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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

RALPH COLEMAN, et al.,
Plaintiffs,
v.
EDMUND G. BROWN, JR., et al.,
Defendants.

No. 2:90-cv-0520 KJM DB P

ORDER

In an order filed March 24, 2017, this court directed defendants to show cause in writing why they should not be required to come into full and permanent compliance with Program Guide¹ timelines for transfer to acute and intermediate care facility (ICF) mental health care by May 15, 2017. ECF No. 5583 at 2, 25. The court also directed the parties to brief why defendants should not be required to comply with the Program Guide twenty-four hour timeline for transfer to mental health crisis beds (MHCBS) by the same date and, if so, whether full or 90 percent compliance across all California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR)

¹ The Mental Health Services Delivery System Program Guide, 2009 Revision, is the operative remedial plan in this action. *See Coleman v. Brown*, 938 F. Supp. 2d 955, 961 (E.D. Cal. 2013). It is called, variously, the Program Guide or the Revised Program Guide. References in this order to the “Program Guide” or the “Revised Program Guide” are to this document.

1 institutions should be required. *Id.* at 2. Finally, the court directed the parties to brief how such
2 orders, if made, should be enforced as well as whether monetary sanctions are an appropriate
3 remedy for non-compliance with such orders. *Id.* The parties have timely filed the briefs
4 required by the March 24, 2017 order. *See* ECF Nos. 5593, 5595.

5 I. BACKGROUND

6 The background and history contained in the March 24, 2017 order is incorporated
7 by reference in this order. *See* ECF No. 5583 at 2-8. The issue currently before the court is
8 enforcement of provisions of defendants’ plan to remedy Eighth Amendment violations in the
9 delivery of mental health care to class members. In relevant part, the Program Guide requires:

- 10 1. Any inmate referred to an MHCB be transferred within 24 hours of referral;
- 11 2. Any inmate referred to any acute inpatient mental health placement be transferred
12 within ten days of referral, if accepted by Department of State Hospitals (DSH)²; and
- 13 3. Any inmate referred to any intermediate care mental health placement be transferred
14 within 30 days of referral, if accepted by DSH.

15 Program Guide at 12-1-16. It is well-established that defendants have a constitutional obligation
16 to provide class members with “access to adequate mental health care.” *Coleman v. Wilson*, 912
17 F.Supp. 1282, 1301 (E.D. Cal. 1995); *see also Coleman v. Brown*, 938 F.Supp.2d at 981. The
18 time frames for transfer to inpatient care contained in the Program Guide “represent defendants’
19 considered assessment of what is sufficiently ‘ready access’ to each level of care.” *Coleman v.*
20 *Brown*, 938 F.Supp.2d at 981. The court turns first to compliance with the timelines for transfer
21 to acute and ICF inpatient care.

22 II. ARGUMENTS OF THE PARTIES

23 A. Plaintiffs’ Response

24 In their brief, ECF No. 5593, plaintiffs contend (1) the court should order
25 defendants to come into full and permanent compliance with Program Guide timelines for transfer

26 ² Acceptance of referrals by DSH is governed by standards set out in an Administrative
27 Letter dated November 2015 and offered into evidence at the January 23, 2017 hearing as
28 Plaintiffs’ Exhibit A.

1 to inpatient care by May 15, 2017; (2) the court’s order can and should be enforced through civil
2 contempt proceedings; (3) the court has authority to impose monetary sanctions if necessary to
3 coerce compliance but that defendants must be given an opportunity to reduce or avoid such
4 sanctions through compliance; (4) there is a risk imposition of fines would discourage defendants
5 from referring inmate-patients, or encourage rescission of necessary referrals and therefore
6 “careful reporting and monitoring will be required” if this remedy is chosen; (5) the existing data
7 templates are insufficient to allow enforcement of the court’s order; (6) the court should order
8 defendants to come into compliance with Program Guide timelines for MHCBS by May 15, 2017
9 and should require 100 percent compliance; and (7) before enforcing an order requiring
10 compliance with MHCBS Program Guide timelines, the court should take additional evidence to
11 determine the obstacles to full compliance and ascertain whether targeted remedial orders are
12 required prior to imposition of monetary sanctions.

