

Anthony Arton, MS
Health Services Director

Robert Bernstein, MD, MPH
Public Health Officer

Christina Wilson, RN, PHN, MSN
Director of Nursing

Kim Tangermann
Deputy Director of Public Health

MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Brad Rasmussen, Chair, Lake County Board of Supervisors

FROM: Anthony Arton, Health Services Director

SUBJECT: Supplemental Response to 2024-25 Civil Grand Jury Report

DATE: January 13, 2026

The Health Services Department is grateful for the opportunity to submit the below Supplemental Response to the Lake County Civil Grand Jury's 2024-25 Final Report, "Medical Services at the Lake County Jail," addressing specified Findings documented in the Report. Thank you to those who contributed to this thoughtful review and Report.

F-1: In several reviewed cases, inmates experienced delays in receiving necessary medications even though medications were ultimately dispensed.

Response: *Agree with Finding.*

Explanation: The Health Services Department acknowledges certain cases experienced delays; however, all medications identified by the Grand Jury were ultimately dispensed. Factors contributing to these delays included vendor delivery timelines, formulary verification requirements, and staffing limitations. County staff continue to work with Wellpath to support timely medication administration.

F-2: Staffing shortages contribute to delays in inmates receiving medications.

Response: *Agree with Finding.*

Explanation: Recruitment challenges for licensed medical personnel continue to affect healthcare delivery in many rural jurisdictions, including Lake County. These challenges can impact medication scheduling. County staff and Wellpath remain engaged in ongoing recruitment and staffing stabilization efforts.

F-3: There are no psychiatric technicians on staff; Wellpath representatives reported difficulty hiring for these positions.

Response: *Agree with Finding.*

Explanation: Psychiatric technicians remain difficult to recruit throughout California, particularly in rural areas. While psychiatric technicians are not currently part of the contracted staffing model, behavioral health needs within the facility are monitored and managed.

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F-4: The contract requires an RN to be on site 12 hours daily.

Response: *Agree with Finding.*

Explanation: This requirement is part of the current Wellpath staffing agreement. The County's contracted provider is expected to meet these obligations, and compliance is monitored through regularly scheduled reviews.

F-5: Complete documentation confirming full RN staffing in 2023 and 2024 was not provided at the time of this report.

Response: *Agree with Finding.*

Explanation: Some staffing records were still being compiled or reconciled at the time information was requested. County staff continue to work with Wellpath to ensure all necessary documentation is complete, accurate, and available for review.

F-6: The Grand Jury was unable to verify the amount of reimbursements for RN staffing shortages, as required by contract.

Response: *Agree with Finding.*

Explanation: Reimbursement records exist; however, not all materials were finalized at the time of the Grand Jury's review due to pending documentation from Wellpath. County staff are working with the contractor to complete reconciliation.

F-7: The County and Wellpath are not abiding by the contract by not providing an end-of-year audit of RN hours.

Response: *Agree with Finding.*

Explanation: An end-of-year staffing reconciliation is required. Final audit materials were delayed due to documentation gaps and staffing verification issues. County staff are working with Wellpath to complete the outstanding audit and strengthen processes going forward.

F-8: The current inmate medical complaint system involves a multi-step process that may take up to 18 days. While procedural safeguards exist, there is no clear emergency protocol for ensuring timely delivery of life-sustaining medications (e.g., insulin) during grievance review.

Response: *Disagree partially with Finding.*

The inmate medical grievance process includes multiple review steps to ensure appropriate evaluation. However, urgent medical needs including access to life-sustaining medications are addressed through clinical protocols outside the grievance system. Emergency medical care is not dependent on grievance review timelines. County staff will continue working with Wellpath to ensure these protocols remain clear and consistently applied.