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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

SANDIPKUMAR TANDEL,

Plaintiff,

v.

COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO, et al.,

Defendants.

No. 2:11-cv-00353-MCE-AC

(Consolidated with No. 2:09-cv-00842-MCE-
GGH)

MEMORANDUM AND ORDER

Through this consolidated proceeding, Plaintiff Sandipkumar Tandel (“Plaintiff”) alleges that his civil rights were violated during two separate detentions at the Sacramento County Main Jail (“the Jail”) from February 7, 2007 to May 20, 2007, and from March 23, 2010 to May 10, 2010. Presently before the Court is a Motion for Summary Judgment brought on behalf of all remaining named Defendants in this action except for Defendant Chris Smith, M.D., whose counsel filed a separate Motion for Summary Judgment on his behalf.¹ Moving Defendants here, the County of Sacramento, Sheriff John McGuiness, Ann Marie Boylan, Michael Sotak, M.D., Susan

¹ Dr. Smith’s concurrently filed Motion for Summary Judgment (ECF No. 136) was granted by Memorandum and Order filed March 4, 2014 (ECF No. 166). Some of Plaintiff’s factual citations in support of the present motion refer to evidence submitted on Dr. Smith’s behalf. References in this order to that evidence will be designated as “Smith MSJ,” followed by the appropriate exhibit and ECF number designations.

1 Kroner, RN, Agnes R. Felicano, NP, Glayol Sahba, M.D., Richard Bauer, M.D., and
2 Deputies Stephanie Jacoby, Mark Medeiros, and Mark Iwasa, allege that they are
3 entitled to summary judgment as to Plaintiff's claims due to the absence of any triable
4 issues of fact.

5 Plaintiff's first and second causes of action allege violations of the Fourteenth
6 Amendment to the United States Constitution, against both supervisory and medical
7 defendants, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1983. Then, in his third through fifth claims, Plaintiff
8 asserts so-called Monell claims against the County of Sacramento alleging liability for
9 1) its custom and practice in permitting the alleged lapses in denying or delaying
10 Plaintiff's medical care to occur; 2) its failure to properly train custodial staff; and 3) its
11 failure to adequately staff and supervise custody and medical personnel. Plaintiff
12 thereafter, in his seventh claim, goes on to allege violations of both the Rehabilitation Act
13 of 1973, 29 U.S.C. § 701, et seq. ("Rehabilitation Act") and Title II of the Americans with
14 Disabilities Act, 42 U.S.C. § 12101, et seq. ("ADA"). Finally, Plaintiff makes several
15 claims sounding in state law, including a claim for violation of California Government
16 Code § 845.6.² As set forth below, Defendants' Motion for Summary Judgment as to
17 those claims is GRANTED in part and DENIED in part.³

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21 ² Plaintiff's remaining claims have been narrowed both through previous Rule 12(b)(6) motions as
22 well as concessions made by Plaintiff in opposition to the present motion. Various defendants have been
23 dismissed voluntarily, either from the case in its entirety or from various claims. Additionally, the Court's
24 Memorandum and Order filed August 22, 2012 (ECF No. 93) dismissed Plaintiff's Sixth Claim for Relief,
25 which alleged retaliation in violation of the First Amendment. Plaintiff's Opposition to this Motion agrees to
dismiss the Eighth Claim for Relief, which alleged violations of California Civil Code § 52.1. Plaintiff's
26 Opposition also agrees to dismiss the Tenth and Eleventh Claims for Relief (alleging Negligence and
27 Medical Negligence, respectively, against Defendant County, as well as Defendants Sotok, Bauer, and
28 Sahba). Finally, the Opposition agrees to dismiss Defendant Wilson from this case in its entirety.

³ The Court notes that Defendants' Motion is specifically denominated as a request for summary
judgment, and the Notice of Motion contains no reference to partial summary judgment being sought
against particular claims involving the various defendants. Nonetheless, since the body of Defendants'
Opening Points and Authorities does state that Defendants "move for summary judgment and/or summary
adjudication of the claims that arise from Plaintiff's Consolidated Second Amended Complaint" (1:12-13),
the Court will treat this motion as alternatively requesting partial summary judgment.

BACKGROUND

This is a complicated case involving numerous claims, multiple defendants, a rare disease, and two separate periods of incarceration.

On February 7, 2007, Plaintiff was arrested and incarcerated at the Sacramento County Main Jail (“the Jail”) as a pre-trial detainee. Thereafter, on April 27, 2007, he suffered a head injury as a result of an altercation with two other inmates. Defendants’ Statement of Undisputed Fact (“SUF”), No. 56. In addition to a laceration above his right eye, Plaintiff complained of a slight headache but no dizziness, nausea, or vomiting. Id. at Nos. 63-65. Plaintiff was sent to the Doctor’s Center in Sacramento, an urgent care facility, where his wound was cleaned and sutured before a tetanus vaccination was administered. Id. at No. 59. Plaintiff was thereafter sent back to the Jail with instructions to remove the sutures in five days, and to keep the wound clean in the meantime.

The day after returning from urgent care, Plaintiff complained of ongoing headaches when he was evaluated by a nurse. Two days later, on April 30, 2007, Plaintiff continued to complain of headaches when evaluated by Dr. Asa Hambly. Defendants contend, however, that Plaintiff made no complaints regarding the need for ongoing medical care during the following two weeks, from May 1, 2007 to May 12, 2007. See id. at No. 70. According to Defendants, during this period, Plaintiff failed to sign up for so-called “Nurses’ Sick Call (“NSC”), the primary vehicle through which inmates could seek care for most non-urgent matters. Id. at No. 12. If Plaintiff had signed up on the NSC list, he would have been seen the following day by either a Registered Nurse or Nurse Practitioner, and potentially referred to a physician for further evaluation thereafter. Id. at No. 13. Defendants further allege that Plaintiff did not seek walk-in care, contact custody personnel about his medical issues through his cell intercom or during the hourly cells checks or security count, or take advantage of any other opportunity to inform custody or medical staff of any medical issue. See id. at No. 71. Plaintiff takes issue with Defendants’ assertions in that regard, claiming that

1 between May 5, 2007 and May 16, 2007, he repeatedly attempted to complain, by use of
2 his call button, about continuing severe head pain, inability to sleep, and the need for
3 prescribed ointment and clean water to keep his wound disinfected. Pl.'s Ex. 2 at ¶¶
4 121-25; Ex. 25 at 66:22-67:17.⁴ Although unit housing logs were supposed to document
5 the use of a call button for a medical emergency (Defs.' Ex. 32 at ¶ 16), the logs for the
6 unit where Plaintiff was housed were silent as to these alleged complaints until May 13,
7 2013. See Defs.' Ex. 3.

8 On May 13, 2007, after alerting custodial staff during an hourly cell check that he
9 was having head pain, Plaintiff was seen by registered nurse Henry Carl. SUF at Nos.
10 75, 77. Plaintiff reported headaches for the past four days, but did not complain about
11 his vision or pain involving his eyes. Id. at No. 13. Plaintiff's vital signs were normal, his
12 speech was clear, and Carl's examination showed his pupils were equal and reactive to
13 light, with full and smooth extraocular eye movements. Id. at No. 78. Nurse Carl
14 consulted with Defendant Chris Smith, M.D., over the phone about Plaintiff's headaches
15 and the need to remove his sutures. Dr. Smith ordered removal of Plaintiff's sutures and
16 prescribed 800 milligrams of Motrin, to be taken twice a day for a period of fourteen
17 days, to alleviate Plaintiff's headaches. Consistent with Dr. Smith's orders, Nurse Carl
18 removed Plaintiff's sutures that same day. Id. at Nos. 79-80.

19 On or about May 14, 2007, Plaintiff again sought medical attention on a walk-in
20 basis, complaining of headaches, sensitivity to light, and a nasal drip. Id. at No. 82.
21 Plaintiff was examined by a nurse, Jim Austin, who found no evidence of ocular or
22 neurological involvement, and Plaintiff was returned to his cell. Id. at Nos. 83-84.
23 Plaintiff's cellmate, Jose Govea, nonetheless subsequently reported that Plaintiff had
24 been exhibiting symptoms of gait impairment and neurological deficits by May 16th,
25 stating as follows:

26 ⁴ The Court notes that both sides have objected to certain evidence proffered in support of their
27 respective positions in this matter. Most of the evidence at issue in this regard has not been relied upon
28 by the Court in ruling on Defendants' Motion. The accordingly need to rule on those objections and
declines to do so. To the extent that evidence cited in this Memorandum and Order was subject to
objection, those objections are overruled.

