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Via Email

Fatality Inquiry Coordinator
Civil Litigation Team
Legal Services Division
Alberta Justice
9th Floor, Peace Hills Trust Tower
10011 – 109 Street NW
Edmonton, AB T5J 3S8

Attention: Abid Mavani

Dear Sir:

Re: Response to Recommendation of Fatality Inquiry – Tyshawn Carl Murray Noering

A Public Fatality Inquiry was recently completed that reviewed the circumstances surrounding the death of Tyshawn Carl Murray Noering, at the Edmonton Remand Centre (ERC). The Honourable Justice R.E. Tibbitt chaired the inquiry and provided three recommendations to the Custody Operations Branch (COB) of the Correctional Services Division (CSD).

Recommendation 1:

All Correctional Peace Officers who work on Maximum Security Unit D at the Edmonton Remand Centre should have mandatory, in-depth training on suicide risks in correctional facilities.

COB response to recommendation 1:

CSD accepts this recommendation as it is current practice that all Correctional Peace Officers (CPOs) are provided Mental Health Awareness Training during our Induction Training program. Suicide Awareness is specifically included within this content and an instructor from Alberta Health Services (AHS) facilitates the course. Additionally, induction training includes a Strategic Communications course, which all CPOs receive, and this course includes participation in various mental health scenarios to practice the learned skills. Finally, we have provided further suicide awareness training in a re-certification format for CPOs. The re-certification training was last provided in April 2022 and is currently undergoing a curriculum review and redesign. Upon completion, re-certification will continue.

The Centre Director of the ERC, will distribute for all CPO review, all policies and procedures that speak to the identification, documentation, and reporting of unusual behaviours that relate to suicide risk to ensure ongoing awareness and learning. Communication of the policies will be complete by the end of October 2023. This will ensure a reinforcement of staff awareness and understanding. It is the opinion of COB that the required training is significant and is necessary for all CPOs working in all parts of the Edmonton Remand Centre.

Recommendation 2:

A directive should be created that requires Correctional Peace Officers to communicate factors relevant to suicide risk to future shifts in writing through the Shift Occurrence Log in the Offender Records and Correctional Administration (ORCA) system.

COB response to recommendation 2:

CSD accepts this recommendation as this is already current practice. The current policy, that came into effect April 2018, stipulates that staff are to document any unusual observations, incidents, and any significant changes in inmate behaviour. Continued communication of this policy will be included in the distribution by the ERC Centre Director as mentioned in the response to recommendation 1.

Recommendation 3:

The monitor view of cameras located within inmate cells should display an electronic stamp of the cell number and inmate's name.

COB response to recommendation 3:

CSD accepts this recommendation in principle. The current system identifies the cell number on the screen that displays the CCTV footage, so staff are aware of what cell they are monitoring. Additionally, there are policies and processes in place to ensure staff are communicating in several ways regarding those individuals presenting with behaviours that need to be monitored. When this system is due for replacement, this element will be included for consideration. Currently, linkage of the individual's name to the cell number is mitigated through the offender management system, as opposed to the CCTV system.

Sincerely,

FIELD LLP

Original Signed

Christine Pratt, KC

Partner CJP/dt