



# SUICIDE WATCH OVERVIEW

# **Suicide is a leading cause of death in America's jails.**

- National Institute of Corrections

Inmate suicides are 3 times more likely than the general public

# SUICIDE PREVENTION IS SAVING LIVES

Suicides in Multnomah County's jails  
have **dropped**

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From **1-2** suicides **every year**  
to only **1 in 4 YEARS**

## Why?

- ✓ Suicide prevention training
- ✓ Physical plant modifications
- ✓ Cross departmental collaboration

# SUICIDE PREVENTION IS A TEAM EFFORT

## Suicide Screening Process

**ALL** inmates assessed for suicide risk at:

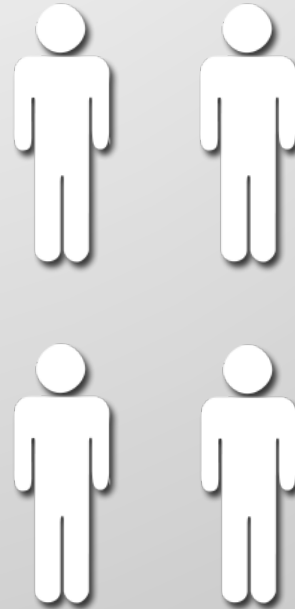
- ✓ **Booking**
- ✓ **RECOG**
- ✓ **Classification**
- ✓ **Medical Intake**

## Constant Suicide Watch



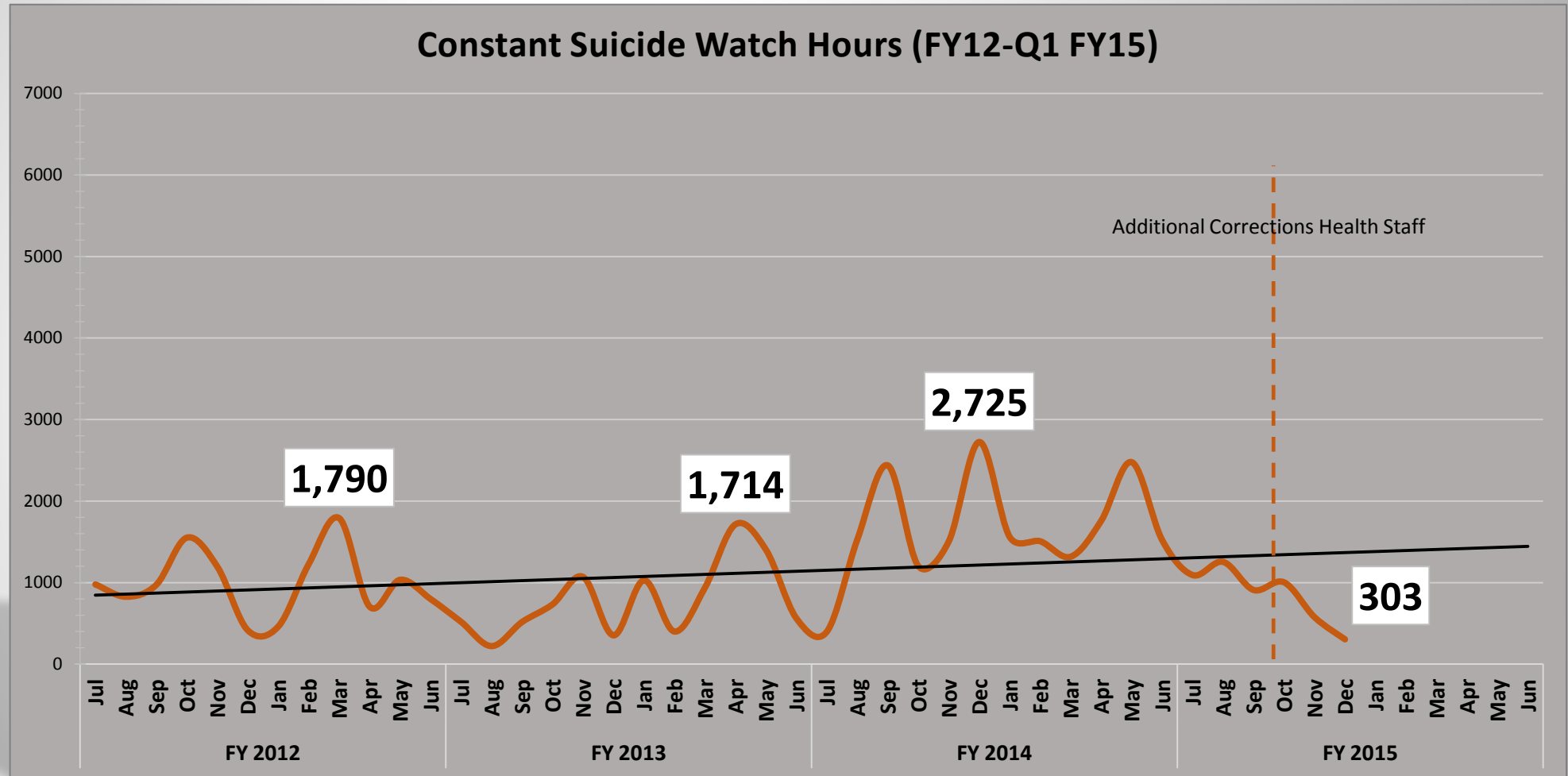
# NATIONAL BEST PRACTICES FOR SUICIDE WATCH