1 "Tandel was always stumbling as he walked, but the guards
2 didn't take notice. I told the guards that Tandel needed
3 medicine, but the guards said the doctor will see him. Other
inmates told the guard that he needed medical attention, but I
don't know if they gave him medicine or anything!"

4 Pl.'s Ex. 8.

5 On May 17, 2007, Plaintiff collapsed while taking a shower when he lost control of
6 his legs. SUF at No. 93. Plaintiff claims he yelled for help for 30 minutes or more (Pl.'s
7 Ex. 25 at 129:1-14) and eventually, since he was unable to get up, had to put on his
8 underwear, pants and shirt by "rolling around the floor." Id. at 125:17-21. Deputy Pablito
9 Gaddis eventually responded to Plaintiff's request for help, but allegedly failed to use the
10 radio to properly alert medical and custody staff of the emergency. According to Plaintiff,
11 in violation of Jail policy, Gaddis also failed to file an incident or casualty report. Gaddis
12 and another deputy were admonished for failing to properly respond to, report, and log
13 the shower incident, and Gaddis was formally disciplined for his handling and reporting
14 of the incident. Pl.'s Ex. 35; Ex. 17 at 126:5-15, 130:1-131:5.

15 After Plaintiff was taken by wheelchair for evaluation, he told Nurse Carl about his
16 unexplained loss of use of his extremities and collapse. SUF at Nos. 98-99. Plaintiff
17 alleges that Carl failed to conduct an adequate medical assessment of a patient with an
18 apparent spinal cord injury or neurological disorder, although Carl's chart notes indicate
19 that Plaintiff's lower extremity reflexes were positive and that Plaintiff was able to take
20 his shoes off. Id. at Nos. 101-02. Carl ordered Plaintiff returned to his cell, without
21 arranging for any medical follow up. Carl alleges that when released to return to his cell,
22 Plaintiff walked without assistance. Id. at No. 104. This is disputed by Tandel.

23 On May 18, 2007, Plaintiff had a sudden and acute loss of vision in his left eye
24 and started noticing that he was unable to move his lower extremities. He was also
25 suffering from urinary retention and constipation, and found he could not control his
26 bladder and bowels. Pl.'s Ex. 2 at ¶¶ 32-33, 39; Smith MSJ, Ex. H, ECF No. 136-12 at
27 241-46; Defs.' Ex. 1 at 113-14. According to Plaintiff, he repeatedly rang the
28 emergency bell to summon help and informed the officers on duty that his legs did not

1 work, that he could not urinate, and that he was going blind, but was told to stop using
2 the call button and that “this was not going to kill me.” Pl.’s Ex 2 at ¶¶ 32-35, 39. On
3 May 19th, after Plaintiff claims to have repeatedly used the call button to frantically
4 request help,⁵ the custody officers allegedly punished the entire pod by removing
5 dayroom privileges and locking the entire pod down for the day due to what appears to
6 have been Plaintiff’s excessive use of the call button for aid. Defs.’ Ex. 4 at 395; Ex. 3 at
7 337. Moreover, on May 19th, when officers finally responded, they simply fold Plaintiff to
8 sign up for non-emergent NSC the following day. Pl.’s Ex 4 at 392.

9 Then, on May 20th, Plaintiff again activated the call button in his cell, telling
10 custody staff that he was in severe pain and had lost consciousness. SUF at No. 113.
11 Plaintiff was transported by wheelchair to the Jail’s infirmary and, when initially examined
12 by Nurse Carl, stated his “legs don’t work.” Id. at No. 116. Nurse Carl’s own
13 examination of Plaintiff was normal, and he noted no gross injuries or other
14 abnormalities that could account for Plaintiff’s symptomatology. Id. at Nos. 118-19.
15 Nevertheless, since this was the second time he had seen Plaintiff with virtually identical
16 complaints and physical presentation, Nurse Carl referred Plaintiff for further evaluation
17 by Dr. Smith. Id. at No. 120.

18 At the time of Dr. Smith’s examination at 12:30 p.m. on May 20th, Plaintiff’s only
19 complaint, consistent with what he told Nurse Carl that morning, was that his legs “didn’t
20 work.” Dr. Smith conducted a physical and neurological examination of Plaintiff that
21 included both his upper and lower extremities. He found no neurological defects or other
22 abnormalities consistent with Plaintiff’s claim that his legs did not work, and accordingly
23 concluded that there was no reason why Plaintiff could not ambulate. Id. at Nos. 120-21.
24 He cleared him to return to his cell. Id. at No. 122.

25 About eight hours after Dr. Smith’s examination, Plaintiff was observed sitting on
26 the floor of his cell, and told custodial staff that he could not move due to constipation.

27 ⁵ Plaintiff estimates he pushed his call button, screaming for help, up to 40 times. Pl.’s Ex. 2 at ¶
28 35, Pl.’s Ex. 25 at 142:6-143:6.

1 Id. at No. 132. According to Plaintiff's medical chart, an examination revealed for the
2 first time that Plaintiff had vision changes, signaling a potential neurological issue. Id. at
3 No. 135. In contrast with Dr. Smith's examination earlier that day, Plaintiff's left pupil
4 was noted to be sluggish, and his right upper extremities were noted to be weaker than
5 those on the left. After being notified of Plaintiff's condition by phone, the Jail's on-call
6 physician at that time, Dr. Horowitz, ordered Plaintiff to be transferred to an outside
7 emergency room for evaluation. Plaintiff was thereafter taken to the U.C. Davis Medical
8 Center for assessment. Id. at No. 136.

9 At the time of his initial evaluation in the Emergency Room, Plaintiff identified
10 "very vague" symptomatology to the examining physician, J. Douglas Kirk, M.D.,
11 including some left eye blindness along with a generalized weakness in his legs that had
12 progressed into paralysis of the lower extremities. The admission note describes
13 Plaintiff's urine and bowel retention as consistent with being unable to urinate or
14 defecate for the past three days. Smith MSJ, Ex. H, ECF No. 136-12 at 241-46. The
15 lower extremity weakness, however, appeared to resolve after persistent testing of
16 Plaintiff's strength, and the blindness in Plaintiff's left eye also resolved in the course of
17 Dr. Kirk's initial examination. These discrepancies caused Dr. Kirk to note
18 inconsistencies in Plaintiff's presentation of physical signs and symptoms. SUF at
19 No. 139.

20 Plaintiff's symptomatology initially continued to baffle his attending doctors at
21 UCD, which included infectious disease specialists, critical care specialists, and
22 neurologists (Id. at No. 145), and it was not until the sixth day of his hospitalization at
23 the U.C. Davis Medical Center that Plaintiff was ultimately diagnosed with Acute
24 Disseminated Encephalomyelitis ("ADEM"). ADEM is a neurological disorder
25 characterized by inflammation of the brain and spinal cord caused by damage to the
26 myelin sheath. Vaccination for Tetanus is allegedly a known cause of ADEM. As a
27 result of Plaintiff's initial bout with what was believed to be ADEM, he was rendered a T4
28 paraplegic. Plaintiff requires catheterization to void his bladder, and further needs stool

1 softeners, suppositories, and digital stimulation to move his bowels. Id. at No. 150. The
2 initial attack also damaged Plaintiff's left optic nerve and left him with decreased vision
3 on that side. Id. at No. 151. Plaintiff alleges that delay in receiving treatment
4 exacerbated those symptoms.

5 Ultimately, given the nature and severity of his condition, Plaintiff was released
6 from incarceration in 2007. Although his disease process was inactive, Plaintiff
7 nonetheless suffered from chronic pain as a result of the neurological damage he
8 sustained, requiring appropriate pain medication and physical therapy. Pl.'s Ex. 13 at
9 23:22-24:8; Defs.' Ex. 39 at 1366-68. Plaintiff eventually became capable of managing
10 his bowels without regular accidents. His family provided constant nursing care to
11 ensure that he was clean and not sitting or lying in his own feces, and further ensured
12 that no pressure sores were developing. Pl.'s Ex 24 at 37:6-22; Ex. 4 at ¶¶ 14-16; Ex. 2
13 at ¶ 49).