13 B. Defendants’ Response

14 1. Summary

15 Defendants oppose issuance of an enforcement order and consideration of
16 monetary sanctions for non-compliance. Defendants contend requiring full compliance with
17 Program Guide timelines “is not consistent with the constitutional standard or the Prison
18 Litigation Reform Act.” ECF No. 5595 at 3. Defendants argue that “whether system-wide
19 constitutional deficiencies exist, does not depend on whether the Court’s remedial plan has been
20 fully accomplished. Rather, the question is whether State officials are deliberately indifferent to
21 serious mental-health needs.” *Id.* at 12. In a similar vein, they contend requiring full compliance
22 with the Program Guide timelines “is at odds with the constitutional deliberate indifference
23 standard” and therefore should not be the benchmark for imposition of monetary sanctions. *Id.* at
24 15.

25 Defendants further contend imposition of monetary sanctions would violate the
26 Prison Litigation Reform Act “because such relief extends further than necessary to remedy
27 constitutional violations.” *Id.* at 13. For the reasons set forth in this order, the court finds that full
28 and permanent compliance with Program Guide timelines for transfer to inpatient care is

1 necessary to remedy constitutional violations identified in this action. The court has found, and
2 defendants have acknowledged, that full and permanent compliance with these timelines is
3 feasible. For that reason, the court finds that continued non-compliance would only be
4 remediable through an order of contempt and imposition of coercive monetary sanctions and,
5 therefore, that such relief, if required, would be necessary to remedy the constitutional violation.

6 2. Analysis

7 Defendants' contentions call for a review of two issues: (1) the role of the
8 deliberate indifference standard at this stage of these proceedings; and (2) the role of the Program
9 Guide in assessing constitutional compliance.

10 Defendants' argument concerning the role of the deliberate indifference standard
11 misses the mark and fails to recognize that the court already has repeatedly addressed and rejected
12 this argument, albeit in different contexts. In denying defendants' 2013 motion to terminate these
13 proceedings, the court considered and rejected an argument made by defendants that they are no
14 longer "deliberately indifferent" to the need to provide constitutionally adequate mental health
15 care and therefore should no longer be subject to court supervision. *See Coleman v. Brown*, 938
16 F.Supp.2d at 988-89. Subsequently, in a 2014 order on plaintiffs' motion for enforcement of
17 court orders and additional relief related to use of excessive force, disciplinary measures, and
18 housing and treatment of class members in administrative segregation units (ASUs) and
19 segregated housing units (SHUs), the court again rejected this argument, holding that

20 once an Eighth Amendment violation is found and injunctive relief
21 ordered, the focus shifts to remediation of the serious deprivations
22 that formed the objective component of the identified Eighth
23 Amendment violation. *See Coleman v. Brown*, 938 F.Supp.2d at
24 988. Remediation can be accomplished by compliance with
25 targeted orders for relief or by establishing that the "violation has
 been remedied in another way." *Id.* To the extent the subjective
 component of an Eighth Amendment violation remains a relevant
 inquiry, it is coextensive with proof of ongoing objectively
 unconstitutional conditions. *Id.* at 989.

26 *Coleman v. Brown*, 28 F.Supp.3d 1068, 1077 (E.D. Cal. 2014).

27 The relevant inquiry at this juncture is what, objectively, is required to achieve
28 complete remediation of the constitutional violation with respect to access to inpatient care.

1 Defendants contend compliance with the Program Guide “should not measure whether defendants
2 have discharged their constitutional obligations to provide adequate mental health treatment to
3 inmate-patients” and that “[i]nstead, the Court should assist the Defendants by declaring
4 standards for system-wide performance that must be met to satisfy the Eighth Amendment.
5 Substantial compliance with the Program Guide, based on system-wide performance, should be
6 the standard.” ECF No. 5595 at 12-13.

7 In the 2013 order cited by defendants in their brief, the court discussed the role of
8 the Program Guide in assessing defendants’ compliance with the Eighth Amendment. The court
9 did so in the context of “defendants’ pervasive objection that the Special Master is not
10 monitoring with reference to a constitutional standard,” addressing what it described as “the
11 fallacy” in that objection. ECF No. 4361 at 6. In particular, the court described at length the
12 development of the Program Guide and its relationship to the requirements of the Eighth
13 Amendment. *Id.* at 4-6. As the court wrote, the Program Guide “represents *defendants’*
14 considered assessment, made in consultation with the Special Master and his experts, and
15 approved by this court, of what is required to remedy the Eighth Amendment violations identified
16 in this action and meet their constitutional obligation to deliver adequate mental health care to
17 seriously mentally ill inmates.” *Id.* at 3 (emphasis in original). In that context, the court found
18 that because the Program Guide “is grounded in the requirements of the Eighth Amendment as
19 they have been developed in the context of this action, *see Coleman v. Wilson*, 912 F.Supp. 1282,
20 1301 (E.D. Cal. 1995), the Special Master’s Report to the court on defendants’ compliance with
21 the provisions of the . . . Program Guide is also grounded in the requirements of the Eighth
22 Amendment. . .” *Id.*

