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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

ERIC WHEELER,
Plaintiff,
v.
K. ALICESON, et al.,
Defendants.

Case No. 1:12-cv-00860-LJO-MJS (PC)
**FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS
(1) FOR SERVICE OF COGNIZABLE
CLAIMS IN SECOND AMENDED
COMPLAINT AGAINST DEFENDANTS
GARCIA, GOSS, TREVINO, ISIRA, AND
COFFIN, and (2) DISMISSING
DEFENDANTS DIAZ AND ALICESON
(ECF No. 17)
OBJECTIONS DUE WITHIN FOURTEEN
(14) DAYS**

Plaintiff Eric Wheeler is a state prisoner proceeding pro se and in forma pauperis in this civil rights action filed pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1983. Plaintiff's Second Amended Complaint is now before the Court for screening.

For the reasons set forth below, the undersigned finds the Second Amended Complaint states a retaliation claim against Defendants Garcia, Goss, Trevino, Isira and Coffin, and medical indifference and negligence claims against Defendant Isira, but no other claim. The undersigned recommends the Second Amended Complaint be served upon Defendants Garcia, Goss, Trevino, Isira and Coffin, and dismissed with prejudice

1 as to Defendants Diaz and Aliceson.

2 **I. SCREENING REQUIREMENT**

3 The Court is required to screen complaints brought by prisoners seeking relief
4 against a governmental entity or officer or employee of a governmental entity. 28 U.S.C.
5 § 1915A(a). The Court must dismiss a complaint or portion thereof if the prisoner has
6 raised claims that are legally “frivolous, malicious,” or that fail to state a claim upon
7 which relief may be granted, or that seek monetary relief from a defendant who is
8 immune from such relief. 28 U.S.C. § 1915A(b)(1),(2). “Notwithstanding any filing fee, or
9 any portion thereof, that may have been paid, the court shall dismiss the case at any
10 time if the court determines that . . . the action or appeal . . . fails to state a claim upon
11 which relief may be granted.” 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e)(2)(B)(ii).

12 **II. PLEADING STANDARD**

13 Section 1983 “provides a cause of action for the deprivation of any rights,
14 privileges, or immunities secured by the Constitution and laws of the United States.”
15 Wilder v. Virginia Hosp. Ass’n, 496 U.S. 498, 508 (1990), quoting 42 U.S.C. § 1983.
16 Section 1983 is not itself a source of substantive rights, but merely provides a method
17 for vindicating federal rights conferred elsewhere. Graham v. Connor, 490 U.S. 386,
18 393-94 (1989).

19 To state a claim under § 1983, a plaintiff must allege two essential elements: (1)
20 that a right secured by the Constitution or laws of the United States was violated and (2)
21 that the alleged violation was committed by a person acting under the color of state law.
22 See West v. Atkins, 487 U.S. 42, 48 (1988); Ketchum v. Alameda Cnty., 811 F.2d 1243,
23 1245 (9th Cir. 1987).

24 A complaint must contain “a short and plain statement of the claim showing that
25 the pleader is entitled to relief” Fed. R. Civ. P. 8(a)(2). Detailed factual allegations
26 are not required, but “[t]hreadbare recitals of the elements of a cause of action,
27 supported by mere conclusory statements, do not suffice.” Ashcroft v. Iqbal, 556 U.S.
28 662, 678 (2009), citing Bell Atlantic Corp. v. Twombly, 550 U.S. 544, 555 (2007).

1 Plaintiff must set forth “sufficient factual matter, accepted as true, to state a claim that is
2 plausible on its face.” Id. Facial plausibility demands more than the mere possibility that
3 a defendant committed misconduct and, while factual allegations are accepted as true,
4 legal conclusions are not. Id. at 667-68.

5 **III. PLAINTIFF’S ALLEGATIONS**

6 Plaintiff names as Defendants: (1) Diaz, current Warden, California Substance
7 Abuse and Treatment Facility (“CSATF”), (2) Aliceson, former CSATF Warden in office
8 at time of alleged events,¹ (3) Coffin, CSATF Chief of Mental Health, (4) Garcia, CSATF
9 Clinical Social Worker, (5) Goss, CSATF Psychiatric Technician, (6) Trevino, CSATF
10 Clinical Social Worker, (7) Isira, CSATF Psychologist.

