

**CITIZENS' LAW ENFORCEMENT REVIEW BOARD
POLICY RECOMMENDATION**

**USE OF TECHNOLOGY TO MONITOR THE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF JUVENILES IN CUSTODY AT
SAN DIEGO COUNTY JUVENILE DETENTION FACILITIES**

BACKGROUND:

The San Diego County Probation Department (Probation Department) operates two juvenile detention facilities. Over the past 10 years, two deaths have occurred in facilities operated by the Probation Department. CLERB recommends the consideration of using existing or new technology to identify and subsequently aid inmates who may be in medical distress. As of this writing, there are at least two existing devices currently in use for the purpose of monitoring the health and safety of incarcerated individuals and alerting detention facility staff of possible health issues, thus allowing for early intervention.


- One device, in use at sheriff's offices in Arkansas and Oklahoma, consists of a band placed on a person's wrist or ankle that monitors the heart rate. At this stage of its deployment, it is used on persons who have known medical issues or are detoxing from drugs or alcohol.
- Another device, in use at a police department in England, consists of a high-tech camera inside of a cell that monitors an inmate's movement, pulse, and breathing.

CLERB believes that all efforts to reduce the likelihood of in-custody deaths must be taken, to include those that would appear fiscally cost prohibitive, and/or for unknown reasons, unlikely to be implemented or successful. The financial cost of implementing or, at a minimum, initiating a pilot project involving new technology will be high, however, CLERB believes the value of human life outweighs any cost.

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS:

Pursuant to Section 340.9(g) of the San Diego County Administrative Code, the Citizens' Law Enforcement Review Board (CLERB) shall have the authority to review and make recommendations on policies and procedures of the San Diego County Sheriff's Department and San Diego County Probation Department. As such, CLERB makes the following policy recommendations to Probation:

1. Research, and publicly report the results of its research efforts, i.e., associated costs, technology considered, reasons for not implementing, if applicable, etc., the use of technological devices to identify and subsequently aid inmates who may be in medical distress.
2. Incorporate into policy the use of technological devices to identify and subsequently aid inmates who may be in medical distress.

Submitted by: 	Date: 03-28-22	Reviewed by: 	Date: 03-28-22
Paul R. Parker III, Executive Officer		Lynn Setzler, Supervising Special Investigator	