23 In the present context, the transfer timelines in the Program Guide reflect
24 defendants’ considered assessment of how to fulfill their constitutional obligation to provide class
25 members with “ready access” to inpatient mental health care – an assessment accepted and
26 blessed by the court. *See* ECF No. 5583 at 14 (quoting *Coleman v. Brown*, 938 F.Supp.2d at 981,
27 in turn quoting *Hoptowit v. Ray*, 682 F.2d 1237, 1253 (9th Cir. 1982)). Compliance with those
28 timelines is a necessary part of a complete remedy in this action.

1 III. COMPLIANCE WITH ACUTE AND ICF TIMELINES

2 The history of problems with access to inpatient care and their sequelae, laid out
3 several times and most recently in the court’s March 24, 2017 order, *see* ECF No. 5583 at 4-6,
4 shows clearly that full and permanent elimination of waitlists for inpatient care that exceed
5 Program Guide timelines is necessary to provide constitutionally adequate access to inpatient
6 mental health care for class members. That history, and the record before the court, also
7 demonstrate that issuance of a specific order requiring full and permanent compliance with
8 Program Guide timelines, subject to clearly defined exceptions to be developed through a meet
9 and confer process and incorporated as an addendum in the Program Guide,³ is necessary to
10 achieve remediation of this aspect of the Eighth Amendment violation in this case. The options
11 available to defendants for achieving this compliance are described in the March 24, 2017 order
12 and incorporated by reference in this order. *See* ECF No. 5583 at 8-21.

13 A. Full Compliance by May 15, 2017 Deadline

14 In their response to the March 24, 2017 order, defendants represent that by May
15 15, 2017, there will be no inmate-patients waiting beyond Program Guide timelines for transfer to
16 inpatient care, *see* ECF No. 5595 at 1, and defendants describe specific steps they will take to
17 achieve this. *Id.* at 1-2. Defendants contend these circumstances, together with additional steps
18 they are taking to achieve permanent elimination of waitlists for inpatient care that exceed
19 Program Guide timelines, obviates the need for court intervention. *Id.* at 3. Defendants ignore
20 the lengthy history, laid out in the March 24, 2017 order, of repeated re-emergence of large
21 numbers of inmate-patients waiting well past Program Guide timelines for transfer to inpatient
22 care and, as recently as six years ago, for identification and referral for such essential mental

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24 ³ The Special Master has informed the court that the parties are in the preliminary stages
25 of updating the Program Guide to incorporate modifications required by court orders issued since
26 March 2006, when the court gave final approval to most of the Program Guide. The court
27 encourages development and implementation of a process for the addition of such addenda to the
28 Program Guide, for example through use of so-called “pocket parts.” This process, of course, is
not an opportunity to renegotiate matters that have been settled by court order. Instead, it is a
necessary step toward completion of a full and final remedy, with a user-friendly comprehensive
Program Guide.

1 health care. ECF No. 5583 at 4-7. Each time, the court has intervened and the Special Master
2 and the parties have expended considerable time and effort assessing the unmet need for care,
3 identifying additional bed capacity, and/or developing new plans to address the continuing
4 constitutional violation evidenced by the waitlists. As the court made clear in the March 24, 2017
5 order, this cycle must be broken. *Id.* at 8. To that end, the court will enter a specific order
6 requiring defendants, by May 15, 2017, to come into full compliance with Program Guide
7 timelines for transfer of inmate-patients to acute and intermediate care facility programs.

8 B. Permanent Compliance

9 Defendants outline a number of steps they are taking, both in the short term and in
10 the long term, to permanently eliminate waitlists that exceed Program Guide timelines. *See* ECF
11 No. 5595 at 3-8. For the reasons set forth in section III(A), the court will also enter a specific
12 order requiring, effective May 15, 2017, permanent compliance with Program Guide timelines for
13 transfer of inmate-patients to acute and intermediate care facility programs.

