



San Diego County

SHERIFF

Kelly A. Martinez
Sheriff

Detention Services Bureau, Detention In-Service Training Unit
Telephone: [REDACTED]

July 18th, 2023

TRAINING BULLETIN

MENTAL HEALTH ADVOCACY HOTLINE

[REDACTED]
(NOT FOR PUBLIC DISCLOSURE)

The San Diego County Sheriff's Department's Detention Services Bureau is committed to reducing in-custody incarcerated person suicides and self-harm events. Success in this area is dependent on good communication and quick action when an incarcerated person is at elevated risk. At times, incarcerated people face challenging situations in their criminal trial that may exacerbate negative feelings and drive impulsive behavior leading to self-harm events or attempt suicides. It is important the housing facility of the incarcerated person is made aware of situations when an incarcerated person faces challenges in the criminal process that causes a change in behavior or a change in attitude about their future.

In our effort to address the situations described above, the Sheriff's Department has instituted a Mental Health Advocacy Hotline for use by criminal justice professionals. This line will be answered 24/7 by a Detentions Information Assistant (DIA) at the San Diego Central Jail, who will receive all provided information. The information will be shared without delay with the on-duty watch commander of the incarcerated persons housing facility. The watch commander will arrange an assessment and ensure all concerns are addressed through a qualified mental health professional.

When utilizing the hotline, the following information is important to ensure a timely response:

- Subject's name
- Booking number
- Housing facility
- Description of the observed behavior or synopsis statements

Privileged attorney/client information should not be shared with the DIA receiving the phone call. The reporting party will have the option of leaving their name and contact information so the facility Watch Commander can reach out if there are any follow-up questions. Your participation in this process is extremely important and ensures timely response to potential at-risk incarcerated people.