11 His allegations can be summarized as follows:

12 Plaintiff suffers serious depression, post-traumatic stress and anxiety disorders.

13 Defendants allowed him to be housed in overcrowded and understaffed
14 Enhanced Outpatient Program (“EOP”) and non-EOP facilities; placed fabricated,
15 harmful mental health reports in his file; allowed these reports to be accessed by other
16 inmates contrary to departmental standards resulting in his altercation with an inmate
17 and use of force against him by guards and his placement in Administrative Segregation
18 (“AdSeg”).

19 Plaintiff complained of the foregoing in grievances and in a June 14, 2011 letter
20 to Warden Aliceson. Defendants Garcia, Goss and Trevino retaliated. They made false
21 entries in his file and chrono’s. Garcia falsely accused him of overfamiliarity, stalking
22 females, and threatening behavior, resulting in a rules violation proceeding in which
23 Plaintiff ultimately was found not guilty, and in transfer from EOP housing to non-EOP
24 housing in an overcrowded Gym where his mental health condition could not be treated
25 and accommodated.

26 Isira conspired with Garcia, Trevino, and Goss in retaliating against Plaintiff, by
27

28 ¹ The Second Amended Complaint variously refers to this Defendant as “Allison”.

1 intentionally falsifying medical records, misdiagnosing him as not suffering from any
2 substantiated mental health disorder, providing unacceptable mental health care, and
3 facilitating termination of EOP level of care whereupon Plaintiff was housed in the Gym.

4 Four months later, Plaintiff was examined by a non-party mental health provider
5 who correctly diagnosed his serious mental health conditions and transferred Plaintiff
6 back to the EOP level of care.

7 Defendant supervisors Diaz, Aliceson and Coffin were aware of and disregarded
8 the above actions of the subordinate Defendants.

9 Defendants violated the First, Eighth and Fourteenth Amendments to the U.S.
10 Constitution, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and state medical negligence
11 law, causing Plaintiff physical and emotion harm, for which he seeks (1) an order
12 enjoining Defendants from the above conduct, (2) a declaration his rights have been
13 violated, and (3) monetary damages.

14 **IV. ANAYLSIS**

15 **A. Linking Supervisory Defendants to Violations**

16 Plaintiff claims supervisory Defendants Diaz and Aliceson caused or participated
17 in the violations alleged. A § 1983 plaintiff must demonstrate that each defendant
18 personally participated in the deprivation of his rights. Jones v. Williams, 297 F.3d 930,
19 934 (9th Cir. 2002). There must be an actual connection or link between the actions of
20 the defendants and the deprivation alleged to have been suffered by the plaintiff. See
21 Monell v. Department of Social Services, 436 U.S. 658 (1978).

22 Government officials may not be held liable for the actions of their subordinates
23 under a theory of respondeat superior. Iqbal, 129 S.Ct. at 1948. Since a government
24 official cannot be held liable under a theory of vicarious liability in § 1983 actions,
25 Plaintiff must plead sufficient facts showing that the official has violated the Constitution
26 through his own individual actions. Id. at 1948.

27 Plaintiff states no facts suggesting Defendant Diaz had any knowledge of or
28 involvement in the alleged violations. Though Plaintiff's June 14, 2011 letter complaint

1 was directed to Defendant Aliceson, nothing suggests Aliceson received the letter or
2 was aware of it. The letter was responded to by Defendant Coffin.

3 Plaintiff, having been previously instructed on the legal standard, shows no “link”
4 between these Defendants and the alleged rights violations. Nothing suggests these
5 individuals personally acted or failed to act so as to violate his rights. Mere conclusions,
6 speculation and surmise are not sufficient to state a claim against these Defendants.
7 Further leave to amend should be denied as futile.

8 **B. Retaliation**

9 Plaintiff claims Defendants Garcia, Goss, Trevino and Isira conspired in
10 retaliating for his grievances and complaint of staff misconduct by falsifying reports and
11 chrono’s, providing inadequate mental health care, and causing him to be removed from
12 the EOP level of care. Plaintiff further claims Defendant Coffin, who supervised these
13 Defendants, was aware of retaliatory actions yet failed to protect Plaintiff.

14 “Within the prison context, a viable claim of First Amendment retaliation entails
15 five basic elements: (1) an assertion that a state actor took some adverse action against
16 an inmate (2) because of (3) that inmate's protected conduct, and that such action (4)
17 chilled the inmate's exercise of his First Amendment rights, and (5) the action did not
18 reasonably advance a legitimate correctional goal.” Rhodes v. Robinson, 408 F.3d 559,
19 567-68 (9th Cir. 2005).

