



Ventura County  
Behavioral Health Department  
Alcohol & Drug Programs  
Mental Health Services

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A Division of the Ventura County Health Care Agency

July 15, 2002

Honorable Bruce A. Clark  
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court  
Ventura County Hall of Justice  
800 S. Victoria Avenue  
Ventura, CA 93009

The Behavioral Health Department's Response to the Grand Jury Report, *Truancy Problems and Solutions in Ventura County* is as follows:

**Findings:**

- F1:** Unable to comment.
- F2:** Unable to comment
- F3:** Unable to comment.
- F4:** Unable to comment
- F5:** Unable to comment
- F6:** Unable to comment.
- F7:** Concur
- F8:** Unable to comment.
- F9:** Unable to comment
- F10:** Unable to comment
- F11:** Unable to comment.
- F12:** Unable to comment
- F13:** Unable to comment
- F14:** Unable to comment
- F15:** Concur

The Department is unable to comment on these findings not because they are not accurate or because the Department does not agree, but rather because they cover areas of fact finding unrelated to the Behavioral Health Department's own scope of fact verification.

**Recommendations:**

- R3:** Parenting and counseling classes should be provided for parents of truant children and an accessible mental health system should be created to provide services to truant youth.

The Behavioral Health Department concurs with this recommendation and believes that it will require further study as to program development, target population, resource availability, and implementation. There are current programs for counseling and parenting classes throughout Ventura County, not only through Behavioral Health, but also through many Community Partner organizations. Perhaps the JJCC can continue discussions on the quantification of need and the development of services to meet those needs.

If you require any additional information from myself, please contact me at (805) 652-6737.

Sincerely,

  
Linda Shulman, MFT  
Acting Director, Ventura County Behavioral Health