14 C. Clarification Regarding Possible Exclusions

15 In the March 24, 2017 order, the court signaled its intention, for purposes of
16 enforcement by this court, to exclude from the ten and thirty-day periods in which transfer to
17 inpatient care must occur “any time a class member referred to inpatient mental health care
18 spends in treatment for medical needs deemed more urgent than the mental health need that led to
19 the inpatient referral, or any time a class member spends on out-to-court status pursuant to a court
20 order or subpoena.” *Id.* at 25. Plaintiffs contend such a blanket exclusion is too broad and based
21 only on a “cursory assertion” by Pamela Ahlin, Director of the Department of State Hospitals.
22 ECF No. 5593 at 9. Plaintiffs contend (1) defendants should be permitted to make an
23 individualized showing for any inmate-patient held beyond Program Guide timelines; and
24 (2) defendants should continue and complete the referral process for any inmate-patient referred
25 to inpatient mental health care who is also subject to a medical hold or legal proceedings at any
26 step in the process. *Id.* at 9-10. Plaintiffs also observe that the monthly bed utilization reports
27 currently filed with the court do not identify medical holds or out-to-court status. *Id.* at 10.

1 As the court made clear in the March 24, 2017 order, it has no intention of
2 micromanaging defendants in this process. That said, the record suggests there are circumstances
3 under which time after an inmate-patient has been referred to inpatient mental health care should
4 not be included in the required timelines for transfer to such care. This in turn, as plaintiffs
5 observe, raises questions about how the referral process should proceed when such circumstances
6 are present. An addendum to the Program Guide that identifies circumstances under which time
7 after an inmate-patient is referred to inpatient mental health care should be excluded from
8 Program Guide timelines for transfer to such care, and also identifies timelines for completion of
9 the referral process when such circumstances are present, will be necessary going forward. The
10 parties will be directed to meet and confer under the supervision of the Special Master to develop
11 an addendum to the Program Guide that addresses these matters. Said addendum shall be
12 completed and submitted to the court for review and final approval within forty-five days.

13 D. Enforcement

14 Plaintiffs propose “that the Court issue an order setting forth a framework
15 involving monthly reporting and prospective, presumptive fines that may ultimately be avoided
16 through compliance.” ECF No. 5593 at 13. Under the proposed framework, defendants would be
17 required to track on a daily basis any inmate-patient waiting past Program Guide timelines for
18 transfer to inpatient care and to include this information in their monthly reports to the court. *Id.*
19 Defendants would be permitted to file sworn declarations attesting to all steps taken to comply
20 with the court’s order. *Id.* The order would also provide for a fine of up to \$1000 per day, per
21 inmate-patient, for each violation, and the fines would be held in abeyance for a period of six
22 months to give defendants the opportunity to “cure, or purge, their non-compliance before the
23 issuance of monetary sanctions.” *Id.* at 14. Plaintiffs propose that if defendants are not fully
24 compliant with Program Guide timelines starting in May 2017 and continuing for six months, the
25 court hold a contempt hearing consistent with due process requirements. *Id.* As discussed above,
26 defendants oppose issuance of an enforcement order as well as enforcement of any such order
27 through contempt proceedings or otherwise.

1 As the court noted in the March 24, 2017 order, it is well-established that the court
2 has authority to impose monetary sanctions to compel compliance with its orders. *See* ECF No.
3 5583 at 26 (citing *U.S. v. United Mine Workers of America*, 330 U.S. 258, 303-04 (1947)).

4 Where the purpose of a fine is to make defendants comply with a
5 court order, the court is required to “consider the character and
6 magnitude of the harm threatened by continued contumacy, and the
7 probabl[e] effectiveness of any suggested sanction in bringing
8 about the result desired.” *Id.* at 304. Civil fines “designed to
9 compel future compliance with a court order, are considered to be
coercive and avoidable through obedience, and thus may be
imposed in an ordinary civil proceeding upon notice and an
opportunity to be heard.” *International Union, United Mine
Workers of America v. Bagwell*, 512 U.S. 821, 827 (1994).