20 Plaintiff’s alleges Defendants Garcia, Goss, Trevino and Isira were aware of his
21 staff complaints and grievances, and shortly thereafter made false reports designed to
22 remove him from the EOP unit. He further alleges that because these reports were
23 ultimately determined to be false, no institutional purpose was served thereby.

24 The allegations are sufficient on screening to state a retaliation claim against
25 these Defendants. The facts alleged and circumstantial evidence therefrom suggest
26 protected conduct was a “substantial or motivating factor behind the [Defendants’]
27 conduct.” Brodheim v. Cry, 584 F.3d 1262, 1271 (9th Cir. 2009), quoting Sorrano's
28 Gasco, Inc. v. Morgan, 874 F.2d 1310, 1314 (9th Cir. 1989), and that no institutional

1 purpose was served thereby. Rhodes, 408 F.3d at 568.

2 Plaintiff further alleges that Defendant Coffin was on notice of said retaliation as
3 shown by Coffin's response to Plaintiff's June 14, 2011 letter complaint directed to
4 Aliceson. These allegations are sufficient to suggest Coffin was aware of retaliatory
5 conduct by his subordinates and failed to respond and prevent further retaliation,
6 notwithstanding opportunity to do so.

7 **C. Deliberate Indifference**

8 1. Conditions of Confinement

9 Plaintiff claims Defendants were indifferent to risks posed by overcrowding,
10 understaffing, and staff misconduct.

11 The Eighth Amendment protects prisoners from inhumane methods of
12 punishment and from inhumane conditions of confinement. Morgan v. Morgensen, 465
13 F.3d 1041, 1045 (9th Cir. 2006). Extreme deprivations are required, and only those
14 deprivations denying the minimal civilized measure of life's necessities are sufficiently
15 grave to form the basis of an Eighth Amendment violation. Hudson v. McMillian, 503
16 U.S. 1, 9 (1992). The plaintiff must allege facts sufficient to support a claim that prison
17 officials knew of and disregarded a substantial risk of serious harm. Farmer v. Brennan,
18 511 U.S. 825, 847 (1994); Frost v. Agnos, 152 F.3d 1124, 1128 (9th Cir. 1998).

19 Overcrowding, combined with other factors such as violence or inadequate
20 staffing may in some circumstances give rise to an Eighth Amendment violation. Balla v.
21 Idaho State Bd. of Corrections, 869 F.2d 461, 471 (9th Cir. 1989).

22 Plaintiff is vague as to his conditions of confinement, both in the EOP unit and
23 the Gym. He claims that housing was 200% of capacity; he did not feel safe; two other
24 inmates had attempted suicide; and recreational programs such as the hobby program
25 had been eliminated. However, he does not provide factual detail as to the conditions
26 and risks, if any, he actually faced, how Defendants were linked to those conditions and
27 risks, and how and why the conditions and risks caused him harm. The same is true of
28 his assertion that EOP staff misconduct caused an inmate to attack him. He attributes

1 this apparently isolated occurrence to wrongful disclosure of information from his file.
2 However, he does not explain what information was disclosed, how, when and by
3 whom, why the disclosure was wrongful, how and why the disclosure was related to his
4 conditions of confinement, and why he believes the disclosure caused the altercation
5 and harm to him.

6 In short, the facts alleged do not link Defendants to overcrowding, understaffing,
7 or misconduct of such severity and duration that Plaintiff faced a substantial risk of
8 serious harm. See Johnson v. Lewis, 217 F.3d 726, 731 (9th Cir. 2000) (in determining
9 whether a deprivation is sufficiently serious within the meaning of the Eighth
10 Amendment, “the circumstances, nature, and duration” of the deprivation must be
11 considered).

12 Nor is a lack of programs and activities alone a basis for federal claim. See e.g.,
13 Rhodes v. Chapman, 452 U.S. 337, 348 (1981); Balla, 869 F.2d at 471, “Idleness and
14 the lack of [vocational and rehabilitative] programs” do not violate the Eighth
15 Amendment. See Toussaint v. McCarthy, 801 F.2d 1080, 1106-08 (9th Cir. 1986),
16 overruled in part on other grounds, Sandin v. Conner, 515 U.S. 472 (1995).