14 In 2009, Plaintiff filed a lawsuit against the County and a number of individual
15 defendants under 42 U.S.C. § 1983 alleging his civil rights' violations during the 2007
16 detention. (See Pl.'s Second Am. Compl., Case No. 2:09-cv-0842-MEC-GGH, ECF
17 No. 43.)

18 In 2010, Plaintiff went to the Stanford Neuroimmunology Clinic for a second
19 opinion concerning his condition. As a result of Stanford's assessment, Plaintiff's
20 diagnosis was changed to Neuromyelitis Optica ("NMO") as opposed to ADEM. SUF at
21 Nos. 152-53. NMO is a recurrent autoimmune disorder in which the immune system
22 repetitively attacks and injures the central nervous system and, more specifically, the
23 optic nerves and spinal cord. NMO is an extremely rare disease, being only about
24 1/100th as common as multiple sclerosis, a similar autoimmune disorder of the nervous
25 system.

26 On March 23, 2010, Plaintiff was again arrested and detained as a pretrial
27 detainee at the Jail, this time for purchasing ammunition in violation of the terms of his
28 release. At the time of his 2010 arrest, Plaintiff required a wheelchair and was unable to

1 move from the nipple line down. Plaintiff's medical record also allegedly indicates that,
2 during the 2010 detention, all Defendants were aware of Plaintiff's serious neurologic
3 autoimmune disease and that Plaintiff required appropriate treatment. After he was
4 booked, a nurse practitioner, Defendant Agnes Felicano, noted Plaintiff's need for
5 catheters and wrote an order for four. She also wrote an order authorizing him to keep a
6 urinal with him at all times. While Felicano offered Plaintiff Ultram to manage pain, he
7 refused it. Id. at Nos. 177-181. The following day, March 24th, Plaintiff was seen by two
8 physicians, Defendants Richard Bauer and Michael Sotak, as well as two nurses.
9 Plaintiff was ultimately given straight catheters, a suppository for bowel care, and an egg
10 crate mattress. Id. at Nos. 182-184.

11 On March 25, 2010, Plaintiff allegedly threatened suicide and admitted that the
12 reason he purchased ammunition was to effectuate a suicide attempt in the wake of his
13 NMO diagnosis. See id. at 185. Defendant Gloyal Sahba, M.D., subsequently put
14 Plaintiff on a suicide watch. Defendant Sotak conferred with Medical Director of Jail
15 Psychiatric Services, Defendant Greg Sokolov, concerning a plan to address both his
16 acute suicidality and his special medical needs. Id. at No. 187. Defendant contends that
17 while on suicide watch between March 27th and March 27th [??], Plaintiff not only
18 received standard psychiatric precautions and services, but also continued to receive the
19 same level of healthcare as other inmates housed in the medical unit. Id. at Nos. 188-
20 193. Plaintiff disagrees, and states that the Jail's psychiatric unit was unable to handle a
21 catheterized patient with his medical issues. According to Plaintiff, Defendants Sokolov,
22 Sahba, and Sotak knowingly left Plaintiff "to lay naked, on a mattress on the floor, unable
23 to adequately move, unable to reach the call button, in severe pain, under-medicated,
24 and without adequate supplies or treatment to urinate or defecate cleanly and regularly
25 for a period of three days." Consolidated Second Am. Compl., ECF No. 73 at ¶ 172.
26 This assertion is countered by Defendants, who claim that Plaintiff refused his morning
27 pain medication between March 25th and 29th, and was provided all necessary medical
28 supplies, including catheters. Plaintiff nonetheless claims he urinated on himself

1 numerous times, was unable to have regular bowel movements, and developed bed
2 sores. Pl.'s Ex 2, at ¶¶ 85-86, 90-9. Plaintiff also contends the bed sores worsened
3 because of his lack of access to medical care. Pl.'s Ex. 6 at ¶¶ 25-27; Ex. 2 at ¶¶ 86, 91.

4 On April 7, 2010, Plaintiff was inexplicably transferred out of the medical unit and
5 into the general population section of the Jail. Defs.' Ex. 2 at 2237. Plaintiff claims this
6 move decreased his access to medical care during a time when his symptoms were
7 worsening.

8 On April 9, 2010, Plaintiff complained to Dr. Sabha of a burning sensation on the
9 tip of his penis during urination and pressure sores on his inner knees. SUF at No. 200.
10 Sabha ordered an ointment to be applied to Plaintiff's knees, a double mattress, a urine
11 culture, and a test for sexually transmitted diseases. Id. at Nos. 202-04.

12 Although Dr. Sabha purportedly increased the dosage of Plaintiff's pain
13 medication (Id. at No. 205), Plaintiff's neighboring inmate allegedly pressed the call
14 button on Plaintiff's behalf several times after hearing Plaintiff screaming in agony, but
15 custody staff never responded. Defendant Deputies Jacoby and Medeiros, who worked
16 the day shift on April 11th, informed oncoming night shift personnel that they were
17 having problems with Plaintiff "[y]elling and screaming and causing a problem hitting the
18 button constantly . . ." Pl.'s Ex. 28 at 70:19-71:25. In contravention of Jail policy, no
19 entries were logged relating to these complaint or to Plaintiff's emergency intercom
20 usage. Defs.' Ex. 5 at 5380-82.

21 It is undisputed that late on the evening of April 11th, Plaintiff activated his
22 emergency intercom and complained of pain with catheterization. SUF at No. 208. A
23 supervising registered nurse, Charles Munn, responded when custody staff notified him
24 of Plaintiff's complaint. Munn provided narcotic pain medication and transferred to the
25 Jail's medical unit for observation and further testing. Id. at Nos. 211-12. A urine dip
26 test was subsequently taken. Id. at No. 214. On April 13, 2010, Defendant Bauer
27 prescribed an antibiotic to Plaintiff to alleviate a urinary tract infection, and also switched
28 Plaintiff's pain medication to Norco. Id. at Nos. 219-220.

1 On April 22, 2010, Plaintiff was seen by Defendant Susan Kroner, a registered
2 nurse. He complained of burning pain, rated as a 9 on a scale of 1 to 10, in his left knee,
3 and for the first time stated that for the previous two weeks he had been experiencing
4 blurry vision involving the left eye. Id. at Nos. 227-28. Kroner performed a vision test,
5 and noted that Plaintiff's vision in the right eye was better than his left. Given that
6 discrepancy, Kroner referred Plaintiff to be seen by a physician the following day. Id. at
7 No. 231. She failed to arrange for any more immediate care.

8 On April 23rd, Plaintiff was again seen by Dr. Sabha. In addition to continuing to
9 identify penile pain, Plaintiff further reported generalized pain in his legs and back, as
10 well as vision changes. Id. at Nos. 234-35. After examining Plaintiff, Sabha prescribed
11 Flexeril for back pain, ordered follow-up urinalysis for a potentially continuing urinary
12 tract infection, and, because of Plaintiff's vision complaints, requested referrals to an
13 ophthalmologist and a neurologist. Id. at Nos. 235-236.

14 According to Defendants, Plaintiff was also evaluated by Dr. Bauer on five
15 occasions, between April 27, 2010 and May 4, 2010 for management of his chronic pain.
16 Id. at No. 237. Over this period, Bauer changed Plaintiff's pain medication and adjusted
17 his dosages in an attempt to better manage Plaintiff's chronic discomfort. Id. at No. 238.

18 On May 4, 2010, Plaintiff was also seen by Dr. Sotak. He complained of a double
19 vision episode that had resolved, as well as muscle stiffness and weight loss, apparently
20 because of Plaintiff declining to eat some of his food because of religious preferences.
21 Dr. Sotak prescribed high-calorie liquids, along with physical therapy. Id. at Nos. 246-27.

22 On May 9, 2010, Plaintiff was seen by Dr. Bauer and reported both headaches
23 and pain in his right eye for three days. Because Dr. Bauer's exam showed Plaintiff's
24 eye movements to be intact, and because Bauer believed that Plaintiff's headaches
25 were potentially attributable to an increased morphine dosage, he discontinued MS
26 Contin (morphine) and restarted Norco. Id. at Nos. 251-54. The next day, when
27 Plaintiff's continued complaints prompted an evaluation by Dr. Sotak, Dr. Sotak observed

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1 what appeared to be decreasing vision in Plaintiff's right eye, and referred Plaintiff for
2 emergency transfer to the U.C. Davis Medical Center. Id. at Nos. 256-57.

