

## **PUBLIC BUILDINGS AND PROPERTY COMMITTEE**

### ***Psychiatric Health Facility – Building 440 935A Spring Street Placerville***

#### **Reason for the Report**

The Grand Jury selected the Psychiatric Health Facility (Building 440) as one of its general reviews for 2002/2003.

#### **Scope of the Investigation**

The members of the Grand Jury:

- Made an unannounced visit to the Psychiatric Health Facility on November 7, 2002;
- Toured the facility with the Nursing Supervisor;
- Were briefed on the Psychiatric Health Facility operations;
- Interviewed Discharge Planner;
- Inspected the building and grounds;
- Reviewed previous Grand Jury reports for year's 1999/2000, 2000/2001 and 2001/2002 and found no findings or recommendations pertaining to this building.

#### **Background**

The building, originally constructed in the 1960's, has been used as the Psychiatric Health Facility since the early 1980s. It has the capacity for 15 patients who are admitted on an emergency basis for short-term stays. Twenty-four hour care is provided by the staff of 22 employees that include a psychiatrist, nurses, and a social worker.

The interior of the building appears neat and well maintained; however, the laundry room appears dirty and cluttered. Kitchen facilities are limited, which require meals be provided by the Senior Nutrition Center. The basement is unusable due to asbestos issues. Paint on the exterior of the building is peeling.

The observation area is utilized for observing new patients. The support column in this area has sharp edges/corners, which for safety concerns should be padded. The only furniture in this room is a rubber couch; a rubber table is needed for patient use. The current surveillance system for the lock up rooms should be updated to cover the entire day room area.

The parking lot is shared with the Senior Day-Care Center, Community Services/Senior Nutrition Center, and the Health Department. The poor condition of the parking lot poses a

safety hazard to users, especially seniors and disabled individuals. Parking is limited, directional markings go against traffic flow and overall surface is in poor condition.

### **Findings**

- F1. The building exterior paint is peeling.
- F2. The parking lot surfaces are severely checked and cracked. The parking lot surface poses a danger to users and potential liability to the County.
- F3. The parking lot directional markings go against the parking lot traffic flow and are severely faded.
- F4. The parking lot is inadequate and limits the full use of the facility.
- F5. The laundry room is dirty and cluttered.
- F6. The support column in the observation area has sharp edges/corners.
- F7. The surveillance system for the lock up rooms for the observation area is inadequate.
- F8. The water fountain in hall outside the activity room is inoperative.

### **Recommendations**

- R1. The building exterior should be painted.
- R2. The parking lot should be repaired and resurfaced.
- R3. Directional arrows should show proper traffic flow.
- R4. The support column in the observation area should be padded.
- R5. A rubber table should be provided in the observation area.
- R6. Surveillance system should be replaced with an updated version to cover the entire area of each lock up room.
- R7. The water fountain should be repaired.
- R8. The laundry room should be cleaned and maintained on a regular basis.

**Responses Required for Findings**

F1 through F8

El Dorado County Board of Supervisors  
El Dorado County Department of General Services  
El Dorado County Department of Mental Health

**Responses Required for Recommendations**

R1 through R8

El Dorado County Board of Supervisors  
El Dorado County Department of General Services  
El Dorado County Department of Mental Health