17 Even if facts of serious risk were alleged, Plaintiff does not demonstrate that any
18 Defendant was aware of such risk, had the ability to respond to it, and then failed to
19 respond and protect him. Orwat v. Maloney, 360 F.Supp.2d 146, 155 (D. Mass. 2005),
20 citing Gaudreault v. Municipality of Salem, 923 F.2d 203, 207 n.3 (1st Cir. 1991).
21 Nothing suggests Defendants acted with a sufficiently culpable state of mind, i.e.,
22 “deliberate indifference.” Wilson v. Seiter, 501 U.S. 294, 303 (1991).

23 Plaintiff, having been previously instructed on the legal standard, does not state a
24 claim for indifference to conditions of confinement. Mere conclusions, speculation and
25 surmise are not sufficient to state a claim. Further leave to amend should be denied as
26 futile.

27 2. Medical Indifference

28 “[T]o maintain an Eighth Amendment claim based on prison medical treatment,

1 an inmate must show deliberate indifference to serious medical needs.” Jett v. Penner,
2 439 F.3d 1091, 1096 (9th Cir. 2006), quoting Estelle v. Gamble, 429 U.S. 97, 106
3 (1976). This requires plaintiff show (1) “a serious medical need by demonstrating that
4 failure to treat a prisoner's condition could result in further significant injury or the
5 unnecessary and wanton infliction of pain,” and (2) “the defendant's response to the
6 need was deliberately indifferent.” Jett, 439 F.3d at 1096, quoting McGuckin v. Smith,
7 974 F.2d 1050, 1059 (9th Cir. 1992).

8 This principle extends to an inmate's mental-health-care needs. Smith v. Jenkins,
9 919 F.2d 90, 92-93 (8th Cir. 1990). Deliberate indifference by prison personnel to an
10 inmate's serious mental-health-care-needs violates the inmate's Eighth Amendment
11 right to be free from cruel and unusual punishment. Id.

12 Where a delay in treatment is alleged, the plaintiff must show delay led to further
13 significant injury or the unnecessary and wanton infliction of pain. Jett, 439 F.3d at
14 1096. The delay only rises to a constitutional violation if it caused the prisoner
15 “substantial harm.” Wood v. Housewright, 900 F.2d 1332, 1335 (9th Cir. 1990).

16 Here, Plaintiff claims major depressive and chronic post-traumatic stress
17 disorders for which he had a prescribed mental health treatment plan including EOP
18 therapy. These allegations are sufficient to show a serious medical need. See Scarver
19 v. Litscher, 371 F.Supp.2d 986, 999 (W.D. Wis. 2005), citing Gutierrez v. Peters, 111
20 F.3d 1364, 1369 (7th Cir. 1997) (“serious medical needs” encompass conditions that
21 are life-threatening or that carry risks of permanent serious impairment if left untreated,
22 those that result in needless pain and suffering when treatment is withheld and those
23 that have been diagnosed by a physician as mandating treatment).

24 Plaintiff contends Defendants did not adequately and acceptably treat his mental
25 health condition; that Defendant Isira intentionally misdiagnosed him and caused EOP
26 level care and treatment to be terminated; and that Isira’s actions were reversed several
27 months later by another health care practitioner. The allegations against Isira suggest a
28 knowing denial of care and are sufficient to claim medical indifference against Isira.

1 However, Plaintiff's allegations of medical indifference against the other
2 Defendants arise from his mere disagreement with treatment provided. No facts suggest
3 these Defendants provided medically unacceptable treatment. An inmate's
4 disagreement with treatment, or belief unsupported by any facts, that these Defendants
5 provided "wrong" or "Improper" care is not alone sufficient to state medical indifference.
6 "A difference of opinion between a prisoner-patient and prison medical authorities, and
7 between medical professionals, regarding treatment does not give rise to a [§] 1983
8 claim", Franklin v. Oregon, 662 F.2d 1337, 1344 (9th Cir.1981), unless the chosen
9 course of treatment was medically unacceptable under the circumstances and in
10 conscious disregard of an excessive risk to the prisoner's health. See Jackson v.
11 McIntosh, 90 F.3d 330, 332 (9th Cir. 1996).

