



August 30, 2016

Via Certified Mail Return Receipt Requested

Michael Simmons, Foreperson
Contra Costa County Civil Grand Jury
725 Court Street
P.O. Box 911
Martinez, CA 94553-0091

Re: Response to 2015-2016 Contra Costa Grand Jury Report 1604, "Are our Schools in Compliance with the EpiPen Law, SB 1266"

Dear Foreperson Simmons:

The following is the Oakley Union Elementary School District's ("Oakley") response to Grand Jury Report No. 1604, "Are our Schools in Compliance with the EpiPen Law, SB 1266"

RESPONSE TO FINDINGS

Finding No. 1:

Mylan Specialty Division supplies pens at no cost to public schools in the District.

Response to Finding No. 1

Oakley is aware of the program and utilizes it to obtain EpiPens for our school sites.

Finding No. 2:

Mylan Division will replace EpiPens at public schools in the district that have expired at a discounted cost.

Response to Finding No.2:

Oakley is also aware of this part of the program and utilizes it to replace expired EpiPens for our school sites.

Finding No. 3:

FARE and CDC statistical information project a range of 4 percent to 7.7 percent of students (7,200 to 13,850 out of the estimated students in Contra Costa County eighteen school districts) that may have an allergy that is unknown to parents and undiagnosed.

Response to Finding No. 3:

I do not have any additional information on the FARE or CDC statistical information regarding undiagnosed allergies.

Finding No. 5:

SB 1266 does not clearly address the use of Pens at off-campus school activities or events.

Response to Finding No.5

Oakley does not provide EpiPens for students at off campus events. However, if a student with a known allergy will be attending a school-sponsored, off-campus event like a field trip, a trained staff member will be sent along with the student's prescribed EpiPen.

Finding No. 7:

SB 1266 does require follow up procedures for reporting the use of an EpiPen.

Response to Finding No. 7

This is true. However, Oakley has reporting procedures in place following the use of an EpiPen. When an EpiPen is used on a student at a school site (or school-sponsored event as mentioned in our response to number 5), a form is completed documenting the use. A copy of that form is sent to our District nurse who then sends a copy to an attending doctor for review.

RESPONSE TO RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation No. 3:

Each of the School District Boards should direct the School District Superintendent to contact all schools in their district at the start of each school calendar year to confirm that they are compliant with the requirements of SB 1266.

Response to Recommendation No. 3

This is unnecessary in Oakley as we already have a practice in place regarding the ordering of EpiPens. The Oakley District's nursing staff continuously orders EpiPens throughout the school year for the various school sites. The nursing staff also does one last follow up order at the beginning of the school year to make sure all school sites have EpiPens.

Recommendation No. 4:

Each of the School District Boards should direct their School District Superintendent to report to the Board at the start of each school calendar year that the School District is complaint with the requirements of SB 1266.

Response to Recommendation No. 4:

This is unnecessary in Oakley as we already have a practice in place regarding the ordering of EpiPens. The Oakley District's nursing staff continuously orders EpiPens throughout the school year for the various sites. The nursing staff also does one last

follow up order at the beginning of the school year to make sure all school sites have EpiPens.

Recommendation No. 8:

The School Districts should consider the practical and legal issues of supplying Pens for field trips and other off-site school events, and working with school nurses to develop policies and procedures for their use at these events.

Response to Recommendation No. 8:

Oakley currently sends a trained staff member along with a student's prescribed EpiPen to off-campus, school-sponsored events for students who have a known allergy. Recently this discussion of bringing extra EpiPens has been circulating in the email discussion forum in which the school district nurses within Contra Costa County participate. Oakley will continue to explore the possibility of this option.

Recommendation No. 10:

The School Districts should consider working with school nurses to develop policies and procedures for reporting the use of EpiPens.

Response to Recommendation No. 10:

This is already done in Oakley. Please see our response to Finding No. 7, above.

Recommendation No. 12:

The School Districts should consider helping parents understand the risks of anaphylaxis and the protocols in place for emergency administration of epinephrine. The School Districts should consider "identifying funds" to carry out these activities.

Response to Recommendation No. 12:

Oakley includes information in its Annual Notification to Parents about the risks of anaphylaxis. This notification is sent home with every child, every year and parents must sign an acknowledgement that they received the information. The information is provided in both English and Spanish.

Sincerely,



Greg Hetrick
Superintendent
Secretary to the Board