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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES



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June 18, 2021

Honorable Donna Stashyn
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court
Solano Superior Court
600 Union Avenue
Fairfield CA 94533

**Regarding: County Responses to FY2020-2021 Grand Jury Report Entitled:
Solano County Family Justice Center Revisited**

Dear Judge Stashyn:

The Department of Health & Social Services participated in the Grand Jury's study of the Family Justice Center over the past few months. We shared with the Grand Jury that the Department of Health & Social Services has not had much presence in terms of co-location of staff or programs at the Family Justice Center. We do believe that there is not duplication of services that Health and Social Services provide as compared with the Family Justice Center. As appropriate to the mission of the Family Justice Center, services that are provided by the center have a justice orientation for those coming into the center. The mission and scope of Health & Social Services is more oriented to treatment and prevention related to social and/or health needs of those in our communities. Health and Social Services has collaborated with the Family Justice Center regarding referrals for individuals or families needing various services provided by the Department.

The Health and Social Services Department believes we can assist the Family Justice Center on areas of mutual training of respective staff on such areas as trauma informed care and related training which would benefit families seeking various aspects of assistance.

In discussions with other counties that have Family Justice Centers, these centers are normally not within a human services agency operated by the county. Areas of overlap of services provided by the centers normally relate to certain client groups, such as those involved with the Courage Center for assessment of children; domestic violence in which Child Protective Services may also be involved and in certain cases of elder abuse. Health and Social Services believes that there can be a more specific outline of duties between the agencies, perhaps through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with each agency to enhance collaboration. Similar to the collaboration Health and Social Services has with the Courts, Probation, and the Sheriff's Department in which MOU's and referrals to services are outlined, similar coordination can take place between Health and Social Services and the Family Justice Center.

In summary, to the specific

Finding 9 – Solano County’s Health and Social Services Department offers services and has resources similar to those offered by the SFJC.

Response to Finding 9

The Solano County Health and Social Services Department disagrees with this finding. As stated previously, a Family Justice Center, as defined in PC13750, is a multidisciplinary Center, where staff works to ensure that essential services are always rendered for victims of crime, which include: domestic violence advocacy, court accompaniment, restraining orders, crisis intervention, and safety planning. These core services are not available at the Department of Health and Social Services.

Recommendation 9 - The Board of Supervisors to initiate a study to determine if a transfer of the Solano Family Justice Center from the District Attorney’s office to the Department of Health and Social Services, Health & Social Services would result in providing more efficient and effective services to victims in Solano County.

Response to Recommendation 9 - This recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted. As stated above, the Solano Family Justice Center partners with the Department of Health and Social Services for coordination of various public benefits and collaboration of services in which both agencies are involved. The core services through the Solano County Family Justice Center include victim services such as domestic violence, sexual assault, elder abuse, human trafficking, etc. These services are not part of the core mission of the Department of Health and Social Services. Therefore, it would not be practical, efficient, or effective for the Solano County Family Justice Center be moved to Solano County Health and Social Services. Each of the agencies can continue to assure that those coming into the Solano Family Justice Center can be referred to needed services within the Department of Health and Social Services.

Respectfully,



Gerald R. Huber
Director, Health & Social Services

cc: Bela Matyas, Deputy Director, Public Health
Birgitta Corsello, County Administrative Officer
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