10 ECF No. 5583 at 26.

11 “A court’s contempt powers are broadly divided into two categories: civil
12 contempt and criminal contempt. . . . ‘The purpose of civil contempt is coercive or
13 compensatory, whereas the purpose of criminal contempt is punitive.’” *Shell Offshore Inc. v.*
14 *Greenpeace, Inc.*, 815 F.3d 623, 628 (9th Cir. 2016) (quoting *Koninklijke Philips Elecs. N.V. v.*
15 *KXD Tech., Inc.*, 539 F.3d 1039, 1042 (9th Cir. 2008) (internal citation omitted)). “A court may
16 wield its civil contempt powers for two separate and independent purposes: (1) ‘to coerce the
17 defendant into compliance with the court’s order’; and (2) ‘to compensate the complainant for
18 losses sustained.’” *Shell Offshore Inc.*, 815 F.3d at 628 (quoting *United Mine Workers of*
19 *America*, 330 U.S. at 303-04). Due process requires notice and an opportunity to be heard prior
20 to imposition of sanctions for contempt of a court order. *Lasar v. Ford Motor Co.*, 399 F.3d
21 1101, 1109-10 (9th Cir. 2005). In addition, “[w]here a fine is not compensatory, it is civil only if
22 the contemnor is afforded the opportunity to purge.” *International Union, United Mine Workers*
23 *of America*, 512 U.S. at 829. Thus, a civil contemnor must be given an “opportunity to reduce or
24 avoid [a] fine through compliance.” *Id.* (citing *Penfield Co. of Cal. v. SEC*, 330 U.S. 585, 588
25 (1947)).

26 In light of the foregoing principles, the court now notifies defendants that the
27 provisions of this order requiring them to come into full and permanent compliance with Program
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1 Guide timelines for transfer to inpatient care by May 15, 2017 will be enforceable by civil
2 contempt proceedings and, if necessary, imposition of monetary sanctions to coerce compliance.

3 Beginning with their May 15, 2017 Census and Waitlists Report for Inpatient
4 Mental Health Care (monthly report),⁴ defendants shall include in the monthly report (1) the total
5 number of inmate-patients, if any, who waited beyond Program Guide timelines for transfer to an
6 acute inpatient mental health care program; (2) the total number of inmate-inpatients, if any, who
7 waited beyond Program Guide timelines for transfer to an ICF mental health care program; (3) the
8 number of days each inmate-patient waited beyond Program Guide timelines; and (4) the total
9 number of inmate-patient wait days for the month (category (1) plus category (2) plus category
10 (3)). Fines in the amount of \$1,000 per inmate-patient per day will begin accumulating on May
11 16, 2017.

12 Pending development of the Program Guide addendum required by this order, *see*
13 Section III(C), *supra*, defendants shall include with their monthly report the total number of
14 inmate-patient days they believe should be excluded from the total reported and an explanation
15 why those days should be excluded. In addition, defendants shall report to the Special Master on
16 a monthly basis concerning all inmate-patients referred for inpatient care whose referrals are
17 rejected or rescinded and, to the extent defendants do not already provide this information, the
18 reason(s) for the rejections or rescissions. The Special Master will be directed to report to the
19 court forthwith should there be an appreciable increase in the number of such rejections and/or
20 rescissions.

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22 ⁴ The templates submitted by defendants on March 15, 2017, ECF No. 5577, are
23 approved, with the additions required by this order. Plaintiffs' objections to the omission of
24 certain templates and data, *see* ECF No. 5582, remain pending before the court and will be
25 resolved by subsequent order. It is the court's view that, as a general matter, point-in-time data
26 represents at best a partial snapshot of information relevant to remediation of these matters and
27 the additional templates plaintiffs seek would appear to be most useful to defendants as an aid in
28 identification and targeted remediation of any ongoing non-compliance with Program Guide
timelines. In view of the court's decision to proceed with enforcement of the Program Guide
timelines, the issue now is whether such trend data needs to be filed with the court. Again, that
will be resolved by subsequent order.

1 This matter will be set for hearing on November 3, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. in
2 Courtroom # 3 for consideration of findings of contempt and requirement of payment of fines that
3 may have accumulated on or after May 16, 2017. If no fines have accumulated, the hearing will
4 be vacated. Given the representations by defendants in their brief concerning the steps they are
5 taking, *inter alia*, to add capacity as well as to ensure appropriate inpatient bed utilization and
6 timely movement of inmate-patients to inpatient programs consistent with the inmates' least
7 restrictive housing (LRH) designations, the court is hopeful that contempt proceedings will not be
8 required and, instead, that defendants will finally achieve full, ongoing, and permanent
9 compliance with this aspect of their remedial plan.

