

# COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO CALIFORNIA

For the Agenda of:  
June 17, 2008

To: Board of Supervisors

From: Department of Health and Human Services

Subject: Report Back On After-Hours Calls Coverage In The Public Guardian-Conservator Office

Contact: Lynn Frank, Director, Health and Human Services (875-2002)

## **BACKGROUND**

During public comment on Thursday, June 12, 2008, a question arose as to what impact the cessation of 24-hour coverage for LPS conservatees would have on treatment facilities such as the Mental Health Treatment Center.

## **DISCUSSION**

The attached document entitled "Conservator Notification Requirements" (Attachment 1) outlines the situations when the Public Conservators Office is to be called in accordance with the role of the public conservator in fulfilling its fiduciary duty. A copy of this document is sent to every facility every time a facility agrees to accept one of Sacramento County's conservatees as a resident. The information on this document is in accordance with the Welfare and Institutions Code and the Probate Code and was recently reviewed and updated.

Until about 4 or 5 years ago, the deputies Public Guardian-Conservators took after-hours calls for their respective conservatees. The deputies received two hours of overtime for each after-hours call they received. If they did not receive any calls, they did not receive any overtime pay. There was no standby coverage attached to this plan. The plan was changed due to labor issues and the deputies were relieved of providing after-hours coverage. The Supervising Deputies were then reassigned the task of providing "standby after-hours coverage."

The four Supervising Deputies rotate after-hours standby coverage on a weekly basis. They receive 32 hours of standby pay at their hourly rate for the week of being the "standby" supervisor and pay for the actual time involved in responding to the calls.

The proposed reduction includes the deletion of a Supervising Deputy, which prompted the proposed cessation of providing 24-hour coverage. This will severely impact the system, since the department will have no mechanism for facilities to contact the Public Guardian-Conservator Office. Attachment 2 is a summary of the various after-hour calls to and from facilities.

The proposed cessation of 24-hour coverage has never occurred in the department's

memory, and this proposed reduction may place the Office out of compliance with emergent, immediate reporting requirements facilities must make to the Public Guardian-Conservator Office. The department needs to consult with County Counsel as to the whether the department can cease 24-hour coverage.

The alternative to this reduction is to resume the 24-hour coverage, thus, increasing the burden on the three remaining Supervising Deputies. The department would strongly recommend restoring this position.

Respectfully submitted,

APPROVED:  
TERRY SCHUTTEN  
County Executive

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LYNN FRANK, Director  
Department of Health and Human Services

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
PENELOPE CLARKE, Administrator  
Countywide Services Agency

#### Attachments

Attachment 1 – Conservator Notification Requirements  
Attachment 2 – SAC Co PAPGPC