3 After being admitted to the Medical Center, an MRI confirmed the presence of
4 neuritis in Plaintiff's right optic nerve. Id. at No. 258. Plaintiff was diagnosed with a
5 recurrence of NMO and received treatment accordingly. Id. at No. 259.

6 Plaintiff alleges that medical Defendants' deliberate indifference resulted in and/or
7 increased the acuteness of his new attack and accelerated the recurrence of his
8 disease. Plaintiff claims this resulted in irreversible damage to new areas of myelin,
9 causing cumulative and permanent disfigurement and disability, as well as decreasing
10 Plaintiff's future opportunity for rehabilitation and his overall life expectancy.

11 12 STANDARD

13
14 The Federal Rules of Civil Procedure provide for summary judgment when "the
15 movant shows that there is no genuine dispute as to any material fact and the movant is
16 entitled to judgment as a matter of law." Fed. R. Civ. P. 56(a); see also Celotex Corp. v.
17 Catrett, 477 U.S. 317, 322 (1986). One of the principal purposes of Rule 56 is to
18 dispose of factually unsupported claims or defenses. Celotex, 477 U.S. at 325.

19 Rule 56 also allows a court to grant summary judgment on part of a claim or
20 defense, known as partial summary judgment. See Fed. R. Civ. P. 56(a) ("A party may
21 move for summary judgment, identifying each claim or defense—or the part of each
22 claim or defense—on which summary judgment is sought."); see also Allstate Ins. Co. v.
23 Madan, 889 F. Supp. 374, 378-79 (C.D. Cal. 1995). The standard that applies to a
24 motion for partial summary judgment is the same as that which applies to a motion for
25 summary judgment. See Fed. R. Civ. P. 56(a); State of Cal. ex rel. Cal. Dep't of Toxic
26 Substances Control v. Campbell, 138 F.3d 772, 780 (9th Cir. 1998) (applying summary
27 judgment standard to motion for summary adjudication).

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1 In a summary judgment motion, the moving party always bears the initial
2 responsibility of informing the court of the basis for the motion and identifying the
3 portions in the record “which it believes demonstrate the absence of a genuine issue of
4 material fact.” Celotex, 477 U.S. at 323. If the moving party meets its initial
5 responsibility, the burden then shifts to the opposing party to establish that a genuine
6 issue as to any material fact actually does exist. Matsushita Elec. Indus. Co. v. Zenith
7 Radio Corp., 475 U.S. 574, 586-87 (1986); First Nat’l Bank v. Cities Serv. Co., 391 U.S.
8 253, 288-89 (1968).

9 In attempting to establish the existence or non-existence of a genuine factual
10 dispute, the party must support its assertion by\

11 citing to particular parts of materials in the record, including
12 depositions, documents, electronically stored information,
13 affidavits[,] or declarations . . . or other materials; or showing
14 that the materials cited do not establish the absence or
presence of a genuine dispute, or that an adverse party
cannot produce admissible evidence to support the fact.

15 Fed. R. Civ. P. 56(c)(1). The opposing party must demonstrate that the fact in
16 contention is material, i.e., a fact that might affect the outcome of the suit under the
17 governing law. Anderson v. Liberty Lobby, Inc., 477 U.S. 242, 248, 251-52 (1986);
18 Owens v. Local No. 169, Assoc. of W. Pulp and Paper Workers, 971 F.2d 347, 355 (9th
19 Cir. 1987). The opposing party must also demonstrate that the dispute about a material
20 fact “is ‘genuine,’ that is, if the evidence is such that a reasonable jury could return a
21 verdict for the nonmoving party.” Anderson, 477 U.S. at 248. In other words, the judge
22 needs to answer the preliminary question before the evidence is left to the jury of “not
23 whether there is literally no evidence, but whether there is any upon which a jury could
24 properly proceed to find a verdict for the party producing it, upon whom the onus of proof
25 is imposed.” Anderson, 477 U.S. at 251 (quoting Improvement Co. v. Munson, 81 U.S.
26 442, 448 (1871)) (emphasis in original). As the Supreme Court explained, “[w]hen the
27 moving party has carried its burden under Rule [56(a)], its opponent must do more than
28 simply show that there is some metaphysical doubt as to the material facts.” Matsushita,

1 475 U.S. at 586. Therefore, “[w]here the record taken as a whole could not lead a
2 rational trier of fact to find for the nonmoving party, there is no ‘genuine issue for trial.’”
3 Id. at 87.

4 In resolving a summary judgment motion, the evidence of the opposing party is to
5 be believed, and all reasonable inferences that may be drawn from the facts placed
6 before the court must be drawn in favor of the opposing party. Anderson, 477 U.S. at
7 255. Nevertheless, inferences are not drawn out of the air, and it is the opposing party’s
8 obligation to produce a factual predicate from which the inference may be drawn.
9 Richards v. Nielsen Freight Lines, 602 F. Supp. 1224, 1244-45 (E.D. Cal. 1985), aff’d,
10 810 F.2d 898 (9th Cir. 1987).

12 ANALYSIS

14 A. Individual Liability under 42 U.S.C. § 1983

15 Under 42 U.S.C. § 1983, an individual like Plaintiff may sue “[e]very person who,
16 under color of [law] subjects” him “to the deprivation of any rights, privileges, or
17 immunities secured by the Constitution and laws.” For an inmate to bring a valid § 1983
18 claim against a prison official, Plaintiff must first “objectively show that he was deprived
19 of something serious. Foster v. Runnels, 554 F.3d 807, 812 (9th Cir. 2009) (quoting
20 Farmer v. Brennan, 511 U.S. 825, 834 (1994)). Then, Plaintiff must show that the
21 deprivation occurred with deliberate indifference to his health and safety. Id.

22 Individual capacity suits “seek to impose individual liability upon a government
23 officer for actions taken under color of state law.” Hafer v. Melo, 502 U.S. 21, 25 (1991).
24 Government officials may not be held liable for the unconstitutional conduct of their
25 subordinates under a theory of respondeat superior. Ashcroft v. Iqbal, 556 U.S. 662, 676
26 (2009). Rather, an individual may be liable for deprivation of constitutional rights “within
27 the meaning of § 1983, if he does an affirmative act, participates in another’s affirmative
28 acts, or omits to perform an act which he is legally required to do that causes the

1 deprivation of which complaint is made.” Preschooler II v. Clark County Sch. Bd. of
2 Trustees, 479 F.3d 1175, 1183 (9th Cir. 2007). Therefore, a plaintiff cannot demonstrate
3 the liability of a particular officer “without a showing of individual participation in the
4 unlawful conduct.” Jones v. Williams, 297 F.3d 930, 935 (9th Cir. 2002). Plaintiff must
5 “establish the integral participation of the officers in the alleged constitutional violation,”
6 which requires “some fundamental involvement in the conduct that allegedly caused the
7 violation.” Blankenhorn v. City of Orange, 485 F.3d 463, 481 n.12 (9th Cir. 2007);
8 Jones, 297 F.3d at 935.

9 Under § 1983, government officials acting as supervisors may be liable under
10 certain circumstances. “[W]hen a supervisor is found liable based on deliberate
11 indifference, the supervisor is being held liable for his or her own culpable action or
12 inaction, not held vicariously liable for the culpable action or inaction of his or her
13 subordinates.” Starr v. Baca, 652 F.3d 1202, 1207 (9th Cir. 2011). A defendant may be
14 held liable as a supervisor under § 1983 if there exists “either (1) his or her personal
15 involvement in the constitutional deprivation; or (2) a sufficient causal connection
16 between the supervisor’s wrongful conduct and the constitutional violation.” Hansen v.
17 Black, 885 F.2d 642, 646 (9th Cir. 1989); Starr, 652 F.3d at 1207.