10 IV. COMPLIANCE WITH MHCB TRANSFER TIMELINES

11 The court has also directed the parties to brief whether a court order requiring
12 compliance with Program Guidelines for transfer to MHCBs should require 90 percent
13 compliance across CDCR institutions or 100 percent compliance with defined exceptions as
14 appropriate, and whether a similar order imposing monetary sanctions for violations is an
15 appropriate remedy. *See* ECF No. 5583 at 21-23, 25-26.

16 After review of the record and the focused briefing by the parties, the court is
17 persuaded that full compliance with the twenty-four hour timeline for transfer to MHCBs is
18 required to satisfy the Eighth Amendment. An inmate in need of an MHCB level of care is, by
19 definition, in a mental health crisis. *See* Program Guide, 2009 Revision, at 12-5-1. As noted
20 above, the twenty-four hour timeline for transfer to an MHCB represents defendants' assessment
21 of what is necessary to meet their Eighth Amendment obligations to inmates in mental health
22 crises. *See* Section II(B)(2), *supra*. As plaintiffs cogently argue, “[t]he Court would not
23 countenance Defendants’ failure to timely transfer one out of every ten prisoners suffering a
24 medical crisis to an emergency room; neither should it permit Defendants to fail to timely transfer
25 one out of every ten prisoners undergoing life-threatening mental health crises” to an MHCB.
26 ECF No. 5593 at 19.

27 While the court intends to issue an enforcement order requiring 100 percent
28 compliance with the twenty-four hour timelines for transfers to MHCBs, subject to exceptions set

1 forth in an addendum to be developed as required by this order, the parties both suggest that
2 defendants could not, at present, comply with such an order. Plaintiffs contend additional
3 evidence is required to understand the “extent and root causes of delayed transfers to MHCBS, to
4 ensure that Defendants’ system is currently capable of full compliance with the Program Guide’s
5 literal transfer timelines requirements, and, if appropriate, to issue further targeted remedial
6 orders subsequent to that hearing and prior to considering monetary sanctions.” ECF No. 5593 at
7 21. Plaintiffs present evidence and a number of focused arguments targeting possible
8 explanations for defendants’ failure to meet the twenty-four hour transfer timeline for MCHBs, as
9 well as asserted omissions in reporting that would assist in understanding and remedying the
10 delays. *See id.* at 22-25. Defendants state “they need additional capacity to completely address
11 the needs of the class” for MHCB care, and they point to a number of “initiatives” they “have
12 undertaken” as part of a continuing effort to meet the needs of class members who require MHCB
13 care. ECF No. 5595 at 8-10.

14 The data available to the court shows the following. The Fall 2016 population
15 projections forecast a need for this year of 495 male MHCBS and 30 female MHCBS. ECF No.
16 5542-1 at 116, 122. Defendants currently have only 427 male MHCBS and 22 female MHCBS.
17 ECF No. 5577 at 11. These data alone suggest defendants do not presently have sufficient
18 capacity to meet the need for MHCBS level of care. Moreover, defendants’ reporting to the court
19 does not capture completely the scope of delays. According to defendants’ March 15, 2017
20 monthly report, as of February 27, 2017, six male inmates and six female inmates had been
21 waiting more than twenty-four hours for MHCBS placement. *Id.* However, the HCPOP report for
22 February 2017 shows that of 671 inmates placed in MHCBS in February 2017, 507 were placed
23 within the twenty-four hour time frame while 164 waited longer than twenty-four hours for
24 placement. A copy of the last page of that report is attached as Exhibit A to this order. The briefs
25 of both parties suggest myriad possible reasons for the ongoing large number of inmates waiting
26 longer than twenty-four hours to be transferred to an MHCBS.

27 Good cause appearing, this matter will be set for status conference and, as
28 necessary, evidentiary hearing on August 29, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. The purpose of the status, which

1 will not exceed one day, will be for the court to take evidence on obstacles to full compliance
2 with the Program Guide timeline for transfer to MHCBS and targeted remedies for achieving such
3 compliance. To facilitate preparation for that hearing, the Special Master shall forthwith convene
4 a workgroup to focus on outstanding issues related to compliance with the Program Guide
5 timeline for transfer to MHCBS, including but not limited to (1) use of alternative housing when
6 an inmate-patient is referred to an MHCBS; and (2) any and all obstacles to full compliance with
7 the twenty-four timeline for transfer to MHCBS. The purpose of the workgroup meetings are to
8 identify those issues that must be addressed, to resolve any and all issues the parties can resolve
9 without court intervention, and to identify any issues that remain for consideration and resolution
10 by the court. The workgroup shall also develop an addendum to the Program Guide delineating
11 exceptions, if any, to the twenty-four hour timelines requirement.