## Active Suicide Watch



# SUICIDE WATCH TRENDS

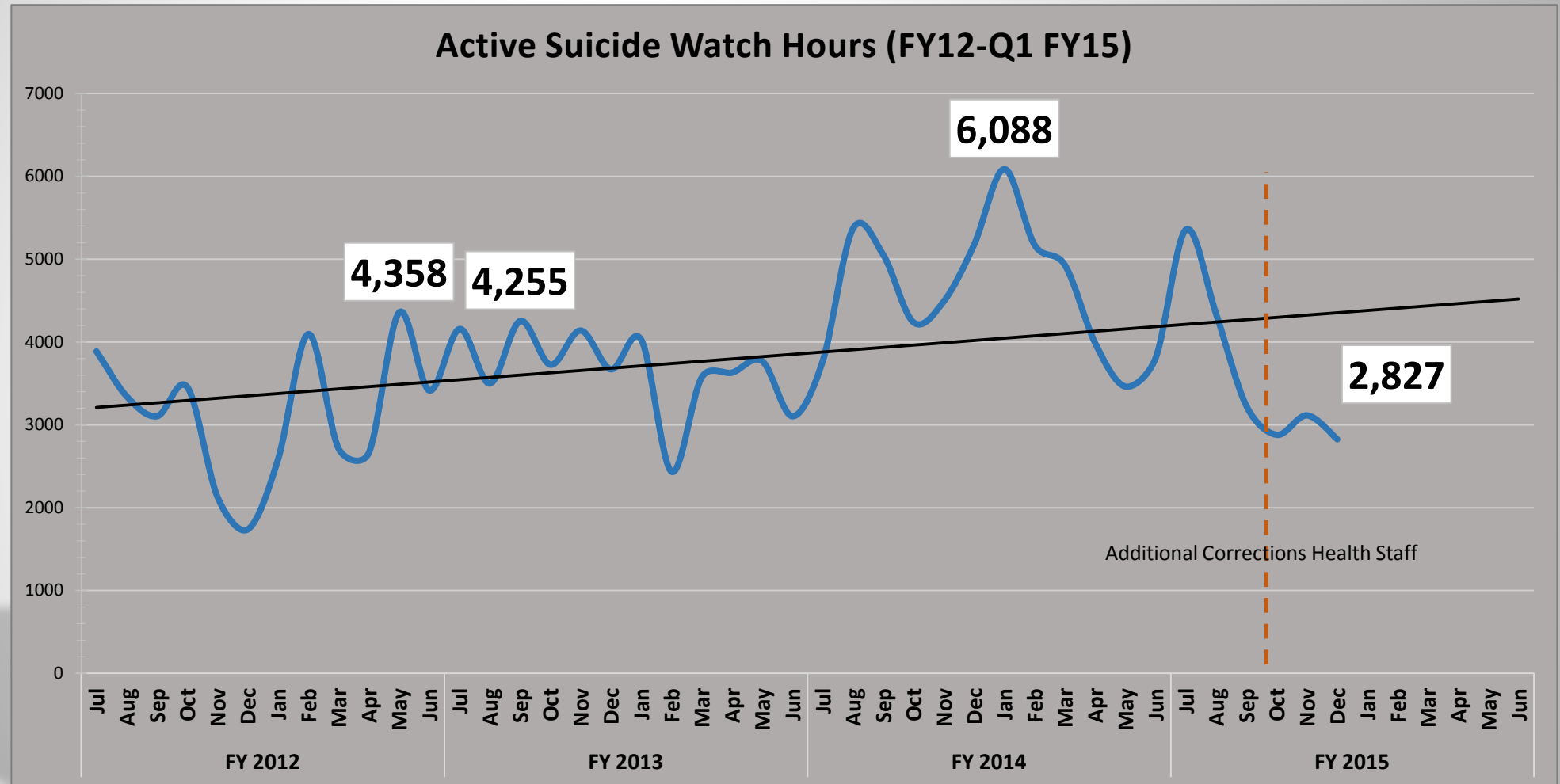
Watch Hours  
■ Constant



# SUICIDE WATCH TRENDS

## Watch Hours

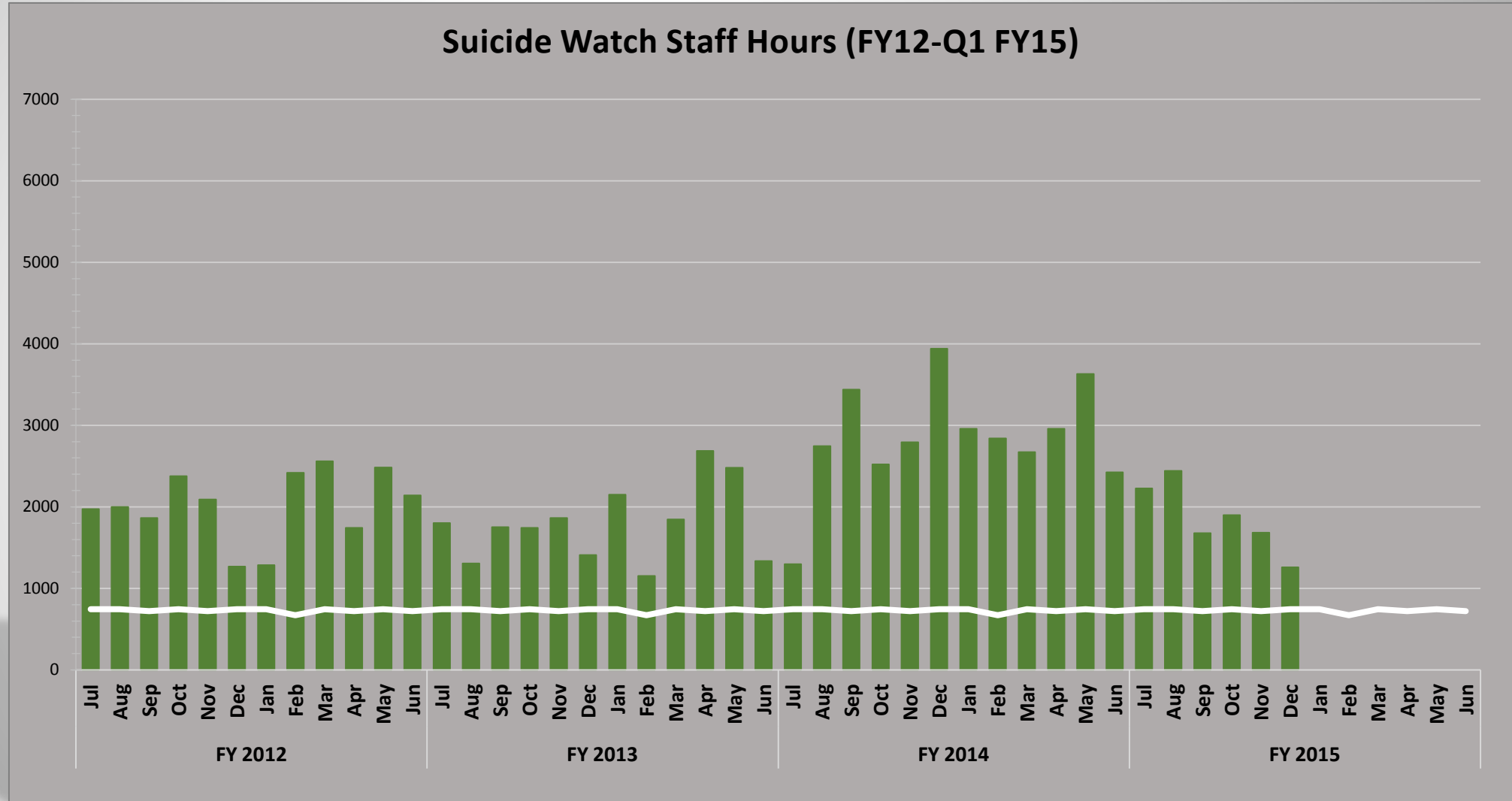
■ Active