12 This is so even if these Defendants were negligent. See Broughton v. Cutter
13 Laboratories, 622 F.2d 458, 460 (9th Cir. 1980), citing Estelle, 429 U.S. at 105-06 (mere
14 'indifference,' 'negligence,' or 'medical malpractice' will not support medical indifference
15 claim). As to these Defendants, nothing suggests a difference of opinion among the
16 treating health care professionals or that treatment fell below that which is medically
17 acceptable.

18 Plaintiff, having been previously instructed on the legal standard, states medical
19 indifference against Defendant Isira, but no other Defendant. Mere conclusions,
20 speculation and surmise are not sufficient to state a claim against the other Defendants.
21 Further leave to amend should be denied as futile.

22 **D. ADA**

23 Plaintiff claims Defendants denied him access to the EOP program and in doing
24 so denied accommodation of his mental disability.

25 Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) "prohibit[s] discrimination on
26 the basis of disability." 42 U.S.C. § 12132; Lovell v. Chandler, 303 F.3d 1039, 1052 (9th
27 Cir. 2002). "To establish a violation of Title II of the ADA, a plaintiff must show that
28 (1)[he] is a qualified individual with a disability, (2)[he] was excluded from participation in

1 or otherwise discriminated against with regard to a public entity's services, programs, or
2 activities, and (3) such exclusion or discrimination was by reason of [his] disability.”

3 Lovell, 303 F.3d at 1052.

4 1. No Individual Liability

5 Plaintiff may not pursue his ADA claim against the individual Defendants named
6 in the complaint. There is no individual liability under ADA Title II. See Heinke v. County
7 of Tehama Sheriff's Dept., No. CVI S-12-2433 LKK/KJN, 2013 WL 3992407, at *7 (E.D.
8 Cal. Aug. 01, 2013).

9 Plaintiff does not allege facts showing Defendants acted in an official capacity.
10 No CDCR system-wide decision making authority or policy or practice is alleged in the
11 ADA claim. Plaintiff may not name the individual Defendants in an official capacity.

12 2. No Programmatic Exclusion

13 Plaintiff does not allege he was excluded from the EOP unit on the basis of his
14 mental condition. Rather he claims his exclusion was retaliatory. (ECF No. 17, at 21:24-
15 25, 24;7-8.) This is not a basis for an ADA claim. Plaintiff has not shown Defendants
16 acted “by reason of” and with “deliberate indifference to” his disability. Armstrong v.
17 Wilson, 124 F.3d 1019, 1023 (9th Cir. 1997).

18 3. Treatment Excluded from ADA

19 Plaintiff may not base an ADA claim on alleged denial of EOP level of mental
20 health care. A lack of treatment for Plaintiff's medical condition is not a basis for an ADA
21 claim. Burger v. Bloomberg, 418 F.3d 882, 883 (8th Cir. 2005) (medical treatment
22 decisions not basis for ADA claims).

23 Plaintiff, having been previously instructed on the legal standard, fails to allege
24 facts stating an ADA claim. Further leave to amend should be denied as futile.

25 **E. Due Process**

26 Plaintiff claims handling of his 602 grievances, falsification of his records and
27 transfer out of EOP housing violated his due process rights.

28 1. No Independent Right re Grievances

1 Plaintiff may not state a due process claim arising solely from processing and
2 denial of his 602 grievances. Prison staff actions in responding to Plaintiff's prison
3 appeal and grievance alone can not give rise to any claim for relief under § 1983 for
4 violation of due process. "[A prison] grievance procedure is a procedural right only, it
5 does not confer any substantive right upon the inmates." Buckley v. Barlow, 997 F.2d
6 494, 495 (8th Cir. 1993), citing Azeez v. DeRobertis, 568 F.Supp. 8, 10 (D.C. Ill. 1982).
7 A prisoner does not have a claim of entitlement to a grievance procedure. Mann v.
8 Adams, 855 F.2d 639, 640 (9th Cir. 1988); Ramirez v. Galarza, 334 F.3d 850, 860 (9th
9 Cir. 2003).

10 2. No Independent Right to Correct Prison Records

11 Plaintiff has no free standing right to a correct prison file. The Due Process
12 Clause itself does not confer on inmates a liberty interest in avoiding more adverse
13 conditions of confinement and an independent right to an accurate prison record,
14 grounded in the Due Process Clause, has not been recognized. Hernandez v. Johnston,
15 833 F.2d 1316, 1319 (9th Cir. 1987). Under state law, liberty interests created by prison
16 regulations are limited to freedom from restraint which imposes atypical and significant
17 hardship on the inmate in relation to the ordinary incidents of prison life, and Plaintiff's
18 allegations concerning his prison record do not support a claim for relief. Wilkinson v.
19 Austin, 545 U.S. 209, 221 (2005), citing Sandin, 515 U.S. at 484.

