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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF NEVADA

KEVIN FERNANDEZ,)
)
 Plaintiff,)
)
 vs.)
)
 DR. CENTRIC, et al.,)
)
 Defendants.)
 _____)

3:12-cv-00401-LRH-WGC

ORDER

re: Plaintiff’s Motion for Court to Order
Defendants to Produce a Martinez Report
Pursuant to FRCP 16 (Doc. # 167)

15 Before the court is Plaintiff’s Motion for the court to order Defendants to produce a Martinez
16 report pursuant to FRCP 16. (Doc. # 167.) Defendants have opposed the motion (Doc. # 199) and
17 Plaintiff has replied (Doc. # 200). Based upon the current posture of this case, the court finds it is
18 premature to consider whether Defendants should be required to file a Martinez-type report in the
19 pending action. Plaintiff’s motion is denied without prejudice.

ANALYSIS

21 Citing *In re Arizona*, 528 F.3d 652 (9th Cir. 2008), Plaintiff states that “a Martinez report is a
22 detailed pretrial report prepared by governmental defendants of the events alleged by the pro se litigant.”
23 (Doc. # 167 at 1-2.) In Plaintiff’s reply memorandum, Plaintiff states his “request encompasses all claims
24 in the complaint and the proposed amended complaint” and that the Martinez report should address all
25 those subjects. (Doc. # 210.)

26 Defendants argue that Plaintiff’s motion is premature. Defendants note Plaintiff’s motion “...is
27 not limited to a report referencing matters related to those claims which are before the court (Doc. #3,
28 #4), but rather the requested report would incorporate Plaintiff’s various claims that have not been

1 allowed to be added in this case (#72, #72-1, #142, #116). (#167 at 2, 4).” (Defendants’ opposition, Doc.
2 #199 at 2.)

3 The Defendants are correct. At present, it is not entirely clear exactly what claims will be litigated
4 in this matter. As observed on above, Plaintiff contends the Martinez report should not only include
5 allegations which are the subject of the original complaint but the proposed amended complaint as well.
6 (Doc. # 210 at 1-2.) The major problem with this position is that certain of the claims for relief Plaintiff
7 proposed in his amended complaint (Doc # 72, # 86) were *not* allowed to proceed as they were not found
8 to have stated a viable civil rights claim. (Doc. # 116, # 217.) Certain other claims were also found to
9 be deficient but Plaintiff was granted leave to amend which, if Plaintiff elects to do so (as this court
10 suspects he will), must occur on or before October 18, 2013. If so, then the scope of the action would
11 change again.

12 Assuming Plaintiff does file an amended complaint, as Senior District Judge Larry R. Hicks has
13 allowed him to do (Doc. # 217 at 8), that document will have to be screened through another report and
14 recommendation. It is likely that after screening either Plaintiff or Defendants will file an objection as
15 they are authorized to do under 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1)(C) and Rule IB 3-2 of the Local Rules of Practice.
16 Accordingly, as of this date, the parameters of Plaintiff’s averments are undetermined and will likely be
17 unresolved with any specificity for months down the road. Thus, even if the court were to grant
18 Plaintiff’s motion, it would be unclear what allegations, and on which Defendant’s behalf, the Martinez
19 report (if ordered) should address.

20 It may very well be that at some point in time in the future, as Defendants acknowledge (Doc.
21 # 199 at 3), a Martinez-type report could be beneficial to the management of this case. However, until
22 this court can ascertain exactly what claims are allowed to proceed as against which defendants, the
23 ordering of a Martinez report is premature. Therefore, the court denies Plaintiff’s motion without
24 prejudice.

25 The court would caution the parties, however, that the findings in this order should not be taken
26 as a recognition that a Martinez report will indeed be ordered in this matter. The Ninth Circuit in *In re*
27 *Arizona*, 528 F.3d 652, 656 (2007), stated that the purpose of such a report is that it might be “helpful
28 in identifying a constitutional challenge to an important, complicated correctional practice, particularly

1 one that may affect more than the inmate who has filed the 1983 action.” (Citations omitted.) In the
2 instant matter, the various causes of action which were authorized to proceed in Doc. # 217 primarily
3 if not exclusively pertain to complaints unique to the Plaintiff. (Doc. # 116, # 217).¹

4 *In re Arizona* also stated the value of a Martinez report would be to “enable the trial court to
5 make preliminary decisions on issues like jurisdiction.” Jurisdiction is not an issue in this case.
6 Alternatively, the Ninth Circuit indicated the value of a Martinez report would be that “early in the
7 litigation” the court might “save time and effort” by either “dispos[ing] of frivolous cases” or that the
8 report might enable the penal institution to address Plaintiff’s complaints “informally.” (*Id.*) With
9 already over 200 filings appearing on the docket sheet during the some fourteen months this case has
10 been pending, this case is well beyond such stages. Therefore, the court has some doubt whether a
11 Martinez report would be beneficial to the management of this case, but this is an issue which the court
12 need not address at this time.²

13 CONCLUSION

14 As Defendants recognize, a Martinez report may very well be of some benefit or utility to this
15 case at the appropriate stage and time of this case. (Doc. # 199 at 3-5.) But at the present time, where
16 the precise causes of action are still to be determined, and the specific defendants still to be identified,
17 Plaintiff’s motion is premature. Plaintiff’s motion (Doc. # 167) is therefore **DENIED without**
18 **prejudice.**

19 **IT IS SO ORDERED.**

20 **DATED: September 25, 2013.**

21 
22 **WILLIAM G. COBB**
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

23 _____
24 ¹ Plaintiff’s motion discusses his contention a Martinez report would “assist the court in determining a complicated
25 correctional practice, namely whether a system wide practice exists of protectionism, the practice of not videotaping/recording
26 incidents that may lead to court action, and whether correctional officers are involved, to some extent, with inmate gang
27 members.” (Doc. # 167 at 4.) Plaintiff cites *In re Arizona* (at p. 656) as authority for this proposition. The court, however,
28 does not read *In re Arizona* that expansively nor does the court believe Plaintiff’s complaint or proposed amended complaint
seek relief of this nature. In light of the character of Plaintiff’s averments, most if not all of which are personal to Plaintiff,
this rationale seems misplaced.

² While the Ninth Circuit in *Arizona* spoke to the potential benefits of a Martinez report “early in the litigation,” this
court recognizes that it is also possible a Martinez report could be beneficial at later stages of litigation as well – but only
after the issues have been appropriately framed.