# SUICIDE WATCH TRENDS

## Staff Hours

- Total Hours
- Budgeted



# SUICIDE WATCH DURATIONS

**In FY15 Q2, suicide watches were shorter on average.**

## **Active Watch**

39 hours → 31 hours

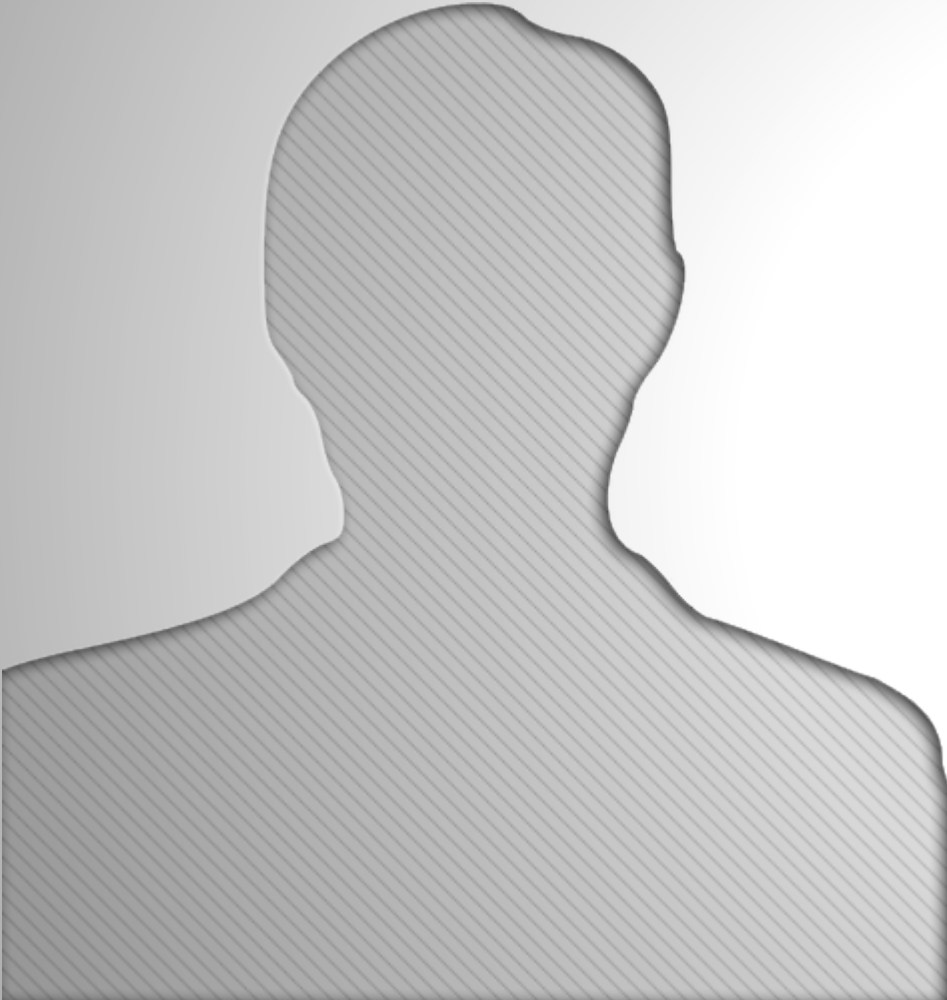
## **Constant Watch**

78 hours → 52 hours

**Charges and behaviors  
of inmates on suicide  
watch vary greatly.**



# CASE EXAMPLE 1



**While in custody, this individual spent 55 days on suicide watch:**

- 1 day on active watch
- 54 days on constant watch.

