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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

RALPH COLEMAN, et al.,  
Plaintiffs,  
v.  
EDMUND G. BROWN, JR., et al.,  
Defendants.

No. 2:90-cv-0520 KJM DAD P

**ORDER**

Between November 12, 2013 and July 24, 2014, the Special Master’s expert, Lindsay M. Hayes, M.S., conducted a comprehensive audit of suicide prevention practices in each of the thirty-four prisons operated by the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR). On January 14, 2015, the Special Master filed a report on Mr. Hayes’ audit, ECF No. 5258, together with Mr. Hayes’ report on that audit, ECF No. 5259.

Mr. Hayes’ audit followed agreement by the Suicide Prevention Management Workgroup that “an expert assessment of current suicide prevention practices in all 34 CDCR prisons was needed for the workgroup to carry out its charge.” ECF No. 5259 at 1.<sup>1</sup> The audit is based on on-site assessments of suicide prevention practices at each of CDCR’s thirty-four prisons and included review of suicide prevention local operating procedures, health care records

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<sup>1</sup> The Suicide Prevention Management Workgroup was established by court order filed July 12, 2013, ECF No. 4693.

1 of inmates on suicide watch, records of inmates referred to the mental health program for  
2 assessment of suicide risk, minutes from meetings of institutional Suicide Prevention and  
3 Response Focused Improvement Teams (SPRFITs), and all inmate suicides between 2012 to the  
4 time of individual institutional visits by the auditor. ECF No. 5259 at 1-2.

5 Mr. Hayes' report includes numerous findings made during the audit and contains  
6 a comprehensive set of recommendations. It was distributed in draft to the parties in November  
7 2014 and the parties were given thirty days to submit comments and/or objections to the draft  
8 report to the Special Master. ECF No. 5258 at 4. Plaintiffs submitted to the Special Master a  
9 request for additional recommendations in several areas. ECF No. 5258 at 4. Beyond his  
10 summary of plaintiffs' request, the Special Master has chosen not to include plaintiffs'  
11 recommendations for consideration by the court at this time. ECF No. 5258 at 4.<sup>2</sup> Defendants'  
12 "particularized responses" to the recommendations made by Mr. Hayes have been incorporated  
13 into the final expert report filed on January 14, 2015. *See* ECF No. 5258 at 4.

14 The Special Master reports that he agrees with Mr. Hayes' recommendations and  
15 he recommends that defendants be ordered to adopt those recommendations and work with him in  
16 the Suicide Prevention Management Workgroup, "and otherwise as may be necessary, on the  
17 development of strategies and the implementation of the changes and practices described in the  
18 recommendations. . . ." ECF No. 5258 at 5. The Special Master also requests an order requiring  
19 him to provide an update to the court on defendants' implementation of suicide prevention  
20 policies and practices, either in his Twenty-Sixth Round Monitoring Report or as soon thereafter  
21 as practicable. Neither party has filed objections to the Special Master's report or the order he  
22 requests. In addition, neither party has filed objections to the final expert report filed with the  
23 Special Master's report. It appears from review of the expert's report that defendants have agreed  
24 to work on, or are already working on, the great majority of the expert's recommendations, either  
25 in the context of the Suicide Prevention Management Workgroup or otherwise with the Special  
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27 <sup>2</sup> The court previously has noted that requests for court orders based on recommendations made  
28 by the Special Master's suicide prevention experts should be made, if at all, by the Special  
Master. Order filed November 23, 2009 at 13-14, ECF No. 3731.


1 Master. Where there is apparent hesitation by defendants about a particular recommendation they  
2 have represented a willingness to discuss the issue further in the Suicide Prevention Management  
3 Workgroup. *See, e.g.*, ECF No. 5259 at 30-31 nn. 40-41.

4 After review of both reports, and good cause appearing, IT IS HEREBY  
5 ORDERED that:

6 1. Defendants shall adopt the recommendations contained in the Special Master's  
7 Report on his Expert's Audit, ECF No. 5258, and shall work with the Special Master in the  
8 Suicide Prevention Management Workgroup and otherwise as may be necessary on the  
9 development of strategies and the implementation of the changes and practices contained in those  
10 recommendations; and

11 2. The Special Master shall provide an update to the court on defendants' progress  
12 in implementing suicide prevention policies and practices either in his Twenty-Sixth Round  
13 Monitoring Report or in a companion report to be filed therewith.

14 DATED: February 3, 2015.

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17 UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE  
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