18 A supervisor’s physical presence is not required for supervisory liability. Starr,
19 652 F.3d at 1205. Rather, the requisite causal connection between a supervisor’s
20 wrongful conduct and the violation of the prisoner’s Constitutional rights can be
21 established in a number of ways. The plaintiff may show that the supervisor set in
22 motion a series of acts by others, or knowingly refused to terminate a series of acts by
23 others, which the supervisor knew or reasonably should have known would cause others
24 to inflict a constitutional injury. Dubner v. City & County of San Francisco, 266 F.3d 959,
25 968 (9th Cir. 2001); Larez v. City of Los Angeles, 946 F.2d 630, 646 (9th Cir. 1991).
26 Similarly, a supervisor’s own culpable action or inaction in the training, supervision, or
27 control of his subordinates may establish supervisory liability. Starr, 652 F.3d at 1208;
28 Larez, 946 F.2d at 646. Finally, a supervisor’s acquiescence in the alleged constitutional

1 deprivation or conduct showing deliberate indifference toward the possibility that
2 deficient performance of the task may violate the rights of others, may establish the
3 requisite causal connection. Starr, 652 F.3d at 1208; Menotti v. City of Seattle, 409 F.3d
4 1113, 1149 (9th Cir. 2005).

5 **1. First Claim for Relief: Claims brought pursuant to 42 U.S.C.**
6 **§ 1983 for Fourteenth Amendment by Defendants McGuinness and**
7 **Boylan as a Result of Plaintiff's 2007 Incarceration.**

8 As a pretrial detainee at the time of his incarceration in 2007, Plaintiff was entitled
9 to be free of cruel and unusual punishment under the Due Process Clause of the
10 Fourteenth Amendment. Bell v. Wolfish, 441 U.S. 520, 537 n.16 (1979); Simmons v.
11 Navajo County, 609 F.3d 1011, 1017 (9th Cir. 2010). Plaintiff's alleged deprivation of
12 that right during his 2007 incarceration forms the constitutional predicate for his First
13 Claim for Relief.

14 The Due Process Clause requires that "persons in custody have the established
15 right to not have officials remain deliberately indifferent to their serious medical needs."
16 Gibson v. County of Washoe, 290 F.3d 1175, 1187 (9th Cir. 2002) (quoting Carnell v.
17 Grimm, 74 F.3d 977, 979 (9th Cir. 1996)). The government has an obligation to provide
18 medical care for those whom it punishes by incarceration. Estelle v. Gamble, 429 U.S.
19 97, 103 (1976). A pretrial detainee's due process right in this regard is violated when a
20 jailer fails to promptly and reasonably procure competent medical aid when the pretrial
21 detainee suffers a serious illness or injury while confined. Id. at 104-05. In order to
22 establish a plausible claim for failure to provide medical treatment, Plaintiff must plead
23 sufficient facts to permit the Court to infer that (1) Plaintiff had a "serious medical need,"
24 and that (2) individual Defendants were "deliberately indifferent" to that need. Jett v.
25 Penner, 439 F.3d 1091, 1096 (9th Cir. 2006); Farmer, 511 U.S. at 834.

26 Plaintiff can satisfy the "serious medical need" prong by demonstrating that
27 "failure to treat [his] condition could result in further significant injury or the unnecessary
28 and wanton infliction of pain." Jett, 439 F. 3d at 1096 (internal citations and quotations
omitted); Clement v. Gomez, 298 F.3d 898, 904 (9th Cir. 2002). Examples of such

1 serious medical needs include “[t]he existence of an injury that a reasonable doctor or
2 patient would find important and worthy of comment or treatment, the presence of a
3 medical condition that significantly affects an individual’s daily activities, or the existence
4 of chronic and substantial pain.” Lopez v. Smith, 203 F.3d 1122, 1131 (9th Cir. 2000).

5 The Court finds that Plaintiff alleges sufficient facts to make a plausible showing
6 that his medical need was serious. During both his 2007 and 2010 incarcerations,
7 Plaintiff contends he suffered from neurological issues that made him partially paralyzed
8 and unable to walk. Obviously, such a development would have affected Plaintiff’s daily
9 activities to the extent that a reasonable doctor would find such symptoms noteworthy.

10 The next issue for the Court is whether a defendant was deliberately indifferent to
11 plaintiff’s serious medical need. In Farmer, the Supreme Court explained in detail the
12 contours of the “deliberate indifference” standard. Specifically, an individual defendant is
13 not liable under the Fourteenth Amendment for his part in allegedly denying necessary
14 medical care unless he knew “of and disregard[ed] an excessive risk to [Plaintiff’s] health
15 and safety.” Farmer, 511 U.S. at 837; Gibson, 290 F.3d at 1187-88. Deliberate
16 indifference contains both an objective and subjective component: “the official must both
17 be aware of facts from which the inference could be drawn that a substantial risk of
18 serious harm exists, and he must also draw that inference.” Farmer, 511 U.S. at 837. “If
19 a person should have been aware of the risk, but was not,” then the standard of
20 deliberate indifference is not satisfied “no matter how severe the risk.” Gibson, 290 F.3d
21 at 1188 (citing Jeffers v. Gomez, 267 F.3d 895, 914 (9th Cir. 2001)). Plaintiff “need not
22 show that a prison official acted or failed to act believing that harm actually would befall
23 on inmate; it is enough that the official acted or failed to act despite his knowledge of a
24 substantial risk of serious harm.” Farmer, 511 U.S. at 842.

25 “The indifference to medical needs must be substantial; a constitutional violation
26 is not established by negligence or ‘an inadvertent failure to provide adequate medical
27 care.’” Anderson v. County of Kern, 45 F.3d 1310, 1316 (9th Cir. 1995) (quoting Estelle,
28 429 U.S. at 105-06). Generally, defendants are “deliberately indifferent to a prisoner’s

1 serious medical needs when they deny, delay, or intentionally interfere with medical
2 treatment.” Hallett v. Morgan, 296 F.3d 732, 744 (9th Cir. 2002); Lolli v. County of
3 Orange, 351 F.3d 410, 419 (9th Cir. 2003). Significantly, inadequate staffing can create
4 a risk of substantial harm in a prison setting sufficient to qualify as deliberate
5 indifference. See Hoptowit v. Ray, 682 F.2d 1237, 1251 (9th Cir. 1982), abrogated on
6 other grounds by Sandin v. Conner, 515 U.S. 472 (1995). However, “[i]solated incidents
7 of neglect do not constitute deliberate indifference.” Bowell v. Cal. Substance Abuse
8 Treatment Facility at Concoran, 2011 WL 2224817, at *3 (E.D. Cal. 2011) (citing Jett,
9 439 F.3d at 1096).

10 Finally, deliberate indifference also contains a causal component. Mere delay in
11 receiving medical treatment, without more, does not constitute “deliberate indifference,”
12 unless the plaintiff can show that the delay caused serious harm to the plaintiff. Wood v.
13 Housewright, 900 F.2d 1332, 1335 (9th Cir. 1990). Nevertheless, if a triable issue of fact
14 is demonstrated as to whether prison officials have exposed an inmate to a substantial
15 risk of harm so as to constitute deliberate indifference, the inmate will usually also be
16 able to demonstrate a triable issue of fact as to causation. Lemire v. Cal. Dep’t of Corr.
17 and Rehab., 726 F.3d 1062, 1080-81 (9th Cir. 2013). Moreover, if reasonable persons
18 could differ on the question of causation, then “summary judgment is inappropriate and
19 the question should be left to a jury.” White v. Roper, 901 F.2d 1501, 1506 (9th Cir.
20 1990).

21 With these standards in mind, we now look to the two individuals against whom
22 Plaintiff continues to claim deliberate indifference during the course of his 2007
23 incarceration.

24 **a. Defendant John McGinness**

25 John McGinness was the elected Sheriff of Sacramento County throughout the
26 course of both of Plaintiff’s incarcerations. As Sheriff, McGinness is ultimately
27 responsible for the Jail’s operation. Plaintiff alleges that McGinness was “aware of
28 longstanding and well-documented deficiencies in the Jail through the findings of

1 Sacramento Grand Jury investigations related to the overcrowding and understaffing of
2 the jail and the overall deficiencies in the main jail medical care delivery system.” PI.’s
3 Opp’n at 32:2-7. The Grand Jury’s 2005-06 report reported pervasive understaffing of
4 medical and custody staff resulting in a denial of access to medical care. PI.’s Ex. 47.
5 McGinness was copied on the County’s initial responses, dated August 7, 2006, thereby
6 putting him on notice of the subject deficiencies. PI.’s Ex. 49 at 4. Significantly, too, in a
7 Sacramento Bee article dated July 11, 2006, McGinness described that Grand Jury’s
8 report as containing “no surprises.” PI.’s Ex. 48.

