



COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE  
MANAGEMENT & BUDGET TEAM  
COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT

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INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

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**TO:** BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
**FROM:** PHILLIP SMITH-HANES, COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER  
**SUBJECT:** RESPONSE TO 2013-14 GRAND JURY REPORT *HOW DO WE DEAL WITH CHILDREN IN CRISIS?*  
**DATE:** SEPTEMBER 22, 2014

The 2013-14 Grand Jury has issued report *How do we Deal with Children in Crisis?* and the Board of Supervisors (BOS) is required to respond to the recommendations. I recommend that the Board respond as follows:

Recommendation R1: *Crisis Intervention Training should be mandatory for all law enforcement officers. The Citizen Enforcement Liaison Committee and the Department of Health and Human Services have offered to pay for such training. (F3)*

**The Board of Supervisors will not implement this recommendation.**

Local law enforcement agencies are not under the authority of the Humboldt County BOS. Therefore, the BOS does not have the ability to mandate local law enforcement agencies participate in Crisis Intervention Training (CIT). The BOS does encourage all city and county law enforcement agencies to attend this valuable training and notes that the Community Corrections Partnership (CCP) has set aside funding for local law enforcement agencies to reduce the cost impacts of officers attending these Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) funded trainings. To access these CCP set aside funds the BOS encourages local law enforcement entities to contact the County Chief Probation Officer for further information.

Recommendation R2: *The curriculum of Crisis Intervention Training should include responses to children younger than 16 in a life-threatening situation.*

**This recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted.**

The BOS does not have the authority or expertise to make changes to Crisis Intervention Training curriculum. This training is designed around techniques and practices that are proven to work. However, DHHS, at the Board's request, will discuss the Grand Jury request with curriculum developers regarding their interest and/or capacity to add law enforcement "responses to children younger than 16 in a life threatening situation" to the existing CIT curriculum. DHHS will also consult with law enforcement to determine their interest and capacity to engage in this additional training recommendation.

Recommendation R3: *Professionals of Child Welfare Services (CWS) should be called as first responders in addition to police when children are in crisis, whether or not such children are already CWS clients.*

**This recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted.**

The recommendation is beyond the scope of what Child Welfare Services (CWS) is funded or mandated to provide. DHHS CWS Social Workers do not have the necessary training to provide a first response to a child experiencing a psychiatric crisis. Law enforcement responds to these situations and if necessary transports the child to Psychiatric Emergency Services which has appropriate staff to treat minors experiencing a mental health crisis. CWS does participate in joint responses with law enforcement when child risk or safety is a concern with child abuse and neglect in accordance with existing state regulations.