

COUNTY OF HUDSON



**OFFICE OF
THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE**

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THOMAS A. DE GISE
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

November 3, 2016

Alberto Santos, Clerk
Board of Chosen Freeholders
Administration Annex Building
567 Pavonia Avenue
Jersey City, New Jersey 07306

**RE: Ad Hoc Committee – Medical Services to Detainees
Executive Order No. TAD- 61**

Dear Mr. Santos:

Pursuant to the authority vested in this office by N.J.S.A. 40:41A-36 and 37, as well as Section 3.3 of the Hudson County Administrative Code, kindly be advised of the following:

PREAMBLE

WHEREAS, Hudson County over the past number of years has had a contractual relationship with the United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement Agency (“ICE”) whereby ICE has sent immigration detainees (the “Detainees”) for housing by the County pending deportation hearings; and

WHEREAS, the Detainees have been housed in the Hudson County Correctional Center (the “HCCC”), in a segregated wing apart from inmates; and

WHEREAS, while the Detainees are in the custody of the County in the HCCC, the County is required to provide the Detainees with any needed medical treatment; and

WHEREAS, the County has entered into an agreement with a third party medical provider, who is contractually obligated to attend to the medical needs of the Detainees while in the custody of the HCCC; and

WHEREAS, a number of months ago the County received complaints alleging that the Detainees were not receiving proper medical treatment while housed in the HCCC; and

WHEREAS, the County Administration after consultation with the Hudson County Board of Chosen Freeholders empaneled an independent Medical Review Panel (the "Panel") who was asked to review the complaints received by the County regarding the medical care provided to the Detainees; and

WHEREAS, the Panel, which was comprised of two (2) physicians, one (1) attorney, who has extensive experience in the area of medical malpractice, and one (1) retired New Jersey Superior Court Judge, conducted a review of the complaints received by the County; and

WHEREAS, the Panel has submitted a report (the "Report") to the County relative to its findings; and

WHEREAS, while the Report did not cite any specific instances where the medical needs of the Detainees were not addressed, the Report did recommend a number of actions the County should take in order to ensure that the medical needs of the Detainees were fully met in a timely and efficient manner; and

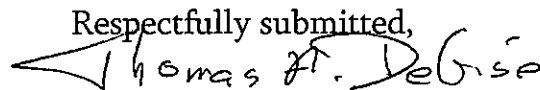
WHEREAS, among the recommendations of the Panel was that an ad hoc committee be established by the County, which would consist of representatives from ICE as well as immigration detainee advocacy groups, along with representatives of the County and the medical provider at the HCCC, in order to monitor the medical services provided to the Detainees at the HCCC.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, THOMAS A. DeGISE, County Executive of Hudson County, do hereby ORDER and DIRECT:

1. The above recitals are incorporated herein as if fully set forth at length.
2. This ORDER hereby establishes the “Hudson County ICE Detainee Medical Review Ad Hoc Committee” (the “Medical Ad Hoc Committee”).
3. The Medical Ad Hoc Committee shall consist of the County Administrator or his designee; the Director or Deputy Director of the Hudson County Department of Corrections; a representative of the Hudson County Department of Roads and Public Property (as needed); the Field Office Director of the New York/New Jersey Office of the Immigration Customs Enforcement Agency, or the designee of the Director; the Health Services Administrator of the contracted medical provider at the HCCC; the Reverend Eugene Squeo, an advocate for the Detainees; and Sally Pillay, a representative of First Friends, an advocacy group for the Detainees.
4. The Medical Ad Hoc Committee shall be Chaired by the County Administrator or his designee and the County Administrator shall ensure that any other County employees needed by the Medical Ad Hoc Committee in the performance of its mission are made available to the Committee.
5. The primary function and purpose of the Medical Ad Hoc Committee shall be to review the quality and level of medical care provided to the Detainees at the HCCC.
6. The Medical Ad Hoc Committee shall also meet with the County Administration to review the proposed actions the County intends to take to address the Key Recommendations contained within the Report.

7. The Medical Ad Hoc Committee shall meet within thirty (30) days of this Executive Order and thereafter meet as necessary, but at least on a bi-monthly basis.
8. Legal advice and administrative support, if sought, shall be provided by the Office of the County Counsel.
9. The Medical Ad Hoc Committee shall on a yearly basis provide a report to the County Executive as to the level of medical services being provided to the Detainees while housed in the HCCC and that report shall be shared with the Hudson County Board of Chosen Freeholders.
10. In furtherance of this ORDER, the Medical Ad Hoc Committee may call upon any County Department, officer, or Division to provide data or statistical information and such other information which may be deemed necessary to carry out its purpose.
11. This ORDER shall take effect immediately and carries no expiration date.

Respectfully submitted,



Thomas A. DeGise

Hudson County Executive

TAD:mm

cc: Honorable Tilo Rivas, Chairperson
Abraham Antun, County Administrator
Donato J. Battista, County Counsel
Office of Director, Department of Corrections