

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

ARCHIE CRANFORD.

Plaintiff.

1

BRIANDON PRICE, et al.,

Defendants.

CASE NO. 1:14-cv-01093-MJS (PC)

**ORDER DISMISSING ACTION WITH
PREJUDICE FOR FAILURE TO STATE A
CLAIM**

(ECF No. 17)

CLERK TO TERMINATE MOTIONS AND CLOSE CASE

Plaintiff is a civil detainee proceeding pro se and in forma pauperis in this civil rights action brought pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1983. Plaintiff has consented to Magistrate Judge jurisdiction. (ECF No. 9.) No other parties have appeared in the action.

The Court screened Plaintiff's complaint (ECF No. 1), dismissed it for failure to state a claim, but gave leave to amend. (ECF No. 11.) Plaintiff's first amended complaint (ECF No. 13) also was dismissed with leave to amend (ECF No. 14). Plaintiff sought, and on October 14, 2014 received, a ninety day extension of time to file his second amended complaint. (ECF No. 16.) On October 29, 2014, Plaintiff filed a document entitled "Motion First Amended Complaint." (ECF No. 17.)

Although styled as a motion, Plaintiff's October 29, 2014 filing appears to be his second amended complaint, and the Court will construe it as such.

1 **I. SCREENING REQUIREMENT**

2 The in forma pauperis statute provides, “Notwithstanding any filing fee, or any
3 portion thereof, that may have been paid, the court shall dismiss the case at any time if
4 the court determines that . . . the action or appeal . . . fails to state a claim upon which
5 relief may be granted.” 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e)(2)(B)(ii).

6 **II. PLEADING STANDARD**

7 Section 1983 “provides a cause of action for the deprivation of any rights,
8 privileges, or immunities secured by the Constitution and laws of the United States.”
9 Wilder v. Virginia Hosp. Ass'n, 496 U.S. 498, 508 (1990) (quoting 42 U.S.C. § 1983).

10 Section 1983 is not itself a source of substantive rights, but merely provides a method for
11 vindicating federal rights conferred elsewhere. Graham v. Connor, 490 U.S. 386, 393-94
12 (1989).

13 To state a claim under § 1983, a plaintiff must allege two essential elements:
14 (1) that a right secured by the Constitution or laws of the United States was violated and
15 (2) that the alleged violation was committed by a person acting under the color of state
16 law. See West v. Atkins, 487 U.S. 42, 48 (1988); Ketchum v. Alameda Cnty., 811 F.2d
17 1243, 1245 (9th Cir. 1987).

18 A complaint must contain “a short and plain statement of the claim showing that
19 the pleader is entitled to relief . . .” Fed. R. Civ. P. 8(a)(2). Detailed factual allegations
20 are not required, but “[t]hreadbare recitals of the elements of a cause of action,
21 supported by mere conclusory statements, do not suffice.” Ashcroft v. Iqbal, 556 U.S.
22 662, 678 (2009) (citing Bell Atlantic Corp. v. Twombly, 550 U.S. 544, 555 (2007)).
23 Plaintiff must set forth “sufficient factual matter, accepted as true, to state a claim to relief
24 that is plausible on its face.” Id. Facial plausibility demands more than the mere
25 possibility that a defendant committed misconduct and, while factual allegations are
26 accepted as true, legal conclusions are not. Id. at 677-78.

1 **III. PLAINTIFF'S ALLEGATIONS**

2 Plaintiff is detained at Coalinga State Hospital ("CSH"), where the acts giving rise
3 to his complaint occurred. Plaintiff names Briandon Price as Defendant.