9 The County itself ordered an audit of Jail operations by Joseph A. Brann and
10 Associates. The Brann Report similarly revealed widespread deficiencies, including an
11 unusually high percentage of grievances regarding medical care, the lack of a system
12 ensuring that inmate medical complaints were routinely reviewed, and insufficient
13 staffing levels. See PI.’s Opp’n at 31:9-14.

14 As indicated above, supervisory liability under 42 U.S.C. § 1983 can attach if a
15 sufficient causal connection exists between the supervisor’s conduct and the
16 constitutional violation. Lolli, 351 F.3d at 418. That causal connection can consist of
17 inaction or acquiescence in the face of the alleged constitutional deprivation.
18 Cunningham v. Gates, 229 F.3d 1271, 1292 (9th Cir. 2000); Dubner v. City & County of
19 San Francisco, 266 F.3d 959, 968 (9th Cir. 2001).

20 Here, as enumerated above, Plaintiff claims his use of the call button to summon
21 custodial staff and request medical care was repeatedly ignored; indeed, the housing
22 logs themselves contain no mention of many of the complaints made by Plaintiff despite
23 the fact that custodial staff should have documented all such requests. Additionally,
24 when Plaintiff collapsed in the shower on May 17, 2007, his requests for help went
25 unheeded for more than 30 minutes, and the responding deputy failed to even file an
26 incident report in contravention of Jail policy, a shortcoming that led to his formal
27 discipline. Two days later, custodial staff went so far as to lock down Plaintiff’s entire
28 pod for what is alleged to have been Plaintiff’s excess use of the call button for aid.

1 prisoners. The issue of whether the Fourteenth or the Eighth Amendment applies in
2 analyzing the viability of the Second Claim for Relief, however, is largely academic since
3 the Ninth Circuit has held that pretrial detainees' rights under the Fourteenth Amendment
4 are comparable to prisoner's rights under the Eighth Amendment. The same deliberate
5 indifference standard applies under either scenario. See Redman v. County of
6 San Diego, 942 F.2d 1435, 1441 n.7 (9th Cir. 1991); Frost v. Agnos, 152 F.3d 1124,
7 1128 (9th Cir. 1998). Therefore, to state a viable claim as to the 2010 incarceration for
8 deliberate indifference, Plaintiff must also show that he had a "serious medical need"
9 and that Defendants acted with "deliberate indifference to that need." Estelle v. Gamble,
10 429 U.S. at 105. Therefore, the same standards discussed above with respect to the
11 First Claim for Relief apply.

12 The remaining individual defendants against who Plaintiff alleges deliberate
13 indifference during his 2010 incarceration had three different connections to Plaintiff's
14 care. First, Drs. Bauer, Sahba and Sotok, and Nurse Kroner and Nurse Practitioner
15 Felicano, are all medical professionals and were involved in Plaintiff's care in that
16 context. Second, Officers Jacoby and Medeiros were custodial staff. Finally, the liability
17 of Defendants McGinness, Boylan, and Iwasa, if any, derives only from their
18 supervisory positions. Each of these groups of defendants will now be addressed.

19 **a. Defendants Bauer, Sabha, Sotok, Kroner and Felicano**

20 Aside from allegedly suggesting that Plaintiff reuse the straight catheters he was
21 provided (a claim not borne out by Plaintiff's medical chart),⁶ Dr. Bauer's primary
22 involvement in Plaintiff's care occurred over five visits between April 27, 2010 and May
23 4, 2010 for management of Plaintiff's chronic pain. During this period, Dr. Bauer did not
24 refuse to provide Plaintiff with medication; to the contrary, he adjusted dosages in an
25 attempt to better manage Plaintiff's pain, and discontinued morphine use because of

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27 ⁶ To the contrary, on March 24, 2010, Dr. Bauer recognized Plaintiff's need for catheterization and
28 ordered a so-called "Foley" catheter. It was Plaintiff who declined that suggestion and wanted to use
straight catheters, which were subsequently provided by Dr. Bauer. There is no evidence supporting
Plaintiff's claim that Dr. Bauer told him to "reuse" the catheters.

1 concerns that it was causing Plaintiff's headaches. While Plaintiff speculates that Dr.
2 Bauer adjusted his pain medication to help him get through his deposition on May 14,
3 2014, that hardly amounts to deliberate indifference. Plaintiff has not met the high
4 standard for asserting deliberate indifference against Dr. Bauer.

5 Plaintiff fares no better in his claims against Drs. Sahba and Sotok, the remaining
6 two physician defendants in his Second Claim for Relief. Plaintiff's chart indicates Dr.
7 Sahba initially saw him on March 25, 2010, after he had threatened suicide. Although
8 Plaintiff takes issue with the suicide precautions Dr. Sahba took, her chart note reflects
9 a concern about Plaintiff's ability to transfer from his mattress to his wheelchair and
10 indicates she followed up with two other physicians about that concern. The fact that
11 she felt it was "too risky" under the circumstances to permit clothing and a different kind
12 of bed does not equate with deliberate indifference. Nor does Dr. Sahba's examination
13 on April 9th, when she prescribed ointment for Plaintiff's pressure sores, and ordered
14 urinalysis and other testing to see whether Plaintiff's complaints of penile pain were
15 related to a sexually transmitted disease, suggest anything approaching deliberate
16 indifference. Finally, when Plaintiff saw Dr. Sahba a third and final time on April 22,
17 2007, she referred him to an ophthalmologist and a neurologist given his reports of
18 continuing leg and back pain, as well as vision issues. She also ordered follow-up
19 urinalysis. Again, the fact that Dr. Sahba examined Plaintiff and recommended
20 treatment for what she observed does not show deliberate indifference. The fact that
21 Dr. Sabha, and other jail medical personnel, did not immediately recognize
22 symptomatology suggesting either ADEM or NMO cannot be deliberate indifference
23 given the rarity of those conditions and the fact that neurological specialists at the U.C.
24 Davis Medical Center had difficulty in properly diagnosing Plaintiff's condition.

25 The care provided by Dr. Sotak leads the Court to the same conclusion. Although
26 it appears that Dr. Sotak, as the Jail's Medical Director, may have generally reviewed
27 Plaintiff's chart and concurred with the recommendation to place him on suicide watch
28 under certain precautions, he saw Plaintiff only twice. At the time of the first visit on

1 May 4, 2010, Dr. Sotak prescribed high calorie liquids along with physical therapy in
2 response to Plaintiff's claims of weight loss (apparently exacerbated by his religious
3 preference regarding food), as well as physical therapy.⁷ Then, on May 10, 2010, when
4 Sotak observed what appeared to be decreasing vision in Plaintiff's right eye, he referred
5 Plaintiff for emergency transport to the U.C. Davis Medical Center for further evaluation.
6 Nothing about Dr. Sotak's interaction with Plaintiff suggests he was deliberately
7 indifferent.

8 With respect to Susan Kroner and Agnes Felicano, both nurses are sued in their
9 individual capacities under §1983 as a result of Plaintiff's 2010 incarceration. All Nurse
10 Practitioner Felicano did, immediately following Plaintiff's booking in 2010, was to
11 prescribe an order for four catheters and an order authorizing him to keep a urinal with
12 him at all times. By no means does that minimal, and seemingly innocuous, interaction
13 and treatment show deliberate indifference. Significantly, although Plaintiff claims he
14 wanted eight catheters a day, his chart contains no complaint thereafter that four were
15 insufficient and Plaintiff testified at deposition that he was using about four on a daily
16 basis. SUF at No. 201. Finally, Nurse Kroner saw Plaintiff just once, on April 22, 2010,
17 when Plaintiff stated he had been experiencing blurry vision involving the left eye for the
18 previous two weeks. According to her note, because Kroner observed that the vision in
19 Plaintiff's right eye was better than his left, she referred him to be seen by a physician
20 the following day. While Plaintiff claims that she should have sought more immediate
21 care, there was no indication that her decision to have a doctor examine Plaintiff the
22 following day was so below the applicable standard of care so as to constitute deliberate
23 indifference. Again, it was not deliberately indifferent for a nurse like Kroner to have
24 failed to appreciate symptoms potentially suggesting the recurrence of a rare
25 neurological disease like NMO.

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28 ⁷ Plaintiff was apparently not experiencing any vision impairment at the time of this evaluation, and Sotak believed any past impairment was a side effect of his morphine prescription.

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b. Defendants Jacoby and Medeiros

Plaintiffs allege deliberate indifference against Deputies Stephanie Jacoby and Mark Medeiros given their conduct as housing officers on Plaintiff’s ward during the day shift on April 11, 2010. Jacoby and Medeiros allegedly ignored Plaintiff’s call button requests for assistance, and further ignored a call request from Plaintiff’s neighboring inmate who claims he heard Plaintiff screaming in agony. As enumerated above, Jacoby and Medeiros allegedly informed oncoming night shift personnel that they were having problems with Plaintiff “[y]elling and screaming and causing a problem hitting the button constantly . . . “ Pl.’s Ex. 28 at 70:19-71:25. Moreover, the housing logs document none of this although they were required to do so pursuant to Jail policy. Defs.’ Ex. 5 at 5380-82. While Jacoby and Medeiros simply claim they were not informed of any medical need on April 11, 2014, there is evidence to the contrary, and that evidence must be presumed true for purposes of summary judgment. If Jacoby and Medeiros repeatedly ignored not only Plaintiff’s repeated calls for help, but also similar calls made by a neighboring inmate, those repeated failures raise, at the very least, triable issues of fact that preclude summary judgment on their behalf. Deliberate indifference may be manifested not only by prisoner doctors in their response to prisoner’s needs, but also by prison guards “in intentionally denying or delaying access to medical care. . .” Estelle, 429 U.S. at 104-105.

c. Defendants McGinness, Boylan and Iwasa

In arguing for summary adjudication as to the Section 1983 deliberate indifference claim against McGinness, Defendants state there “simply is no connection between any alleged injury [arising from the 2010 incarceration] and Sheriff McGinness.” Defs.’ Mot. at 20:7-8. The Court disagrees. As discussed above with regard to the 2007 incarceration, there is evidence that McGinness was aware of longstanding and well-documented deficiencies in the Jail related to understaffing at the Jail that resulted in a denial of access to medical care. The Sacramento County Grand Jury’s 2005-06 Report identified problems in that regard, and a subsequent independent audit of Jail operations

1 confirmed those problems. Moreover, the same deficiencies continued to be brought to
2 McGinness' attention following Plaintiff's 2007 incarceration. A September 2009 audit by
3 the Sacramento County Office of Inspector General similarly revealed that line-level
4 staffing was low and inmate overpopulation was acute. Pl.'s Ex. 53. Defendants'
5 request for summary adjudication as to the Second Claim for Relief against McGinness,
6 which stems from the 2010 incarceration, fails for the same reasons the First Claim for
7 Relief survives against McGinness.

8 With respect to Defendant Ann Marie Boylan, the Chief of Correctional Health
9 Services at the Jail, there is no evidence that Boylan trained or supervised custodial staff
10 or had any role in promulgating policies or procedures relating to the operation of the
11 custodial staff at the jail. Nor has Plaintiff identified any evidence connecting Boylan
12 with the actions of the remaining custodial defendants involved in the 2010 incarceration,
13 Jacoby and Medeiros.

14 Mark Iwasa, the final individually named defendant to the Second Claim for Relief,
15 served as Undersheriff and Jail Captain during the 2010 incarceration. Defendants urge
16 the Court to grant summary adjudication as to Iwasa on grounds that Plaintiff has
17 advanced no evidence to support his allegation that Iwasa was aware of and
18 disregarded widespread deficiencies in the delivery of health care at the Jail in 2010.
19 The only specific allegation levied against Iwasa is that both he and Iwasa "worked
20 closely with the Brann auditors in response to the 2005-06 Grand Jury findings," citing
21 Plaintiff's Exhibit 53. That exhibit contains virtually no reference to Iwasa, however,
22 beyond a statement that the consultants had "unrestricted access" to Iwasa and four
23 others during the preparation of their report. Id. This is not sufficient to create a triable
24 issue with respect to Iwasa's liability under the Second Claim for Relief.

25 **B. Third through Fifth Claims for Relief: Claims Brought against Defendant**
26 **County pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1983**

27 Plaintiff's Third Claim for Relief alleges that the County had a policy, practice, or
28 custom of denying, delaying and interfering with inmate access to medical care. Under

1 § 1983, a municipal entity like Sacramento County may be found liable under such a
2 theory if it facilitates a constitutional violation by “execution of a . . . policy or custom,
3 whether by its lawmakers or by those whose edicts or acts may fairly be said to
4 represent official capacity.” Monell v. N.Y. City Dep’t of Social Services, 436 U.S. 658,
5 694 (1978). The case law, however, carefully delineates so called Monell liability, which
6 makes such an entity responsible for its own illegal acts, from vicarious liability for the
7 conduct of its employees under § 1983, which does not attach Connick v. Thompson,
8 131 S. Ct. 1350, 1359 (2011) (quoting Pembaur v. Cincinnati, 475 U.S. 469, 479 (1986)).
9 Here, to constitute deliberate indifference, the County’s shortcomings must be “obvious,”
10 with inadequacy “so likely to result in violation of constitutional rights that the
11 policymakers . . . can reasonably be said to have been deliberately indifferent” City
12 of Canton v. Harris, 489 U.S. 378, 390 (1989). Moreover, even if no explicit policy is
13 identified, a plaintiff may still establish municipal liability upon a showing that there is a
14 permanent and well-settled practice by the municipality that gave rise to the alleged
15 constitutional violation. See City of St. Louis v. Praprotnik, 485 U.S. 112, 127 (1988).

16 At a very minimum, there is evidence here that Jail staff repeatedly, during both
17 Plaintiff’s 2007 and 2010 incarcerations, failed to timely respond to Plaintiff’s requests for
18 medical aid. Plaintiff claims he repeatedly depressed his call button for medical aid
19 between May 5, 2007 and May 16, 2007, with virtually no response. The Jail’s logs,
20 however, do not document a single complaint until May 13, 2007. Then, on May 17,
21 2007, after Plaintiff collapsed while taking a shower when he lost control of his legs, he
22 claims he yelled for more than 30 minutes before help finally arrived. The next day,
23 when he repeatedly rang the emergency button for help on grounds that he could neither
24 walk, urinate, or see properly, Plaintiff alleges he was told to stop using the call button.
25 The next day, after Plaintiff claims he repeatedly used the call button to frantically
26 request help, Plaintiff alleges that custodial officers punished the entire pod for Plaintiff’s
27 overuse of that button for aid.

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1 Similar problems persisted in 2010, when Plaintiff was reincarcerated. On
2 April 11, 2010, as indicated above, Defendants Jacoby and Medeiros are alleged to
3 have repeatedly ignored Plaintiff's call button requests for help, even when told by
4 another inmate that Plaintiff needed assistance. Additionally, when Plaintiff was placed
5 on suicide watch, he claims he was left to lay naked on a mattress and, in the absence
6 either regular assistance or access to a call button, urinated on himself, could not
7 defecate properly, and developed bed sores.

8 Given the persistence of these problems over two incarcerations three years
9 apart, this Court believes that Plaintiff has identified a triable issue of fact with respect to
10 the County's custom and practice liability. Also significant in this determination is the
11 fact that the County was on explicit notice, through the 2005-06 Grand Jury Report, the
12 subsequent Brann Report, and an additional 2008 audit by the Sacramento County
13 office of Inspector General, that custodial staffing was insufficient to the point that a
14 denial of access to medical care resulted. Consequently, the Third Claim for Relief,
15 which alleges custom and practice Monell liability, survives summary judgment.