20 3. No Independent Right to Classification and Program

21 Plaintiff does not have a due process liberty interest in his classification or
22 program. Hewitt v. Helms, 459 U.S. 460, 468 (1983), overruled on other grounds by
23 Sandin, 515 U.S. 472; accord Hernandez, 833 F.2d at 1318. Plaintiff does not identify
24 and support with facts any liberty interest under the above standard.

25 Nor does Plaintiff identify any procedural rights due, at hearing or otherwise, that
26 were denied him.

27 Plaintiff, having been previously instructed on the legal standard, fails to allege
28 facts sufficient to claim violation of his due process rights. Mere conclusions,

1 speculation and surmise are not sufficient to state a claim. Further leave to amend
2 should be denied as futile.

3 **F. Medical Malpractice**

4 Plaintiff claims care provided by Defendant Isira was medically negligent.

5 "To establish a medical malpractice claim, the plaintiff must allege: (1)
6 defendant's legal duty of care toward plaintiff; (2) defendant's breach of that duty; (3)
7 injury to plaintiff as a result of that breach-proximate or legal cause; and (4) damage to
8 plaintiff." Rightley v. Alexander, 1995 WL 437710 at *3 (N.D. Cal. July 13, 1995), citing
9 Hoyem v. Manhattan Beach School Dist., 22 Cal.3d 508, 514 (Cal. 1978); 6 B.E. Witkin,
10 Summary of California Law, Torts § 732 (9th ed.1988). "[M]edical personnel are held in
11 both diagnosis and treatment to the degree of knowledge and skill ordinarily possessed
12 and exercised by members of their profession in similar circumstances." Hutchinson v.
13 United States, 838 F.2d 390, 392 (9th Cir. 1988).

14 Under the California Tort Claims Act ("CTCA"), a plaintiff may not maintain an
15 action for damages against a public employee unless he alleges facts demonstrating
16 presentation of a written claim to the state Victim Compensation and Government
17 Claims Board within six months of accrual of the action. Cal. Gov't Code §§ 905,
18 911.2(a), 945.4 & 950.2; Shirk v. Vista Unified Sch. Dist., 42 Cal.4th 201, 209 (Cal.
19 2007); Mangold v. California Pub. Utils. Comm'n, 67 F.3d 1470, 1477 (9th Cir. 1995). A
20 plaintiff may file a written application for leave to file a late claim up to one year after the
21 cause of action accrues. Cal. Gov't Code § 911.4.

22 Plaintiff complains that Defendant Isira intentionally misdiagnosed him, depriving
23 him of mental health treatment, in retaliation for Plaintiff's protected activity; that these
24 actions were reversed soon thereafter by a different health care provider; that Plaintiff
25 filed a CTCA claim and received a right to sue following rejection of the claim by the
26 state on August 16, 2012.

27 These allegations are sufficient on screening to claim state law medical
28 negligence against Defendant Isira within the Court's supplemental jurisdiction.

1 **G. Injunctive Relief**

2 Plaintiff seeks an order enjoining Defendants from the above conduct.

3 Injunctive relief, whether temporary or permanent, is an “extraordinary remedy,
4 never awarded as of right.” Winter v. Natural Res. Defense Council, 555 U.S. 7, 22
5 (2008). To prevail, the party seeking injunctive relief must show either “(1) a likelihood of
6 success on the merits and the possibility of irreparable injury, or (2) the existence of
7 serious questions going to the merits and the balance of hardships tipping in [the
8 moving party's] favor.” Oakland Tribune, Inc. v. Chronicle Publishing Company, Inc.,
9 762 F.2d 1374, 1376 (9th Cir. 1985), quoting Apple Computer, Inc. v. Formula
10 International, Inc., 725 F.2d 521, 523 (9th Cir. 1984); see City of Los Angeles v. Lyons,
11 461 U.S. 95, 101–102 (1983) (plaintiff must show “real and immediate” threat of injury).

