

2007-2008 GRAND JURY REPORT

Riverside County Department of Mental Health, Mental Health Outpatient Clinic, Banning, California

Background

The Mental Health Out-Patient Clinic (MHOPC) is located at 1330 West Ramsey Street, Banning, California. It provides:

- Information and referral services
- Intake assessments
- Crisis intervention
- Psychiatric evaluations
- Case management
- 5150 (Lanterman-Petris-Short Act or "LPS") action.

Section 5150 California Mental Health Act 1967, California Welfare and Institution Code 5000, et. seq. authorizes a peace officer or a licensed clinician the authority to confine a person who has a mental disorder and is a danger to themselves or others, for a period of seventy-two hours for evaluation and treatment. A licensed clinician can also provide short-term individual therapy, group therapy, and/or family therapy to disturbed children and adolescents.

Adult mental health and older adult services are designed so individuals can access services or exit the system at any point, depending on their needs.

MHOPC has approximately fifteen appointments per day. They have two child psychologists, one nurse therapist, three licensed clinicians, and four office assistants reporting to a Mental Health Support Specialist.

The MHOPC is in the back of a 10,000 square foot building and is shared with a religious organization. The entrance to MHOPC is in the back just off the highway and has minimal parking spaces. The employees park up front off Ramsey Street and walk outside the full length of the building to the rear.

Findings

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.
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.
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.
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.

Recommendations

**Riverside County Board of Supervisors
Riverside County Mental Health Director
Riverside County Mental Health Outpatient Clinic - Banning
Riverside County Facilities Management - Real Property Division**

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

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.
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.

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