



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

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:

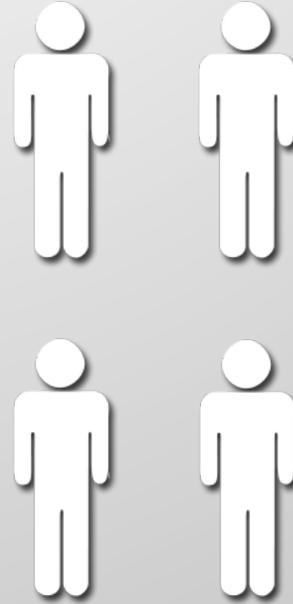
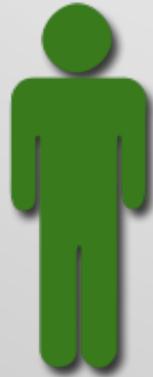
- ✓ **Booking**
- ✓ **RECOG**
- ✓ **Classification**
- ✓ **Medical Intake**

Constant Suicide Watch



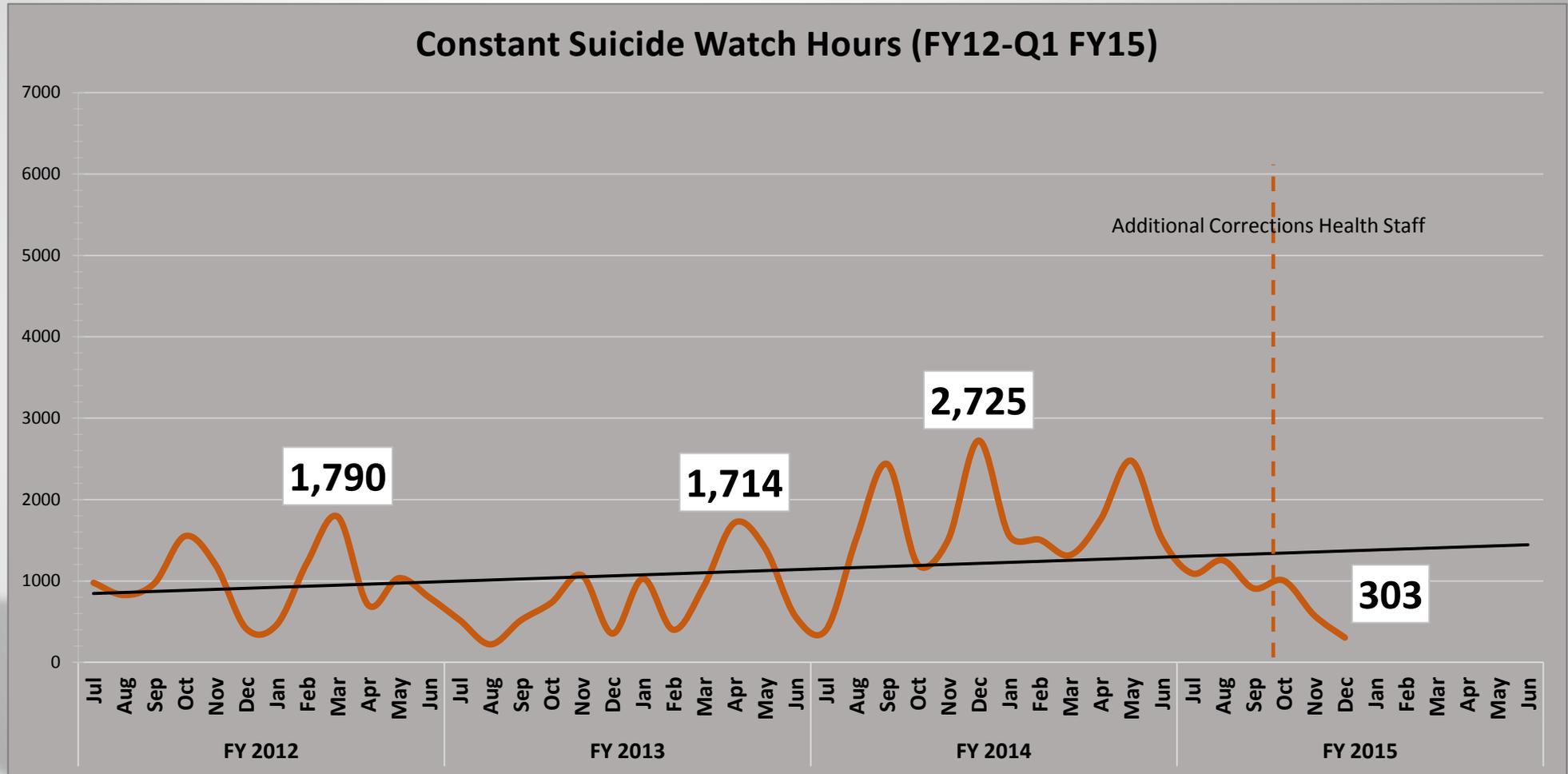
NATIONAL BEST PRACTICES FOR SUICIDE WATCH