12 Plaintiff’s complaint does not demonstrate a need for and entitlement to injunctive
13 relief. The record reflects Plaintiff is no longer housed at CSATF, (ECF No. 23),
14 rendering moot (unnecessary) such injunctive relief. Preiser v. Newkirk, 422 U.S. 395,
15 402-03 (1975); Johnson v. Moore, 948 F.2d 517, 519 (9th Cir.1991). Exposure to past
16 harm is not a basis for injunctive relief. See City of Los Angeles, 461 U.S. at 101–02
17 (“past exposure to illegal conduct does not in itself show a present case or controversy
18 regarding injunctive relief . . . if unaccompanied by any continuing, present, adverse
19 effects.”).

20 Plaintiff, previously having been instructed on the legal standard, can not allege
21 facts showing a need for and entitlement to requested injunctive relief. Leave to amend
22 would be futile and should be denied.

23 **H. Declaratory Relief**

24 Plaintiff requests a declaratory judgment that Defendants violated his rights.

25 With regard to declaratory relief, “[a] declaratory judgment, like other forms of
26 equitable relief, should be granted only as a matter of judicial discretion, exercised in
27 the public interest.” Eccles v. Peoples Bank of Lakewood Village, 333 U.S. 426, 431
28 (1948). “Declaratory relief should be denied when it will neither serve a useful purpose

1 in clarifying and settling the legal relations in issue nor terminate the proceedings and
2 afford relief from the uncertainty and controversy faced by the parties.” United States v.
3 Washington, 759 F.2d 1353, 1357 (9th Cir. 1985).

4 Here, any judgment that may be entered in Plaintiff's favor will constitute a
5 declaration his rights were violated. Plaintiff is not in need of and entitled to declaratory
6 relief. Leave to amend would be futile and should be denied.

7 **V. LEGAL CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

8 The undersigned concludes that Plaintiff's Second Amended Complaint states
9 a retaliation claim for damages against Defendants Garcia, Goss, Trevino, Isira and
10 Coffin, and medical indifference and negligence claims for damages against Defendant
11 Isira, but no other claim.

12 Based on the foregoing, it is HEREBY RECOMMENDED that:

- 13 1. Plaintiff should proceed on the Second Amended Complaint retaliation
14 claim for damages against Defendants Garcia, Goss, Trevino, Isira and
15 Coffin, and medical indifference and negligence claims for damages
16 against Defendant Isira,
- 17 2. All other claims asserted in the Second Amended Complaint and
18 Defendants Diaz and Aliceson should be dismissed with prejudice,
- 19 3. Service should be initiated on the following Defendants:
20 GARCIA, CSATF Clinical Social Worker,
21 GOSS, CSATF Psychiatric Technician,
22 TREVINO, CSATF Clinical Social Worker,
23 ISIRA, CSATF Psychologist,
24 COFFIN, CSATF Chief of Mental Health,
- 25 4. The Clerk of the Court should send Plaintiff five (5) USM-285 forms, five
26 (5) summons, a Notice of Submission of Documents form, an instruction
27 sheet and a copy of the Second Amended Complaint filed January 22,
28 2013,

1 5. Within thirty (30) days from the date of adoption of these findings and
2 recommendations, Plaintiff should complete and return to the Court the
3 notice of submission of documents along with the following documents:

- 4 a. Completed summons,
5 b. One completed USM-285 form for each Defendant listed above,
6 c. Six (6) copies of the endorsed Second Amended Complaint filed
7 January 22, 2013, and

8 6. Upon receipt of the above-described documents, the Court should direct
9 the United States Marshal to serve the above-named Defendants pursuant
10 to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 4 without payment of costs.

11 These findings and recommendations are submitted to the United States
12 District Judge assigned to the case, pursuant to the provisions of Title 28 U.S.C. §
13 636(b)(1). Within fourteen days after being served with these findings and
14 recommendations, any party may file written objections with the Court and serve a copy
15 on all parties. Such a document should be captioned "Objections to Magistrate Judge's
16 Findings and Recommendations." Any reply to the objections shall be served and filed
17 within fourteen days after service of the objections. The parties are advised that failure
18 to file objections within the specified time may waive the right to appeal the District
19 Court's order. Martinez v. Ylst, 951 F.2d 1153 (9th Cir. 1991).

20
21
22 IT IS SO ORDERED.

23 Dated: January 28, 2014

24 /s/ Michael J. Seng
25 UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE
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28