4 Plaintiff's factual allegations, in their entirety, are as follows:

5 Plaintiff was assaulted by several fellow patients and the
6 plaintiff filed several patients complaints in hopes of
7 receiving some sort of relief plaintiff also wrote to the
8 attorney general also seeking relief in both matters nothing
9 was done plaintiff also requested to be seen by the housing
10 unit doctor of which was granted the doctor accessed plaintiff
11 and discovered a small mouse under plaintiff's right eye

12 wh

13 where plaintiff had been struck the doctor ordered pain
14 medication for the mouse and other body parts that had
15 been effected but the doctor was the only staff member to
16 respond in a proper manner

17 **IV. ANALYSIS**

18 The Fourteenth Amendment provides the standard for evaluating the
19 constitutionally protected interests of individuals who have been involuntarily committed
20 to a state facility. Rivera v. Rogers, 224 Fed. Appx. 148, 150–51 (3d Cir. 2007); see
21 Youngberg v. Romeo, 457 U.S. 307, 312 (1982). In determining whether the
22 constitutional rights of an involuntarily committed individual have been violated, the court
23 must balance the individual's liberty interests against the relevant state interests, with
24 deference shown to the judgment exercised by qualified professionals. Youngberg, 457
25 U.S. at 320–22.

26 Plaintiff's right to constitutionally adequate conditions of confinement is protected
27 by the substantive component of the Due Process Clause. Id. at 315. He is "entitled to
28 more considerate treatment and conditions of confinement than criminals whose
conditions of confinement are designed to punish," but the Constitution requires only that
courts ensure that professional judgment was exercised. Id. at 321–22.

1 Plaintiff's second amended complaint suffers from several deficiencies. First,
2 Plaintiff does not link the only named Defendant, Mr. Price, to his claims. Under § 1983,
3 Plaintiff must demonstrate that each named defendant personally participated in the
4 deprivation of his rights. Iqbal, 556 U.S. 662, 676-77 (2009); Simmons v. Navajo Cnty.,
5 Ariz., 609 F.3d 1011, 1020-21 (9th Cir. 2010); Ewing v. City of Stockton, 588 F.3d 1218,
6 1235 (9th Cir. 2009); Jones v. Williams, 297 F.3d 930, 934 (9th Cir. 2002).

7 Second, Plaintiff does not allege facts to indicate whether Defendant was aware
8 of his complaints regarding the prior assault or his alleged inadequate medical care. He
9 also does not allege whether or how his medical care may have been deficient. A
10 "decision, if made by a professional, is presumptively valid; liability may be imposed only
11 when the decision by the professional is such a substantial departure from accepted
12 professional judgment, practice, or standards as to demonstrate that the person
13 responsible actually did not base the decision on such a judgment." Id. at 322-23. The
14 professional judgment standard is an objective standard and it equates "to that required
15 in ordinary tort cases for a finding of conscious indifference amounting to gross
16 negligence." Ammons v. Wash. Dep't of Soc. & Health Servs., 648 F.3d 1020, 1029 (9th
17 Cir. 2011) (citations and emphasis omitted).

18 Finally, it is unclear whether Plaintiff suffered further assaults after his complaints,
19 and thus whether Defendant may be said to have failed to protect Plaintiff from such
20 further assaults. Plaintiff has not alleged facts to show that Defendant was aware Plaintiff
21 was assaulted or at risk for further assaults.

22 Based on the foregoing, the Complaint does not indicate that Defendant exhibited
23 a conscious indifference amounting to gross negligence. See Ammons, 648 F.3d at
24 1029. While Plaintiff has a liberty interest in safe conditions of confinement, Youngberg,
25 457 U.S. at 315, and care that is professionally acceptable, id. at 321, his allegations are
26 not sufficient to state a claim under applicable standards.

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1 Plaintiff previously was advised of these deficiencies. His failure to cure them
2 reasonably is construed as reflecting his inability to do so. Further leave to amend would
3 be futile and will be denied.

4 **IV. CONCLUSION AND ORDER**

5 Plaintiff's second amended complaint (ECF No. 17) does not state a claim upon
6 which relief may be granted. Plaintiff was advised in the prior screening orders of
7 deficiencies in his claims and was given the opportunity to correct them. Plaintiff has
8 failed to do so, and no useful purpose would be served in allowing yet another
9 opportunity to amend.

10 Accordingly, based on the foregoing, it is HEREBY ORDERED that:

11 1. The action is DISMISSED WITH PREJUDICE for failure to state a claim,
12 and
13 2. Any and all pending motions shall be terminated and the Clerk of the Court
14 shall CLOSE this case.

15 IT IS SO ORDERED.

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17 Dated: December 22, 2014

/s/ *Michael J. Seng*
18 UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

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