12 Not later than July 28, 2017, the parties shall file a joint report, approved by the
13 Special Master, which shall contain (1) a description of issues, if any, resolved by the workgroup
14 and the substance of agreements reached; (2) a focused and comprehensive list of issues that
15 remain for resolution by the court; and (3) a list of witnesses and other evidence the parties
16 propose to offer at the evidentiary hearing. The court encourages the presentation of declarations
17 in lieu of direct testimony, as appropriate. The court will review the submission of the parties and
18 may modify the scope of the evidentiary hearing.

19 In accordance with the above, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that:

20 1. On or before May 15, 2017, defendants shall come into full and permanent
21 compliance with Program Guide timelines for transfer of inmate-patients to acute and
22 intermediate care facility programs. This order applies to both male and female inmate-patients.
23 This order will be enforceable by civil contempt proceedings and, if necessary, imposition of
24 monetary sanctions to coerce compliance.

25 2. The parties shall meet and confer under the supervision of the Special Master
26 to develop an addendum to the Program Guide that identifies circumstances under which time
27 after an inmate-patient is referred to inpatient mental health care should be excluded from
28 Program Guide timelines for transfer to such care and timelines for completion of the referral

1 process when such circumstances are present. Said addendum shall be completed and submitted
2 to the court for review and final approval within forty-five days.

3 3. Beginning with the May 15, 2017 Census and Waitlists Report for Inpatient
4 Mental Health Care (monthly report), defendants shall include in the monthly report (1) the total
5 number of inmate-patients, if any, who waited beyond Program Guide timelines for transfer to an
6 acute inpatient mental health care program; (2) the total number of inmate-patients, if any, who
7 waited beyond Program Guide timelines for transfer to an ICF mental health care program; (3) the
8 number of days each inmate-patient waited beyond Program Guide timelines; and (4) the total
9 number of inmate-patient wait days for the month (category (1) plus category (2) plus category
10 (3)). Pending development of the addendum required by paragraph 2 of this order, defendants
11 shall include with their monthly report the total number of inmate-patient days they believe
12 should be excluded from the total reported and an explanation why those days should be
13 excluded.

14 4. Beginning on or before May 15, 2017, defendants shall report to the Special
15 Master monthly concerning all inmate-patients referred for inpatient care whose referrals are
16 rejected or rescinded and, to the extent defendants do not already provide this information, the
17 reason(s) for the rejections or rescissions. The Special Master shall report to the court forthwith
18 should there be an appreciable increase in the number of such rejections and/or rescissions.

19 5. This matter is set for hearing on November 3, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. in Courtroom
20 # 3 for consideration of findings of contempt and requirement of payment of fines that may have
21 accumulated on or after May 16, 2017. If no fines have accumulated, the hearing will be vacated.

22 6. This matter is set for status conference and, as necessary, a one day evidentiary
23 hearing on August 29, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. to address achievement of full compliance with the
24 twenty-four hour Program Guide transfer timeline to mental health crisis beds.

25 7. The Special Master shall forthwith convene a workgroup to focus on
26 outstanding issues related to compliance with the Program Guide timeline for transfer to mental
27 health crisis beds as described in this order.

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8. Not later than July 28, 2017, the parties shall file a joint report, which shall contain (1) a description of issues, if any, resolved by the workgroup and the substance of agreements reached; (2) a focused and comprehensive list of issues that remain for resolution by the court; and (3) a list of witnesses and other evidence the parties propose to offer at the evidentiary hearing. The court will accept declarations in lieu of direct testimony, as appropriate. The court will review the submission of the parties and will advise the parties if it is modifying the scope of any evidentiary hearing.

9. The workgroup convened in accordance with paragraph 7 of this order shall also develop an addendum to the Program Guide that identifies exclusions, if any, to the Program Guide timeline for transfer to mental health crisis bed care. Said addendum shall be completed and submitted to the court for review and final approval within forty-five days.

DATED: April 19, 2017.


UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE