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IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

KEVIN GODINEZ MALDONADO,)	No. C 10-1629 LHK (PR)
)	
Plaintiff,)	ORDER OF SERVICE;
)	DIRECTING DEFENDANTS TO
v.)	FILE DISPOSITIVE MOTION
)	OR NOTICE REGARDING
DEPUTY JENNIFER CLAMON, et al.,)	SUCH MOTION
)	
Defendants.)	

Plaintiff, a state prisoner proceeding *pro se*, filed a civil rights complaint pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1983. Plaintiff is granted leave to proceed in forma pauperis in a separate order. For the reasons stated below, the Court orders service on the Defendants.¹

DISCUSSION

A. Standard of Review

A federal court must conduct a preliminary screening in any case in which a prisoner seeks redress from a governmental entity or officer or employee of a governmental entity. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 1915A(a). In its review, the Court must identify any cognizable claims and dismiss any claims that are frivolous, malicious, fail to state a claim upon which relief may be granted or

¹ On May 7, 2010, the Court directed Plaintiff to show cause why the action should not be dismissed for failure to exhaust. On July 1, 2010, Plaintiff submitted a reply. The Court accepts Plaintiff’s response, however, this does not preclude Defendants from filing a motion to dismiss for failure to exhaust should they determine that circumstances warrant such a pleading.

1 seek monetary relief from a defendant who is immune from such relief. *See* 28 U.S.C. §
2 1915A(b)(1), (2). *Pro se* pleadings must, however, be liberally construed. *See Balistreri v.*
3 *Pacifica Police Dep't.*, 901 F.2d 696, 699 (9th Cir. 1988).

4 To state a claim under 42 U.S.C. § 1983, a plaintiff must allege two essential elements:
5 (1) that a right secured by the Constitution or laws of the United States was violated, and (2) that
6 the alleged violation was committed by a person acting under the color of state law. *See West v.*
7 *Atkins*, 487 U.S. 42, 48 (1988).

8 B. Plaintiff's Claims

9 Plaintiff alleges that as he was watching new inmates enter the facility, he saw a friend of
10 his and flashed a light to try and get his attention. Defendant Deputy Clamon directed him to
11 stop doing that and then told him that he would not be allowed to participate in programming
12 that day. Plaintiff mentioned to his cellmate that Clamon was acting like a “bitch.” Plaintiff
13 assumes that Clamon overheard him through the intercom because suddenly, Clamon, and two
14 male deputies, Defendants Deputy Patrick Galindo and Deputy Miles, burst into Plaintiff's cell.
15 Clamon pulled Plaintiff off the top bunk bed, restrained him, and handcuffed him. Clamon
16 slammed Plaintiff to the floor. Neither Galindo nor Miles assisted Plaintiff. Once Plaintiff was
17 on the floor, the three deputies repeatedly slammed Plaintiff into the walls. Eventually Clamon,
18 Miles, and Galindo transported him to lock-up in such a way that it caused him pain in his neck.
19 Either Miles or Galindo slammed Plaintiff into a wall and threw him to the floor on the way up
20 to the lock-up unit. Plaintiff was subsequently charged with assault on a peace officer. Liberally
21 construed, Plaintiff raises a cognizable claim that Defendants used excessive force against him,
22 were deliberately indifferent to his safety needs, and failed to intervene.

23 At the end of Plaintiff's complaint, he includes a smorgasbord of conclusory allegations
24 that are unsupported by the facts presented. For example, he alleges that “Deputy Clamon upset
25 over the use of the word “bitch” retaliated against him in violation of his Due Process.” Federal
26 Rule of Civil Procedure 8(a)(2) requires “a short and plain statement of the claim showing that
27 the pleader is entitled to relief.” Specific facts are not necessary; the statement need only “give
28 the defendant fair notice of what the . . . claim is and the grounds upon which it rests.”

1 *Erickson v. Pardus*, 551 U.S. 89, 93 (2007) (citations omitted). “[A] plaintiff’s obligation to
2 provide the ‘grounds of his entitle[ment] to relief’ requires more than labels and conclusions, and
3 a formulaic recitation of the elements of a cause of action will not do. . . . Factual allegations
4 must be enough to raise a right to relief above the speculative level.” *Bell Atlantic Corp. v.*
5 *Twombly*, 550 U.S. 544, 553-56, (2007) (citations omitted). A complaint should be dismissed if
6 it does not proffer “enough facts to state a claim for relief that is plausible on its face.” *Id.* at 570.
7 Accordingly Plaintiff’s remaining claims for relief are too conclusory to state a cognizable claim
8 and thus are DISMISSED. If Plaintiff can in good faith allege facts sufficient to state a
9 cognizable claim, he may amend his complaint to include them.

10 Finally, Plaintiff also names several Doe Defendants in this action. Although the use of
11 “John Doe” to identify a defendant is not favored in the Ninth Circuit, *see Gillespie v. Civiletti*,
12 629 F.2d 637, 642 (9th Cir. 1980), situations may arise where the identity of alleged defendants
13 cannot be known prior to the filing of a complaint. In such circumstances, the Plaintiff should be
14 given an opportunity through discovery to identify the unknown Defendants, unless it is clear
15 that discovery would not uncover their identities or that the complaint should be dismissed on
16 other grounds. *See id.* Accordingly, Doe Defendants are DISMISSED without prejudice.
17 Should Plaintiff discover their identities in a timely manner, he may move to add them to the
18 complaint at a later date.

19 CONCLUSION

20 For the foregoing reasons, the court hereby orders as follows:

- 21 1. Doe Defendants are DISMISSED.
- 22 2. The Clerk shall issue a summons and the United States Marshal shall serve,
23 without prepayment of fees, copies of the complaint in this matter (docket no. 1), all attachments
24 thereto, and copies of this order on DEPUTY JENNIFER CLAMON, DEPUTY PATRICK
25 GALINDO, DEPUTY MILES, SHERIFF GREG MUNKS, and COUNTY OF SAN MATEO
26 CORRECTIONAL HEALTH at MAGUIRE CORRECTIONAL FACILITY in Redwood City,
27 California. The Clerk shall also serve a copy of this order on Plaintiff and mail a courtesy copy
28 of the complaint to the California Attorney General’s Office.

1 3. No later than **ninety (90) days** from the date of this order, Defendants shall file a
2 motion for summary judgment or other dispositive motion with respect to the cognizable claims
3 in the complaint.

4 a. If Defendants elect to file a motion to dismiss on the grounds that Plaintiff
5 failed to exhaust his available administrative remedies as required by 42 U.S.C. § 1997e(a),
6 defendants shall do so in an unenumerated Rule 12(b) motion pursuant to *Wyatt v. Terhune*, 315
7 F.3d 1108, 1119-20 (9th Cir. 2003).

8 b. Any motion for summary judgment shall be supported by adequate factual
9 documentation and shall conform in all respects to Rule 56 of the Federal Rules of Civil
10 Procedure. **Defendants are advised that summary judgment cannot be granted, nor**
11 **qualified immunity found, if material facts are in dispute. If Defendants are of the opinion**
12 **that this case cannot be resolved by summary judgment, they shall so inform the court**
13 **prior to the date the summary judgment motion is due.**

14 4. Plaintiff's opposition to the dispositive motion shall be filed with the Court and
15 served on Defendants no later than **thirty (30) days** from the date Defendants' motion is filed.

16 a. In the event Defendants file an unenumerated motion to dismiss under
17 Rule 12(b), Plaintiff is hereby cautioned as follows:²

18 The defendants have made a motion to dismiss pursuant to Rule 12(b) of
19 the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, on the ground you have not exhausted your
20 administrative remedies. The motion will, if granted, result in the dismissal of
21 your case. When a party you are suing makes a motion to dismiss for failure to
22 exhaust, and that motion is properly supported by declarations (or other sworn
23 testimony) and/or documents, you may not simply rely on what your complaint
24 says. Instead, you must set out specific facts in declarations, depositions, answers
25 to interrogatories, or documents, that contradict the facts shown in the defendant's
26 declarations and documents and show that you have in fact exhausted your
27 claims. If you do not submit your own evidence in opposition, the motion to
28 dismiss, if appropriate, may be granted and the case dismissed.

29 b. In the event Defendants file a motion for summary judgment, the
30 Ninth Circuit has held that the following notice should be given to plaintiffs:

31 ² The following notice is adapted from the summary judgment notice to be given to pro se
32 prisoners as set forth in *Rand v. Rowland*, 154 F.3d 952, 963 (9th Cir. 1998) (en banc). See
33 *Wyatt v. Terhune*, 315 F.3d at 1120 n.14.

1 The defendants have made a motion for summary judgment by which
2 they seek to have your case dismissed. A motion for summary judgment under
Rule 56 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure will, if granted, end your case.

3 Rule 56 tells you what you must do in order to oppose a motion for
4 summary judgment. Generally, summary judgment must be granted when there is
5 no genuine issue of material fact--that is, if there is no real dispute about any fact
6 that would affect the result of your case, the party who asked for summary
7 judgment is entitled to judgment as a matter of law, which will end your case.
8 When a party you are suing makes a motion for summary judgment that is
9 properly supported by declarations (or other sworn testimony), you cannot simply
10 rely on what your complaint says. Instead, you must set out specific facts in
declarations, depositions, answers to interrogatories, or authenticated documents,
as provided in Rule 56(e), that contradict the facts shown in the defendants'
declarations and documents and show that there is a genuine issue of material fact
for trial. If you do not submit your own evidence in opposition, summary
judgment, if appropriate, may be entered against you. If summary judgment is
granted in favor of defendants, your case will be dismissed and there will be no
trial.

11 *See Rand v. Rowland*, 154 F.3d 952, 963 (9th Cir. 1998) (en banc). Plaintiff is advised to read
12 Rule 56 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and *Celotex Corp. v. Catrett*, 477 U.S. 317
13 (1986) (holding party opposing summary judgment must come forward with evidence showing
14 triable issues of material fact on every essential element of his claim). Plaintiff is cautioned that
15 failure to file an opposition to defendant's motion for summary judgment may be deemed to be a
16 consent by plaintiff to the granting of the motion, and granting of judgment against plaintiff
17 without a trial. *See Ghazali v. Moran*, 46 F.3d 52, 53-54 (9th Cir. 1995) (per curiam); *Brydges v.*
18 *Lewis*, 18 F.3d 651, 653 (9th Cir. 1994).

19 5. Defendants shall file a reply brief no later than **fifteen (15) days** after Plaintiff's
20 opposition is filed.

21 6. The motion shall be deemed submitted as of the date the reply brief is due. No
22 hearing will be held on the motion unless the court so orders at a later date.

23 7. All communications by the Plaintiff with the court must be served on Defendants,
24 or Defendants' counsel once counsel has been designated, by mailing a true copy of the
25 document to Defendant or Defendants' counsel.

26 8. Discovery may be taken in accordance with the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.
27 No further court order is required before the parties may conduct discovery.

28 For Plaintiff's information, the proper manner of promulgating discovery is to send

1 demands for documents or interrogatories (questions asking for specific, factual responses)
2 directly to Defendants' counsel. *See* Fed. R. Civ. P. 33-34. The scope of discovery is limited to
3 matters "relevant to the claim or defense of any party . . ." *See* Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(b)(1).
4 Discovery may be further limited by court order if "(i) the discovery sought is unreasonably
5 cumulative or duplicative, or is obtainable from some other source that is more convenient, less
6 burdensome, or less expensive; (ii) the party seeking discovery has had ample opportunity by
7 discovery in the action to obtain the information sought; or (iii) the burden or expense of the
8 proposed discovery outweighs its likely benefit." Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(b)(2). In order to comply
9 with the requirements of Rule 26, before deciding to promulgate discovery plaintiff may find it
10 to his benefit to wait until defendants have filed a dispositive motion which could include some
11 or all of the discovery plaintiff might seek. In addition, no motion to compel will be considered
12 by the Court unless the meet-and-confer requirement of Rule 37(a)(2)(B) and N.D. Cal. Local
13 Rule 37-1 has been satisfied. Because Plaintiff is detained, he is not required to meet and confer
14 with Defendants in person. Rather, if his discovery requests are denied, and he intends to seek a
15 motion to compel, he must send a letter to Defendants to that effect, offering them one last
16 opportunity to provide him with the sought-after information.

17 9. It is Plaintiff's responsibility to prosecute this case. Plaintiff must keep the Court
18 and all parties informed of any change of address and must comply with the Court's orders in a
19 timely fashion. Failure to do so may result in the dismissal of this action for failure to prosecute
20 pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 41(b).

21 IT IS SO ORDERED.

22 DATED: 9/27/10

23 
LUCY H. KOH
United States District Judge