



Florida Department of
Law Enforcement

Gerald M. Bailey
Commissioner


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Adam Putnam, *Commissioner of Agriculture*

MEMORANDUM

DATE: April 29, 2014

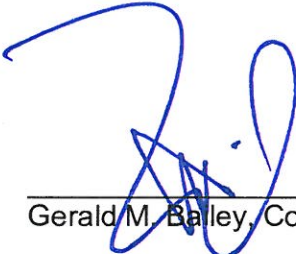
TO: Gerald M. Bailey, Commissioner
Office of Executive Director

FROM: Lourdes Howell-Thomas, Inspector General 
Office of Inspector General

SUBJECT: Six-Month Follow-Up Report
Auditor General Report, Number 2014-040
Department of Law Enforcement, Firearm Purchase Program-Operational Audit

In accordance with the provisions of s. 20.055 (5)(h), Florida Statutes, attached is a six-month status report. The report details the implementation or status of corrective actions taken by the Department for the recommendation made in the above referenced Auditor General report.

The findings, recommendation, response and status of actions as of April 23, 2014 are attached. If further information is needed, please contact me at (850) 410-7241.



Gerald M. Bailey, Commissioner

Date 5/1/14

LHT/at

Attachment

cc: Kathy DuBose, Coordinator, Joint Legislative Auditing Committee

Auditor General Report Number 2014-040
Department of Law Enforcement
Firearms Purchase Program Operational Audit
Six-Month Status Report

Finding No. 1: Mentally Defective Database

Recommendation: We recommend that the Department continue its efforts to work with the Clerks to ensure that records are timely, accurately, and completely entered into the MECOM Database as required by State law.

Response: Agree. The Department will continue its efforts to work with the Clerks to ensure that records are timely, accurately, and completely entered into the MECOM database as required by State law. The reporting standards established in the Department's MECOM database are consistent with reporting standards established by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. However, the Department will continue to work with its statewide partners to ensure that all required demographic information for mental health records are consistently reported to the Courts for inclusion in the court order.

Six-Month Status Response: FDLE established a working group of stakeholders to discuss mental health issues as it relates to the purchase of firearms. Specifically, the workgroup identified challenges stakeholder groups were experiencing as it relates to the accuracy, timeliness and completeness of reporting mental health records into the MECOM database. Stakeholder groups participating in this workgroup include representatives from the Clerks of the Court, members of the Judiciary, physicians from receiving and treatment facilities, the Department of Children and Families and the Office of Statewide Court Administrators. FDLE also invited representatives from stakeholder associations which included the Florida Court Clerk and Comptrollers (FCCC), the Florida Council on Behavioral Health, the Florida Psychiatric Society and a recognized subject matter expert on Baker and Marchman Act training. This workgroup developed recommended forms and workflow documentation to assist stakeholder groups in achieving compliance with the requirements of House Bill (HB) 1355 as well as reporting requirements previously outlined in s. 790.065, Florida Statutes. Members of this workgroup subsequently delivered six training sessions statewide to assist in a much needed outreach and education effort. The Department of Children and Families has agreed to host a recorded version of one training session and copies of all recommended forms on their website for future use by stakeholder groups.

FDLE provided a speaker for the FCCC Winter Conference in January 2014 to speak and field questions regarding requirements for entry of disqualifying mental health orders into the MECOM database. As part of our continued outreach effort to the Clerks of the Court, FDLE will again host training related to mental health reporting requirements at the annual CJIS Training Symposium in July of this year. FDLE has also received valuable input from the Clerks regarding some usability issues associated with our MECOM database. We have drafted a proposal to our Information Technology Services Division to rewrite the MECOM database using more up-to-date system architecture and enhanced report capabilities to assist with more timely and accurate reporting of mental health records.

FDLE plans to continue the HB 1355 workgroup to document lessons learned through the training process and to identify and recommend potential legislative changes necessary to ensure continued compliance with all of the reporting requirements outlined in s. 790.065, Florida Statutes. FDLE will continue to track and communicate statewide progress of mental health reporting through the MECOM database to all stakeholders responsible for mental health reporting as outlined by law.