

**SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

4/5



**FROM:** Executive Office

**SUBMITTAL DATE:**  
September 2, 2008

**SUBJECT: Response to the Grand Jury Report: Riverside County Department of Mental Health – Mental Health Outpatient Clinic, Banning, California**

**RECOMMENDED MOTION:** That the Board of Supervisors:

1) Approve with or without modifications, the attached response to the Grand Jury's recommendations regarding the Riverside County Department of Mental Health – Mental Health Outpatient Clinic, Banning, California.

2) Direct the Clerk of the Board to immediately forward the Board's finalized response to the Grand Jury, to the Presiding Judge, and the County Clerk-Recorder (for mandatory filing with the State).

**BACKGROUND:** On July 15, 2008, the Board directed staff to prepare a draft of the Board's response to the Grand Jury's report regarding the Riverside County Department of Mental Health – Mental Health Outpatient Clinic, Banning, California.

Section 933 (c) of the Penal Code requires that the Board of Supervisors comment on the Grand Jury's recommendations pertaining to the matters under the control of the Board, and that a response be provided to the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court within 90 days.

*Gary Christmas*  
**GARY CHRISTMAS**  
Deputy County Executive Officer

H:\GJURY\90dayresponse\11\MBanning8.08.doc

<b>FINANCIAL DATA</b>	Current F.Y. Total Cost:	\$ N/A	In Current Year Budget:
	Current F.Y. Net County Cost:	\$	Budget Adjustment:
	Annual Net County Cost:	\$	For Fiscal Year:

<b>SOURCE OF FUNDS:</b>	Positions To Be Deleted Per A-30	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Requires 4/5 Vote	<input type="checkbox"/>

**C.E.O. RECOMMENDATION:** APPROVE  
BY: *Bill Luna*  
County Executive Office Signature

Dept's Recomm.:  Consent  Policy  
Per Exec. Ofc.:  Consent  Policy

**Riverside County Department of Mental Health  
Mental Health Outpatient Clinic, Banning, California  
2007-2008 Grand Jury Report:**

**FINDINGS:**

**Number 1.**

*MHOPC in Banning currently does not offer families and caregivers parenting classes. Families and caregivers of children along with teens with emotional and behavioral disturbances need guidance in understanding their children and teens' emotional needs.*

**Response:**

Respondent agrees with the finding

**Number 2.**

*At the present time, the building doesn't have adequate exterior lighting fixtures on the sides or corners of the building. The existing exterior lighting fixtures at the clinic are in need of repair and maintenance. This will improve safety conditions for the staff.*

**Response:**

Respondent agrees with the finding.

**Number 3:**

*A toll free telephone number was established approximately five years ago, to allow the community the opportunity to contact the Department of Mental Health Clinics in the Banning and Desert Region area. This toll free number has since been disconnected for over a year.*

**Response:**

Respondent agrees with the finding

**Number 4.**

*The Director of the Riverside County Department of Mental Health (RCDMH), who has been in office for more than two years, has yet to visit MHOPC in Banning.*

**Response:**

Respondent agrees with the finding

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

**Number 1.**

*MHOPC in Banning must establish parenting classes for families and caregivers who seek help and guidance.*

**Response:**

The recommendation has been implemented.

Historically, parenting classes have not been provided at RCDMH clinics, but rather, have been provided by other community agencies, including local community centers, public school districts, and Department of Public Social Services (DPSS). Recently, as a result of Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) funding most RCDMH clinics that provide services to children are now offering parenting classes. The Banning clinic will offer their first parenting class in September, 2008 with the beginning of the new school year.

**Number 2.**

*As set forth in the lease agreement, the Lessor, in cooperation with the Riverside County Real Estate Division Director, immediately inspect all exterior light fixtures for repair or replacement at MHOPC. This provision is found in the leasing contract under Section 10, Repair and Maintenance.*

*Install exterior lighting, e.g. halogen, which provides greater luminosity, on the two front corners of the building at the entrance and exit driveways. This will provide security lighting for the clinic's staff while walking to and from the clinic.*

**Response:**

The recommendation has been implemented.

Two halogen lights have been installed on both corners of the building at the entrance and exit driveways. A recent inspection by the RCDMH's Safety Officer found the additional lighting to be sufficient.

**Number 3.**

*The Director of RCDMH must re-connect and advertise the toll free telephone number allowing people in the Banning and Desert Region areas the ability to seek help and support from the Mental Health clinics.*

**Response:**

The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable.

It is not clear to the respondent which toll-free phone number the Grand Jury is referring to. Approximately 25 years ago a toll-free number was created for residents of the Desert region to contact the Indio office, but approximately 15 years ago, this toll-free number was discontinued to reduce operating costs, and in light of the fact that it was rarely used. Currently, no RCDMH clinic has its own toll-free number.

The Banning clinic is listed in the local phone directory; is listed with the Volunteer Center's "211" resources; and has a long-standing referral network within the community, including but not limited to the Banning Community Center, local faith congregations, school districts, San Geronimo Medical Center, and local law enforcement. The Banning clinic receives a majority of its referrals from these established community partners.

Toll-free numbers are available for Medi-Cal clients who wish to apply for mental health services, for the hearing impaired, for parent/caregiver support and for complaints and grievances.

Lastly, residents in the Banning/Beaumont area can call the Banning clinic from their home phone free of charge as it is within the local calling area.

**Number 4.**

*The Director of the RCDMH must schedule annual visits to MHOPC in Banning. These visits could ensure that the MHOPC is providing quality service.*

**Response:**

The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future.

The Director of RCDMH will begin annual visits to the Banning Clinic and has scheduled an on-site meeting for September 24, 2008.