



C507566
59100-20/CRANE

April 7, 2015

Lisa Lapointe
Chief Coroner
BC Coroners Service
Metrotower II
Suite 800 – 4720 Kingsway
Burnaby BC V5H 4N2

Dear Ms. Lapointe:

Re: Coroner's inquest into the death of:
CRANE, Victor
BCCS Case File #2012-0376-0109

I am responding to your February 10, 2015 letter in which you inquire as to action taken by the Corrections Branch regarding jury recommendations arising from the Verdict at Coroner's Inquest concerning the death of Victor Crane. Mr. Crane died while in the custody of Fraser Regional Correctional Centre.

All recommendations directed to the attention of the Corrections Branch have been addressed as follows and as detailed in the attached response table:

1. All visual checks of inmate areas, including checks conducted promptly before or after meal distributions, may be subject to random video audit. It is not possible to conduct a visual check during mealtime as staff are busy with monitoring the meal distribution. Consequently, there are no audits conducted during mealtimes.
2. All correctional staff receive mandatory training on a variety of illicit drugs and recognition of their modes of use and symptoms. BC Corrections is reviewing the possibility of providing Naloxone training to correctional staff. Posters addressing the signs and symptoms of illicit drug use are being developed for display in all correctional centres for the benefit of staff and inmates.

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Protect Communities, Reduce Reoffending

Ministry of Justice

Corrections Branch
Office of the
Assistant Deputy Minister

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3. All new admissions receive a physical and mental health assessment upon admission. The health care record is updated for each inmate as new health care information becomes known. Prior to transfer, the file is reviewed and notations are made regarding current status and treatment plan. The receiving centre review the record within 24 hours of the inmate's admission and ensures the treatment plan is continued and that any outstanding health or mental health needs are addressed. Given the rigour of the current assessment and information sharing processes, it is not necessary to conduct a full and formal intake process for all inmates who are transferred to another provincial correctional centre.
4. There is no need to have additional correctional officers providing supervision in living units in provincial correctional centres. In addition to the presence of the living unit officer, other correctional officers, supervisors and managers regularly pass through the living unit in the course of a work shift. If a living unit officer is concerned about inmates congregating in a certain area of the living unit, back-up may be requested to help alleviate any potential risk.
5. It is not practicable to introduce an educational component concerning the consequences of illicit drug use during the intake procedure as most inmates are not in a position to properly digest the information. It is preferable that health care staff address this later during the term of custody. Inmates may be provided with this information during two training modules facilitated by correctional staff. Posters regarding the consequences of illicit drug use are being developed and will be displayed for the benefit of inmates throughout all provincial correctional centres by fall 2015.

The BC Corrections Branch strives to provide a safe and secure environment for incarcerated offenders. When tragedies such as this occur, the branch endeavours to modify and improve procedures to prevent similar occurrences.

Yours sincerely,



Brent Merchant
Assistant Deputy Minister

Attachment

pc: Ms. Tara Devine (w/a)

**FRASER REGIONAL CORRECTIONAL CENTRE
DEATH OF INMATE – May 20, 2012**

RECOMMENDATION	RESPONSE			
	ACTION TAKEN	ACTION PLANNED	TIME FRAME	RESP.
1. To ensure that while random audits of visual and security checks are being performed, that they include conducting audits during at least one mealtime.	<p>Correctional officers are required to conduct visual checks of inmate areas on a regular basis throughout their work shift. Provincial policy is specific as to the frequency which these checks are to be performed. Some of these checks are conducted at scheduled times, while others are conducted at irregular intervals to avoid a predictable pattern. These checks are critical to ensuring the safety and security of inmates, staff and the security of the centre.</p> <p>During mealtimes, correctional staff are expected to monitor the meal distribution, which precludes their ability to simultaneously conduct visual checks of the inmate area. Consequently, visual checks are conducted promptly before or after meal distributions. In accordance with new policy introduced in January 2014, all visual checks including checks before or after meal distributions may be subject to random video audit by a manager to ensure they were conducted according to policy.</p>		Completed	
2. To consider reviewing the signs and symptoms of illicit drug use with Correctional staff for educational purposes and to consider Naloxone training for all BC Corrections Staff.	All correctional officers receive mandatory training on a variety of illicit drugs and recognition of their modes of use and symptoms through four different courses. A fifth course is also provided to correctional officers who work with female inmates.	<p>B.C. Corrections is reviewing the possibility of providing Naloxone training to correctional staff.</p> <p>Posters addressing the signs and symptoms of illicit drug use are being developed for display in all provincial correctional centres for the benefit of</p>	Completed	

**FRASER REGIONAL CORRECTIONAL CENTRE
DEATH OF INMATE – May 20, 2012**

RECOMMENDATION	RESPONSE			
	ACTION TAKEN	ACTION PLANNED	TIME FRAME	RESP.
		staff and inmates.		
3. To consider conducting a full and formal intake for all inmates entering each prison, including inmate transfers.	<p>All new admissions to custody complete a physical and mental health assessment within 24 hours. The assessment includes a search for, and review of, any historical health care records. The results are recorded in the Primary Assessment and Care (PAC) system for ongoing reference by health care personnel. PAC is updated as necessary when new health care information becomes known, including any significant changes in the inmate's health or mental health status.</p> <p>When an inmate is transferred to another B.C. provincial correctional centre, a review of the entire health care record is conducted. The sending centre makes a notation in PAC that details the current health and mental health status and the treatment plan. The receiving centre reviews the health care record within 24 hours of admission, documents the review in PAC, and ensures that arrangements are made to continue the patient's treatment plan and address any outstanding health or mental health needs.</p> <p>Given the rigour of the current assessment and information sharing processes, it is not necessary to conduct a full and formal intake process for all inmates who are transferred to another provincial correctional centre.</p>		Completed	

**FRASER REGIONAL CORRECTIONAL CENTRE
DEATH OF INMATE – May 20, 2012**

RECOMMENDATION	RESPONSE			
	ACTION TAKEN	ACTION PLANNED	TIME FRAME	RESP.
4. To add extra Correctional Officer staff during the non-lock down time periods.	There is no need to have additional correctional officers providing supervision in living units in provincial correctional centres. In addition to the presence of the living unit officer, other correctional officers, supervisors and managers regularly pass through the living unit in the course of a work shift. If a living unit officer is concerned about inmates congregating in a certain area of the living unit, back-up may be requested to help alleviate any potential risk.		Completed	
5. To consider that during the intake procedure, a review of the education of inmates as to the consequences of illicit drug use.	Inmates arriving at correctional centres are often in a distressed state (e.g. intoxicated, mentally decompensating due to substance abuse or lack of prescribed medication) and not able or willing to fully absorb pertinent information prior to stabilization. A misleading sense of accomplishment among health care staff could result if an educational component was introduced during intake. It is preferable that health care staff address concerns with specific inmates later during the term of custody. Inmates are provided with information about the consequences of substance use in the Essential Skills to Success and Substance Abuse Management training modules facilitated by correctional staff.	Posters regarding the consequences of illicit drug use are being developed and will be displayed for the benefit of inmates throughout all provincial correctional centres by fall 2015.	Completed	