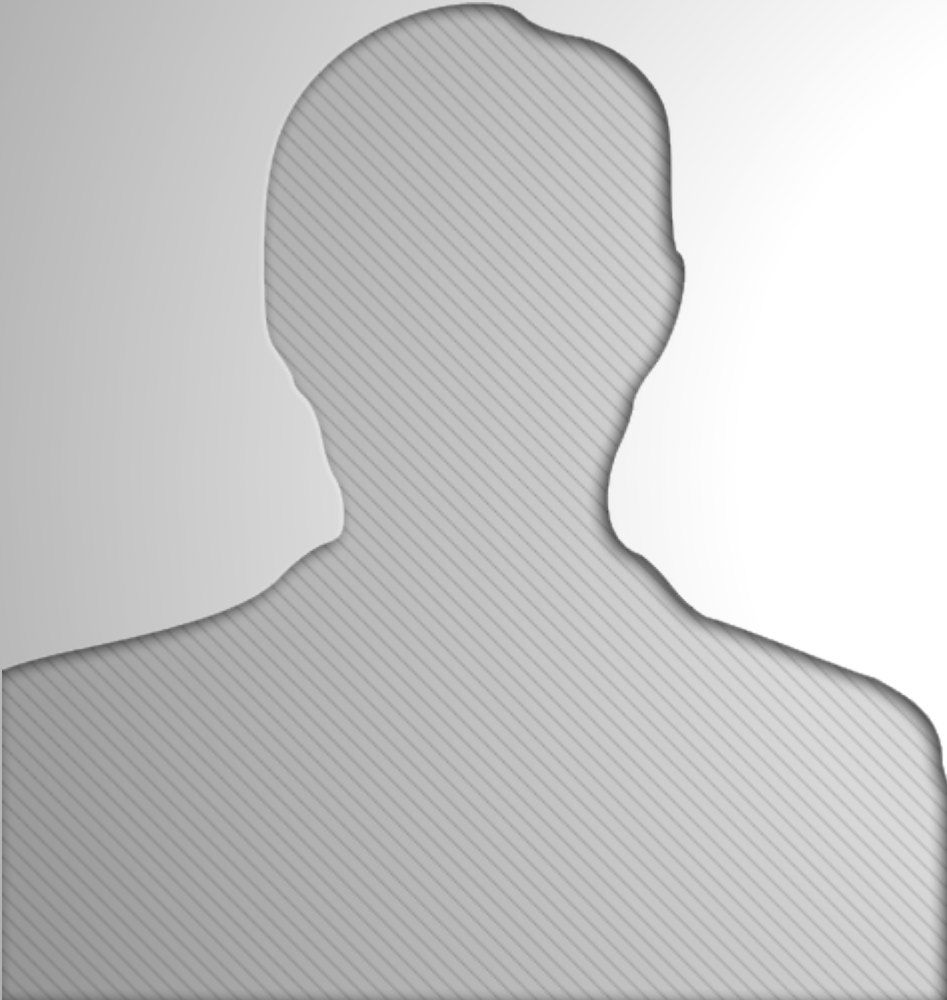
**Booking charges during FY14 included:**

- Probation/Parole Violation
- 2 counts of child neglect
- Burglary

**While in custody, he was actively suicidal; attempting to strangle himself with a sheet and fall backward off stairs onto his neck.**

**However, deputies and medical staff reported he was generally compliant and quiet while in custody.**

# CASE EXAMPLE 2



**While in custody, this individual spent 64 days on suicide watch:**

- **31 days on active watch**
- **33 days on constant watch.**

**Booking charges during FY14 included:**

- **Assault I**
- **Assault II**
- **Unlawful use of a Weapon**
- **Attempted Escape II**
- **3 counts of Assaulting a Police Officer.**

**Medical staff reported he was actively psychotic when off medications.**

**When not stable, he caused significant self-harm and banged his head until it bled. He had to be restrained to keep from harming himself, and assaulted deputies when his cell door was opened.**

**Due to his violent behavior, he was only allowed to walk outside of his cell with the escort of two deputies.**

# COST REDUCTION EFFORTS

- ✓ **Alternate staffing models**
- ✓ **Increased mental health staff**
- ✓ **Jail diversion opportunities**