Active Suicide Watch



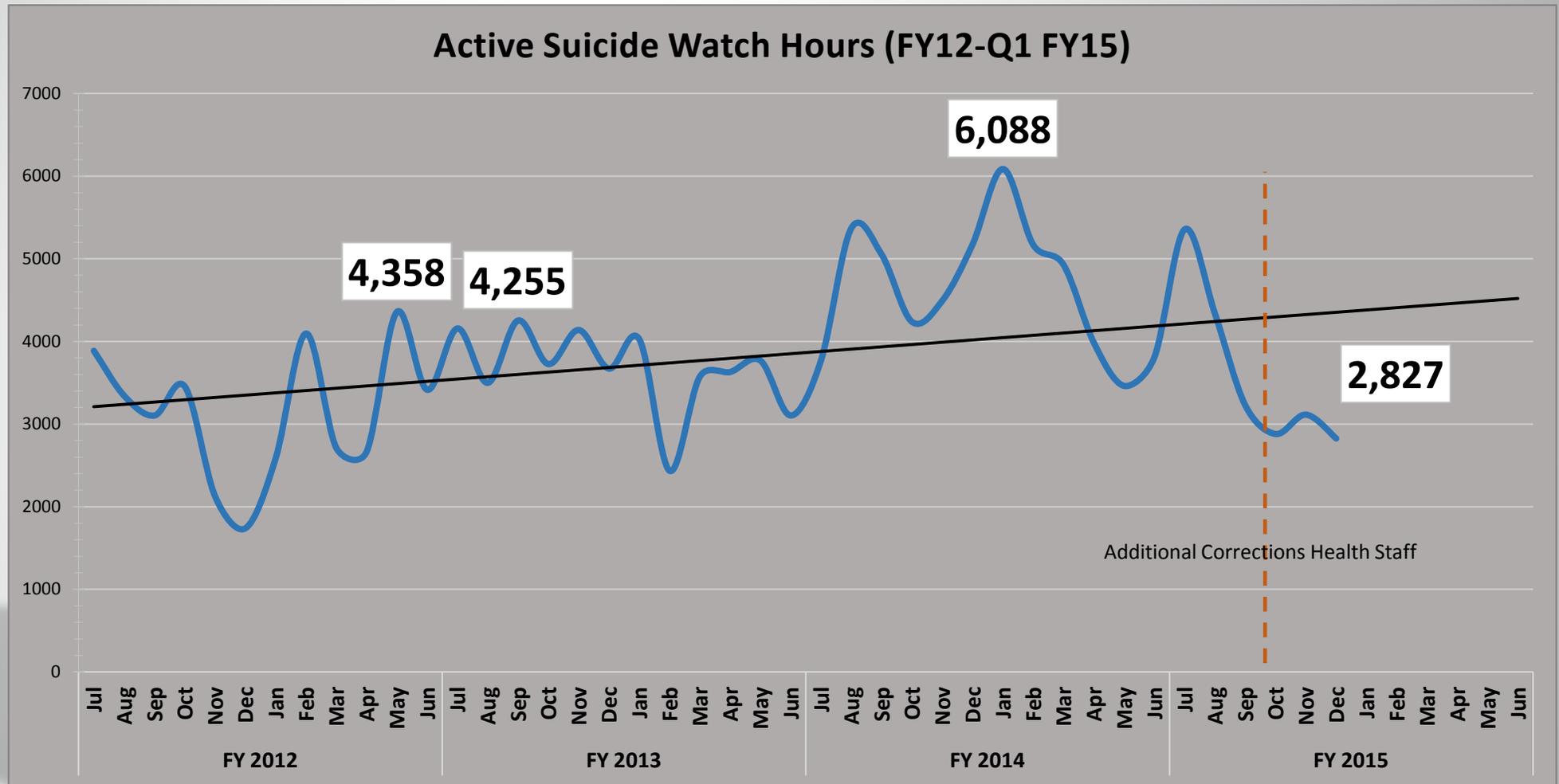
SUICIDE WATCH TRENDS

Watch Hours
 ■ Constant



SUICIDE WATCH TRENDS