16 Plaintiff's Fourth Claim for Relief alleges the County is liable for deliberate
17 indifference to his serious medical needs in both 2007 and 2010 because of its failure to
18 properly train Jail staff. In order to establish liability for failure to train, Plaintiff must
19 show a training policy that amounts to deliberate indifference and must further establish
20 that injury could have been avoided had proper training been provided. Blankenhorn,
21 485 F.3d at 484. Significantly, too, "absent evidence of a 'program-wide inadequacy in
22 training,' any shortfall in a single employee's training 'can only be classified as
23 negligence on the part of the municipal defendant – a much lower standard of fault than
24 deliberate indifference. Id. at 484-85 (quoting Alexander v. City & County of
25 San Francisco, 29 F.3d 1355, 1367 (9th Cir. 1994)). Here, Defendant County claims that
26 Plaintiff has failed to show a pattern or failure to train its custodial staff, and further
27 alleges that there is no evidence to link any such training inadequacy to Plaintiff's
28 alleged injuries in 2007 and 2010

1 Plaintiff's opposition, in attempting to shore up its Monell claims against
2 Defendant County, identifies only "policies, practices and procedures that violated
3 [Plaintiff's] constitutional right to medical care." Pl.'s Opp'n at 28: 24-27. While Plaintiff
4 cites eleven separate alleged areas of inadequacy in this regard (see id. at 29-30), there
5 is not a single allegation that any of the purported violations stem from a lack of training.
6 Indeed, other than identifying the standard for municipal liability based on failure to train,
7 Plaintiff's opposition contains no mention of training whatsoever. As such, Plaintiff has
8 failed to show any triable issue of fact with respect to municipal liability based on failure
9 to train and Defendant County is entitled to summary adjudication as to the Fourth Claim
10 for Relief.

11 Plaintiff's Fifth Claim for Relief, however, for failure to adequately staff and/or
12 supervise, does not suffer from the same shortcoming. As already discussed above,
13 Plaintiff has identified numerous instances, in both 2007 and 2010, of custodial staff
14 failing to respond to Plaintiff's medical needs, even in the wake of reports and
15 investigations putting Defendant on clear notice of staffing insufficiencies. That is
16 enough to withstand summary judgment as to the Fifth Claim.

17 **C. Seventh Claim for Relief: Claims against Defendant County pursuant to**
18 **the ADA and the Rehabilitation Act**

19 To establish a claim under Title II of the ADA, Plaintiff must show (1) that he is an
20 individual with a disability; (2) is otherwise qualified to receive the services and benefits
21 of the public entity's care; and (3) was denied access to those benefits as a result of his
22 disability. Simmons, 609 F.3d at 1021. Jails fall squarely with the statutory definition of
23 "public entity" for purposes of liability under the ADA. 42 U.S.C. § 12131(1)(B); Pa. Dep't
24 of Corr. v. Yeskey, 524 U.S. 206, 210 (1998). In addition, the medical services that
25 prisons provide are deemed "benefits" under the ADA. Armstrong v. Schwarzenegger,
26 622 F.3d 1058, 1068 (9th Cir. 2010).

27 Similarly, to establish a violation of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, Plaintiff
28 must show that he was denied benefits or services solely because of his handicap, and

1 that the program providing the benefit or services receives federal financial assistance.
2 Lovell v. Chandler, 303 F.3d 1039, 1052 (9th Cir. 2002).

3 Plaintiff claims he can meet the requirements for liability under both the ADA and
4 the Rehabilitation Act because he was “denied proper psychiatric and medical care,” and
5 did not provide assistance necessary for him to engage in the activities of daily living
6 (“ADLs”) with respect to sanitation, eating, and showering. He further alleges that the
7 manner in which he was placed on suicide watch (without clothing and with no ability to
8 urinate or defecate) violated the ADA and the Rehabilitation Act.

9 Plaintiff’s unsupported factual allegation that he was denied proper medical care
10 is not enough to create a triable issue of fact with respect to either the ADA or the
11 Rehabilitation Act. Inadequate treatment or lack of treatment for Plaintiff’s medical
12 condition does not in itself suffice to create liability under either statutory scheme. See
13 Bryant v. Madigan, 84 F.3d 246, 249 (7th Cir. 1996) (“The ADA does not create a
14 remedy for medical malpractice.”); Luna v. Cal. Health Care Servs., 2011 WL 6936399 at
15 *5 (E.D. Cal. 2011) (“Plaintiff’s allegations of inadequate medical care do not state a
16 claim under the ADA”). Instead, under both the ADA and the Rehabilitation Act, Plaintiff
17 must establish that he was denied services, programs, or activities because of his
18 disability. He has made no showing, as he must, that he was “denied access to medical
19 supplies or treated differently by reason of his disability. Marlor v. Madison County,
20 50 F. App’x 872, 873 (9th Cir. 2002) (emphasis in original). Plaintiff’s allegations that he
21 did not receive enough assistance relates to the adequacy of the care he received, not
22 to the denial of services solely because of his disability. Additionally, the fact that
23 psychiatric staff found it necessary to put Plaintiff on suicide watch under specified
24 conditions that made it difficult for Plaintiff to meet his sanitary needs does not mean
25 Plaintiff received the care he did based solely on his physical disability.

26 In sum, Plaintiff has failed to make the requisite factual showing under either the
27 ADA or the Rehabilitation Act, and as such has failed to state a viable claim under either
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1 statutory scheme. Defendant County is accordingly entitled to summary adjudication as
2 to the Seventh Claim for Relief.

3 **D. Ninth Claim for Relief: Claims for Violation of California Government**
4 **Code § 845.6**

5 To establish liability under California Government Code § 845.6, Plaintiff “must
6 establish three elements: (1) the public employee knew or had reason to know of the
7 need (2) for immediate medical care, and (3) failed to summon such care.” Jett,
8 439 F.3d at 1099. The employing public entity may also incur liability for its employee’s
9 failure in this regard. Castaneda v. Dep’t of Corr. and Rehab., 212 Cal. App. 4th 1051,
10 1063 (2013). Liability under § 845.6, however, is limited to “serious and obvious medical
11 conditions requiring immediate care.” Lawson v. Superior Court, 180 Cal. App. 4th 1372,
12 1385 (2010).

13 Plaintiff names both the County of Sacramento and Deputies Jacoby and
14 Medeiros as defendants to his Ninth Claim. He claims that Jacoby and Medeiros were
15 aware of Tandel’s serious medical need and failed to summon medical care. For the
16 reasons already outlined with respect to the § 1983 deliberate indifference liability of
17 Defendants Jacoby and Medeiros as individuals, the same issues that precluded
18 summary judgment as to that claim also prohibit summary adjudication with respect to
19 Defendants’ § 845.6 liability. There is evidence that Plaintiff repeatedly depressed his
20 call button without success, and that another inmate housed adjacent to Plaintiff’s cell
21 also tried unsuccessfully to summon help after he reportedly heard Plaintiff scream in
22 agony. Those two pieces of evidence, taken together, are enough to preclude summary
23 judgment with regard to California Government Code § 845.6.

24
25 **CONCLUSION**

26
27 Based on the foregoing, Defendants’ Motion for Summary Judgment (ECF
28 No. 135) is GRANTED in part and DENIED in part as follows:

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1. Defendants' request for summary adjudication as to First Claim for Relief, is GRANTED as to Defendant Anne Marie Boylan, but DENIED as to Defendant John McGinness;
2. Defendants' request for summary adjudication as to the Second Claim for Relief is GRANTED as to Defendants Bauer, Sabha, Sotok, Kroner, Felicano, Boylan and Iwasa, but DENIED as to Defendants Jacoby and Medeiros;
3. Defendant County's request for summary adjudication as to the Third, Fifth and Ninth Claims for Relief is DENIED;
4. Defendant County's request for summary adjudication as to the Fourth and Seventh Claims for Relief is GRANTED;
5. Given Plaintiff's consent, Defendant County's request for summary adjudication as to the Eighth Claim for Relief is GRANTED;
6. Given Plaintiff's consent, Defendants County of Sacramento, Sotok, Bauer and Sahba are dismissed as Defendants from the Tenth and Eleventh Claims for Relief;
7. Because Plaintiff has failed to oppose Defendants' request that the Tenth and Eleventh Claims for Relief, to the extent they continue to be alleged against any other defendant, be dismissed in their entirety, summary adjudication as to the Tenth and Eleventh Claims is GRANTED; and
8. Given Plaintiff's consent, Defendant John Wilson is dismissed from this action.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated: March 20, 2015


MORRISON C. ENGLAND, JR., CHIEF JUDGE
UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT