

EXHIBIT C

EXHIBIT C - SUICIDE PREVENTION PLAN

1) To ensure that suicide prevention measures are in place at the Jail, the Defendants shall:

- (a) repair and retrofit 2 of the current Jail's cells to eliminate obvious protrusions that are conducive to suicide attempts, including, but not limited to, exposed piping, light fixtures, towel racks, and electrical cords. These two cells shall be used for inmates with special needs, and shall be located close to a jailer's post;
- (b) ensure that any new or renovated Jail facility has suicide-safe, Special Observation cells which allow for constant, direct observation by trained officers. Special Observation cells shall be used for housing actively suicidal or severely, mentally ill inmates.
- (c) purchase equipment including, but not limited to, a first aid kit, a 911 rescue tool, disposable gloves, and a CPR pocket mask;
- (d) screen all inmates for suicide risk and other special needs prior to their admission to the Jail. Such screening shall thoroughly assess a potential inmate's mental health and shall comport with current mental health professional and correctional standards;
- (e) provide training by a jail suicide prevention



expert or licensed mental health professional to all the Jail staff responsible for supervising or monitoring the Jail inmates. Such training shall include, but not be limited to, the proper response to a suicide or suicide attempt, including how to cut down a hanging victim and other first-aid measures, the identification and screening of special needs inmates, and training about high-risk groups and critical periods for suicides and suicide attempts;

- (f) ensure that physical restraints are used only as a last resort for periods in which the inmate is engaged in self-destructive behavior and that a mental health professional is immediately notified when a decision has been made to utilize physical restraints.
- 2) The Defendants shall develop and implement written policies and procedures on suicide prevention and the treatment of special needs inmates, which shall include, but not be limited to, the following:
- (a) the appropriate housing of special needs inmates based on their needs. Actively suicidal inmates shall be housed in Special Observation cells once a new Jail is constructed or renovations at the old Jail are completed. Until such cells are available, actively suicidal inmates may be housed in retrofitted, suicide-safe cells at the existing Jail facility;

(b) the establishment of two levels of supervision for suicidal and/or special needs inmates--"Constant Watch" and "Close Watch." Constant Watch is reserved for an inmate who is actively suicidal, either by threatening or engaging in the act of suicide. The inmate shall be observed on a continuous uninterrupted basis (i.e., one-on-one) by an officer who has a clear, unobstructed view of the inmate at all times. Close Watch is reserved for an inmate who has expressed thoughts of suicide and/or has a prior history of suicidal behavior, but is not considered actively suicidal. The inmate shall be observed by an officer at staggered intervals (e.g., 5, 15, 10 etc.) not exceeding 15 minutes. The officer shall document the Constant Watch check every 15 minutes, and document the Close Watch as the staggered check occurs. These checks shall be documented in a special observation log book. Inmate trustees may supplement, but never be utilized to substitute for the physical observation of the officer. The level of supervision provided to the special needs inmate will be determined by a responsible mental health professional.

During an immediate crisis, the correctional supervisor may determine the initial level of supervision required, but must consult with a mental health professional as soon as possible;

- (c) the communication of information relating to special needs inmates between and among all the Jail staff members, between arresting and transporting officers and the Jail staff, between the Jail staff and the Jail administration and between the Jail staff and the special needs inmate;
- (d) the notification by the Jail staff to local or state mental health authorities that a special needs inmate (except intoxicated) has been admitted to the Jail;
- (e) the notification to the special needs inmate's family (except intoxicated) that he or she has been admitted to the Jail;
- (f) the assessment of all special needs inmates as soon as possible by a qualified mental health professional to assess the inmate's level of suicide risk;
- (g) the establishment of a mechanism by which the Jail staff will communicate with health care providers regarding the status of potentially

suicidal inmates or inmates who have recently attempted suicide;

- (h) the establishment of a mechanism by which the Jail staff will refer potentially suicidal inmates and inmates who have recently attempted suicide to mental health care providers or facilities for placement;
- (i) the documentation of all attempted and completed suicides and notification to the Jail administrators, outside authorities and family members of all attempted and completed suicides; and
- (j) the establishment of follow-up and administrative review procedures for all attempted and completed suicides, including the determination of what changes, if any, are needed in the Suicide Prevention Program.