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2015-07-27

Lisa Lapointe Chief Coroner Metrotower II, Suite 800 4720 Kingsway Burnaby, BC V5H 4N2

## **Re:** Coroner's Inquests into the Deaths of Jesse Marcel LAHN on May 3, 2013 and David Lawrence Robert LANGLET on May 9, 2014 at Kent Institution

Dear Ms. Lapointe,

I would like to confirm that the Correctional Service of Canada (CSC) has received the British Columbia Coroners Service Inquests into the deaths of David Lawrence Robert LANGLET (dated May 28, 2015) and Jesse Marcel Lahn (dated June 2, 2015). On behalf of the Commissioner of CSC, I would like to thank you for providing us with these Coroner's Inquests.

I note that each of the Inquests requested CSC to respond to the recommendations put forward by the Jury within 60 calendar days. Please be advised that CSC takes these recommendations very seriously and is currently coordinating a response which will be forwarded to your office by the end of September 2015. We hope that this timeframe is reasonable for you.

Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me at the coordinates listed below.

Yours truly,

Original signed by: Julie Blasko A/Director General, Incident Investigations Branch, National Headquarters Julie.Blasko@csc-scc.gc.ca 613-947-3922

c.c.: Anne Kelly, Senior Deputy Commissioner





Correctional Service Service correctionnel Canada Canada

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Lisa Lapointe Chief Coroner Province of British Columbia Metrotower II, Suite 800 4720 Kingsway Burnaby, B.C. V5H 4N2

## Re: <u>Verdict at Coroner's Inquest into the Death of David Lawrence Robert</u> LANGLET at Kent Institution on May 9, 2014

Dear Ms. Lapointe:

Thank you for your report dated May 5, 2015 stemming from the Inquest held May 4-5, 2015 into the tragic death of David LANGLET at Kent Institution. As a voluntary participant in the inquest, the Correctional Service of Canada (CSC) thanks you for your Verdict. While we recognize that the recommendations are not binding on CSC as a federal organization, we have nevertheless taken them under consideration and provide you with the following responses.

### **Recommendation #1:**

## When a Correctional Officer relays an inmate's request, there should be a mechanism to confirm the request has been received by the appropriate staff.

The Inmate Request process currently in place within all CSC institutions speaks to this Recommendation. When an inmate submits a written request through the use of the *Inmate's Request* form (CSC/SCC 1122), the inmate must submit the form in an Inmate Request box found in the unit (and various other locations throughout the institution). A CSC staff member is responsible for collecting the *Inmate's Request* forms from the boxes on a daily basis, and disseminating the requests to the appropriate departments for response. The *Inmate's Request* form is signed upon receipt, and a copy of the signed form is returned to the inmate, another copy is given to the individual/department responsible for addressing the specific inmate request (i.e., Psychology Department),



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and a third copy is retained on the inmate's case management file. CSC's requirement is that a response from the required department to the inmate's request must be provided within 15 days.

#### Recommendation #2:

# We recommend that different care teams at the facility need access to inmates' files to better identify inmates' potential risk factors.

CSC agrees that the appropriate sharing of information among different care teams is important in identifying an inmate's potential risk factors. Within CSC, the sharing of personal health information is guided by policy based on the need-to-know principle (i.e., the sharing of information is pertinent and necessary to an individual in order to perform his/her duties), and is related to risk, need and responsivity factors. For example, Commissioner's Directive (CD) 800, *Health Services*, paragraphs 5(b) and (c) indicate that the Manager of Clinical Services or the Manager for Institutional Mental Health will ensure that processes are in place *"for the sharing of risk-related health information with relevant operations staff, particularly if there is a likelihood for significant impairment in the offender's functioning within the institution, and/or impact successful reintegration"*, as well as for *"the facilitation of interdisciplinary health team meetings..."*. Interdisciplinary health teams, which include both health and operations staff, discuss current clinical, operational and case management issues/concerns, short/long term goals, and the roles and responsibilities of all staff intervening with the inmate, in order to respond effectively and to provide advice and support to the inmate.

Further, Guidelines 800-3, Consent to Health Service Assessment, Treatment and Release of Information, provide direction to staff in order to ensure relevant information is shared in accordance with professional standards and legal requirements.

Finally, CSC's Guidelines for Sharing Personal Health Information "provide clarification regarding what offender personal mental and physical health information (verbal, hard copy or electronic files) may be shared by health care professionals, when it can be shared and with whom. The sharing of information needs to be carried out in a way that ensures that an individual's rights to privacy and confidentiality are upheld, while still ensuring that relevant parties have access to relevant information. Clear direction regarding the sharing of offender health information will mitigate the potential for serious legal consequences or violation of offender privacy rights".

#### **Recommendation #3:**

#### For these suggestions to be effective, they must be made policy.

Direction to CSC staff regarding the sharing of information is currently established in policy. As detailed above, the key policy documents are: CD 800, *Health Services*;

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Guidelines 800-3, Consent to Health Service Assessment, Treatment and Release of Information (revised April 2015); Guidelines for the Sharing of Personal Health Information; and, CD 701, Information Sharing.

On behalf of CSC, I thank you for your contribution as we improve our efforts to protect the safety of those under our charge.

Yours sincerely,

Don Head

c.c.: Regional Deputy Commissioner, Pacific Region
 Executive Director and General Counsel, Legal Services, National Headquarters
 (NHQ)
 Assistant Commissioner, Correctional Operations and Programs, NHQ
 Assistant Commissioner, Health Services, NHQ
 Assistant Commissioner, Policy, NHQ
 A/Director General, Incident Investigations Branch, NHQ
 Office of the Correctional Investigator