



Michigan
Office of the Auditor General
REPORT SUMMARY

Performance Audit
Center for Forensic Psychiatry
Bureau of Hospitals and Administrative
Operations
Department of Community Health

Report Number:
391-0210-13

Released:
January 2014

The Center for Forensic Psychiatry, which is located in Saline, Michigan, conducts court-ordered competency and criminal responsibility examinations and provides treatment for individuals determined to be incompetent to stand trial or not guilty by reason of insanity. The mission of the Center is to provide quality mental health services to individuals and the Michigan court system. The Center was court-ordered to perform 8,932 examinations from October 1, 2010 through April 30, 2013. As of April 30, 2013, the Center had 219 patients.

Audit Objective:

To assess the effectiveness of the Center's efforts to conduct competency and criminal responsibility examinations in accordance with court orders, selected sections of the Mental Health Code, and selected Center policies.

Audit Conclusion:

We concluded that the Center's efforts to conduct competency and criminal responsibility examinations in accordance with court orders, selected sections of the Mental Health Code, and selected Center policies were moderately effective. We noted two reportable conditions (Findings 1 and 2).

Reportable Conditions:

The Center did not have a process in place to ensure that examiners consulted with defense counsel when conducting competency examinations (Finding 1).

The Center did not submit court-ordered competency and criminal responsibility examination reports within 60 days of the court orders. Also, the Center did not notify or timely notify the courts when the Center was not going to complete court-ordered competency and criminal responsibility examination reports within 60 days of the court order (Finding 2).

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Audit Objective:

To assess the effectiveness of the Center's efforts to provide for the safety and security of its patients, staff, and visitors.

Audit Conclusion:

We concluded that the Center's efforts to provide for the safety and security of its patients, staff, and visitors were moderately effective. We noted one material condition (Finding 3) and two reportable conditions (Findings 4 and 5).

Material Condition:

The Center did not always ensure that its staff effectively observed patients (Finding 3).

Reportable Conditions:

The Center did not ensure that staff controlled access to and from security sensitive areas (Finding 4).

The Center did not ensure that staff completed incident report forms and documented action taken for all incidents identified by the Center (Finding 5).

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Agency Response:

Our audit report contains 5 findings and 6 corresponding recommendations. The Department of Community Health's preliminary response indicates that the Center agrees with all of the recommendations.

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A copy of the full report can be obtained by calling 517.334.8050 or by visiting our Web site at: <http://audgen.michigan.gov>



Michigan Office of the Auditor General
201 N. Washington Square
Lansing, Michigan 48913

Thomas H. McTavish, C.P.A.
Auditor General

Scott M. Strong, C.P.A., C.I.A.
Deputy Auditor General