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Sheriff Addresses Effects of Funding Cuts to Inmate Services

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By KEYT Assignment Desk
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Santa Barbara County Sheriff Bill Brown is providing County Supervisors with an update on the jail's mental health services.

This comes at a time when the jail is over crowded and state budget cuts threaten funds that could be used for additional jail services, including inmate treatment programs.

Chief Deputy Don Patterson, who oversees jail services, says the jail staff conducts inmate assessments by a nurse. He says mental health evaluations in the first seven to ten days of incarcerations are very important.

Supervisor Salud Carbajal says he wants to investigate concepts to deal with inmates with mental health issues in a different way than the current system, which he claims contributes to the current jail overcrowding crisis.