



January 26, 2022

To: Sheriff W. Masters

From: Sgt. Inv. G. Markwell

Re: Internal Investigation – P. Martinez

1. Introduction:

a. On Thursday, 12/23/21, I, San Miguel County Sheriff's Officer (SMSO) Sergeant Investigator G. Markwell, was tasked by Undersheriff Covault to conduct an administrative investigation regarding an allegation of untruthfulness and falsifying an official record against SMSO Deputy Paula Martinez. This allegation was brought forth by [REDACTED]. The genesis for the complaint was a client session conducted by Deputy Martinez with SMSO jail inmate [REDACTED] on 11/27/21 from approximately 0936 hours to 0954 hours [REDACTED] was, at the time, in custody after [REDACTED] was arrested for an active warrant. Deputy Martinez's session with [REDACTED] was conducted in the SMSO jail's booking section where [REDACTED] was being held in the jail's administrative segregation cell.

2. Synopsis:

a. The allegation made by [REDACTED] stated Deputy Martinez knowingly falsified portions of the information Deputy Martinez entered into an official SMSO Co-response (CORE) electronic health record related to the suicide risk assessment of [REDACTED]. Specifically, [REDACTED] stated Deputy Martinez did not ask required questions from the Columbia Suicide Severity Rating Scale (C-SSRS) about [REDACTED] current suicidal ideations and intentions. The Columbia-Suicide Severity Rating Scale is a standard and commonly used questionnaire utilized for suicide assessment.

b. [REDACTED] also stated Deputy Martinez provided answers to questions related to the C-SSRS risk assessment within the electronic health record of [REDACTED], but never asked these questions during the actual client session. [REDACTED] also stated Deputy Martinez provided false information to [REDACTED] during conversations [REDACTED] had with Deputy Martinez regarding this risk assessment.

c. Furthermore, [REDACTED] stated the falsification of this information resulted in a deviation from the appropriate and mandated mental health standard of care for [REDACTED]



### 3. Summary of allegations:

#### a. Falsified an official record (electronic health record):

- i. SMSO Personnel Manual, Section 2.1, labeled General Conduct and Responsibilities: The Sheriff expects employees to be ethical in their conduct while engaged in County business. The Sheriff's Office requires employees to carefully follow all laws and regulations and have the highest standards of conduct and personal integrity. Our continued success depends on the public's trust. Employees owe a duty to the County to act in ways that will earn us the continued trust and confidence of the public. The expectation is that all employees conduct business in accordance with the letter, spirit, and intent of all relevant laws, avoiding conduct that is illegal, dishonest, or unethical.
- ii. SMSO Personnel Manual Section 2.9.9, labeled Misrepresentation or Falsification: An employee shall not willfully misrepresent or falsify any matter, verbally or in writing.

#### b. Untruthfulness:

- i. SMSO Personnel Manual, Section 2.1, labeled General Conduct and Responsibilities: The Sheriff expects employees to be ethical in their conduct while engaged in County business. The Sheriff's Office requires employees to carefully follow all laws and regulations and have the highest standards of conduct and personal integrity. Our continued success depends on the public's trust. Employees owe a duty to the County to act in ways that will earn us the continued trust and confidence of the public. The expectation is that all employees conduct business in accordance with the letter, spirit, and intent of all relevant laws, avoiding conduct that is illegal, dishonest, or unethical.
- ii. SMSO Personnel Manual, Section 2.2, labeled Code of Ethics, which states, in part, I understand that honesty, speaking the truth and absolute accuracy is critical in this demanding profession.

### 4. Evidence/attachments:

- a. Spillman radio log summary report for 11/27/21
- b. Spillman CAD call screen entry C120388
- c. Electronic health record for [REDACTED] (first copy with hand written notes)
- d. Rocky Mountain Health Plans Crisis Services Training Attestation
- e. Document labeled Summary of evaluation with Deputy Paula Martinez as a Peace Officer first responder
- f. Video: Booking 2, dated 11/27/21
- g. Video: Ad-Seg, dated 11/27/21
- h. Audio: [REDACTED] interview, dated 01/03/21
- i. SMSO [REDACTED] email statement
- j. Deputy P. Martinez signed Acknowledgement of Receipt related to SMSO Personnel Manual policy review



- k. Deputy P. Martinez Oath of Office signed
  - l. Audio file containing voice mail left by [REDACTED] for Chief Administrative Officer Jennifer Dinsmore
  - m. San Miguel County Performance Review Supervisor Evaluation Form, dated 12/13/21
  - n. Audio: [REDACTED] interview with Deputy Martinez, dated 12/22/21
  - o. Deputy Martinez's SMSO Appointment Letter
  - p. Deputy Martinez's SMSO Oath of Office
  - q. Deputy T. Martin Email Statement
  - r. Video: Jail – VIDEO\_20211127\_105137\_041
  - s. [REDACTED] (additional printable version)
5. Conclusion:
- a. To whether Deputy Martinez knowingly falsified information entered into an official SMSO Co-Response (CORE) electronic health record related to the suicide risk assessment of [REDACTED]. This complaint is sustained and is supported by the documents and evidence attached to this case file.
  - b. To whether Deputy Martinez provided untruthful information regarding the Columbia-Suicide Severity Rating Scale (risk assessment) and client's electronic health record and provided false information to her direct supervisor. This complaint is sustained and is supported by the documents and evidence attached to this case file.
6. Exhibits (memorandums):
- a. Review of CAD Call 120388
  - b. Review of Jail Booking 2 video
  - c. Review of Radio Log Summary
  - d. Review of [REDACTED] electronic health record
  - e. Review of Deputy Martinez's Performance Review
  - f. Review of the summary of Deputy Martinez's Performance Review
  - g. Review of Deputy Martinez's Rock Mountain Health Plans Attestation of Training
  - h. Review of Deputy Martinez's Acknowledgement of Receipt and Code of Ethics
  - i. Review of [REDACTED] email statement
  - j. Review of [REDACTED] voice mail to J. Dinsmore
  - k. Review of Audio File – Deputy Martinez's Performance Evaluation
  - l. Summary of Investigator Interview with [REDACTED]
  - m. Review of Deputy Martinez email about self-study
  - n. Review of Deputy [REDACTED] email statement
  - o. Review of Deputy Martinez's personnel record



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*William S. Masters, Sheriff*

7. Addendum: During my investigation, an additional complaint was made by SMSO Deputy [REDACTED] regarding an allegation of untruthfulness by Deputy Martinez during a call for service both responded to at the Village Center Cleaners at 1445 Grand Avenue in Norwood, CO on 06/10/21. That incident was under investigation concurrent with this investigation. However, Deputy Martinez resigned her position with the agency prior to the completion of that investigation. It was documented under SMSO IA 22-0001.

Respectfully,

Sergeant G. Markwell  
Investigator, 337



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