

September 24, 2002

The Honorable Lynn O'Malley Taylor
Marin County Superior Court
P.O. Box 4988
San Rafael, CA 94913-4988

Foreman
Civil Grand Jury of Marin County
Hall of Justice-Civic Center
P.O. Box 4988
San Rafael, CA 94913-4988

RE: Grand Jury Report Regarding
Acute Psychiatric Care in Marin County

Dear Judge O'Malley Taylor and Grand Jury Foreperson,

Pursuant to the request of the 2001-2002 Marin County Grand Jury and Penal Code Section 933.05, the Marin Healthcare District respectfully provides the following responses to the Report Regarding Acute Psychiatric Care in Marin County:

At the outset, please note that while the Marin Healthcare District remains committed to and supportive of expanding acute psychiatric care in the County, as a result of the 1985 lease of the Hospital to Marin General Hospital Corporation, the District has no involvement in, or control over, the relationship between MGH and the Marin County Department of Health and Human Services or in the actual delivery of healthcare at MGH.

RESPONSE TO FINDINGS 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 8: The Marin Healthcare District has no information regarding these findings, other than the information provided in the Grand Jury report, and has insufficient controls over MGH to require that it be provided information to conduct an investigation.

RESPONSE TO RECOMMENDATIONS 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6: The Marin Healthcare District Board is on record stating unanimous support for the expansion of mental health services both in the County and at MGH. The District continues to support development and implementation of a comprehensive Strategic Plan and will eagerly assist however it can in that process. The District Board agrees with the Grand Jury and urges that *administrators* (not staff) from both the County Department of Health & Human Services and Marin General Hospital convene meetings to evaluate Phase I of the Strategic Plan, consider its implementation or develop a reasonable alternative to the Plan, the results of which meetings should be publicly reported. Further, the Board encourages a thorough evaluation and public

report of the current practice in the County of transporting adult and adolescent psychiatric patients out-of-County for in-patient treatment as well as an evaluation of the in-patient treatment of geriatric psychiatric patients since the closure of Ross Hospital.

Please contact the District office should you require further response or clarification on any of these responses.

Very truly yours,

Lawrence H. Arnstein, M.D.
Chair, Marin Healthcare District

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