

CALIFORNIA STATEWIDE LAW ENFORCEMENT ASSOCIATION

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March 21, 2018

Via First Class and Electronic Mail

Michael Wilkening
Undersecretary
California Health and Human Services Agency
1600 9th Street, Room 460
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Undersecretary Wilkening:

As you are aware, the California Statewide Law Enforcement Association (CSLEA) has continually pressed for Hospital Police Officers (HPOs) and Peace Officer Is (POIs) at Department of State Hospitals (DSH) and Department of Developmental Services (DDS) to be issued firearms when performing certain functions outside secure treatment areas (i.e. outside patrol, transportation, custody, etc.).

In an effort to provide HPOs firearms, in 2012, CSLEA sponsored AB 2623. The legislature passed AB 2623 and sent the bill to the governor's office. Governor Brown vetoed the bill with the following message: "This bill would require the Department of State Hospitals to adopt and implement a policy to arm state hospital police officers. I am sensitive to the unique challenges of providing security in our state's mental hospitals. This is a matter, however, best left to the discretion of the department director who already has authority to arm its officers." This current authority exists within Penal Code Section 830.38.

As a result of bargaining in 2013, DSH directors agreed to form a Joint Labor Management Task Force (JLMTF) regarding arming HPOs and POIs (in Article 15.4 of BU7 MOU). The JLMTF is comprised of CSLEA legal counsel, HPOs, DSH executives, and law enforcement chiefs. CSLEA's understanding is that the JLMTF submitted a proposal to DSH Director Pam Ahlin which was ultimately approved and elevated to California Health and Human Service Agency (CHHS) in the Spring of 2017. Since then, CSLEA has not received any meaningful update regarding the JLMTF proposal.

CSLEA is requesting to schedule a meeting to discuss the status of the JLMTF proposal, discuss safety concerns at the DSH and DDS facilities, and work on a collaborate effort to arm the HPOs and POIs.



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As we all witnessed, on March 9, 2018, at the Yountville Veterans Home, violent crime and a tragic loss of lives can occur at any moment. CSLEA's goal has been, and will always be, to promote public safety at DSH and DDS facilities so officers can properly and effectively protect patients, staff, visitors, the surrounding communities, and themselves. We want to ensure that this firearms proposal that is at CHHS is being actively considered and ultimately adopted.

Please contact me with a few dates and times that your team is available to meet with CSLEA. I appreciate your time and effort in addressing this matter. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alan Barcelona", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Alan Barcelona, President
California Statewide Law Enforcement Assn.
Fraternal Order of Police CA Lodge #77

AB/se

cc: CSLEA File