room referrals as required. At the time the consumer enters the clinic, there is a sign-up system in place, with up to 250 consumers per day entering the facility.

At the conclusion of the intake assessment the following will occur: Medical necessity will be determined, an initial treatment diagnosis will be established, a

plan of care will be created, required Department of Mental Health consents will be obtained, and referrals to the most appropriate treatment teams will be made. Kings View provides the Oak Wellness Center which is a consumer run, membership driven, meeting place for adults to socialize, support each other through self-help groups, engage in numerous activities, and learn from each other. The program allows for consumer and citizen volunteers.

FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Finding

Persons walking through the door are not required to sign in at the intake desk. However, any consumers desiring services are required to sign in to trigger the intake assessment process.

Recommendation

The Grand Jury recommends that a sign be placed in a conspicuous place stating, "Persons who wish to be seen must sign in."

RESPONSE REQUIREMENT

California Penal Code Sections 933 and 933.05 require that specific responses to both the findings and recommendations contained in this report be submitted to the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court of Kings County 90 days from the receipt of the report.