

IV Mass Incident County Mental Health Holding Statement

For media inquiries coming in this week re: the role of Mental Health, what took place, what calls came in/when, how they were handled, etc., generally the messages/response should be along these lines:

1. This is a highly complex and sensitive situation that requires an extremely careful review of all the contacts that came into Mental Health.
2. We have begun a thorough review of exactly what took place and are working on a timeline of contact with various county agencies.
3. Due to federal HIPPA requirements that protect the confidentiality of patients as well as others in these types of situations, there will be some information that must remain confidential. Therefore, it will take time to prepare information that can be released as well as the portions that must remain protected.
4. We are committed to providing as much information as possible so that the public and our agency know what took place. If improvements in our systems are needed, we will address them.
5. We are working as fast as possible to prepare this information and anticipate having as complete as report as possible for the June 2 meeting of the Board of Supervisors.