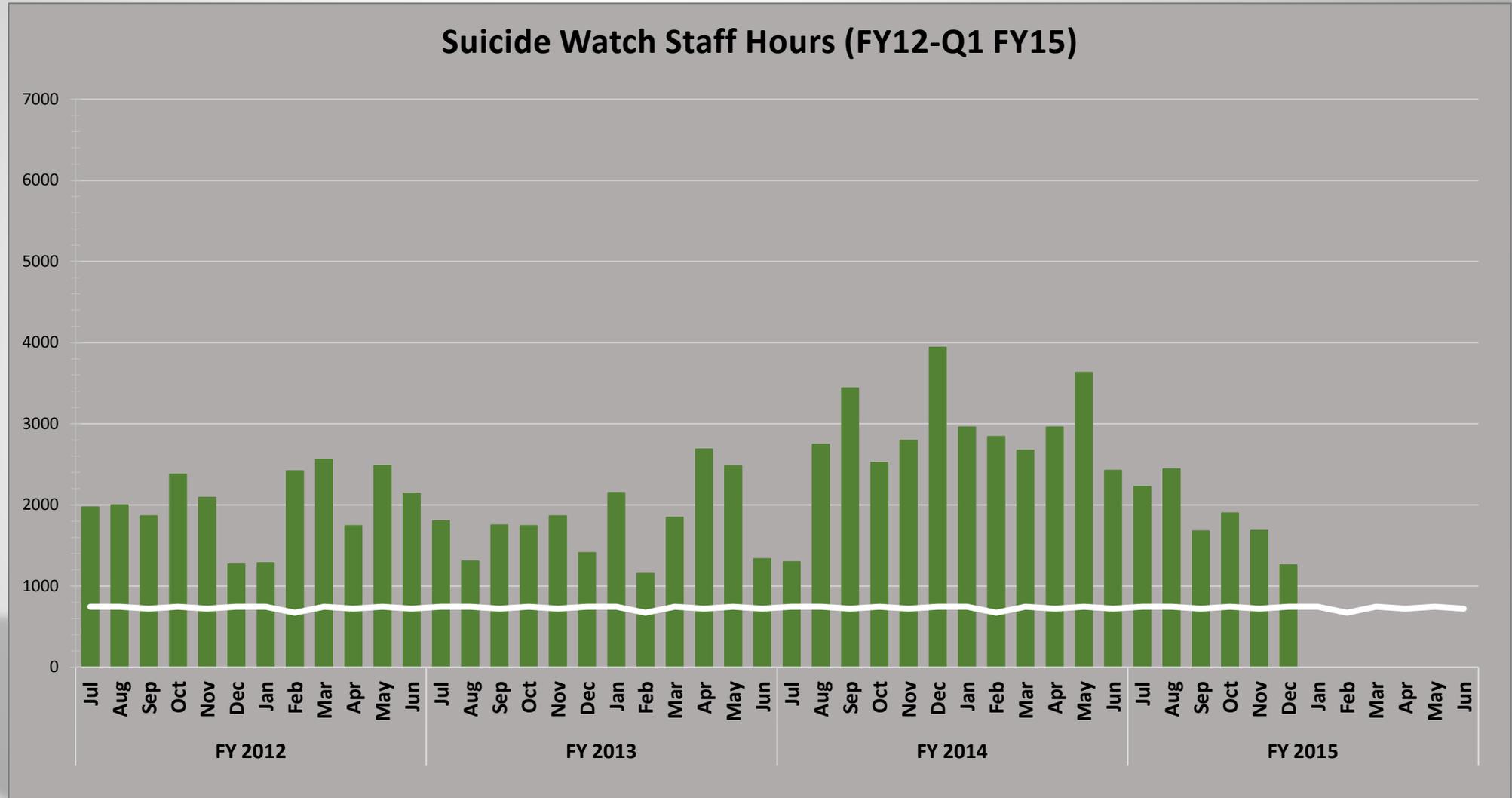
Watch Hours
 ■ Active



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

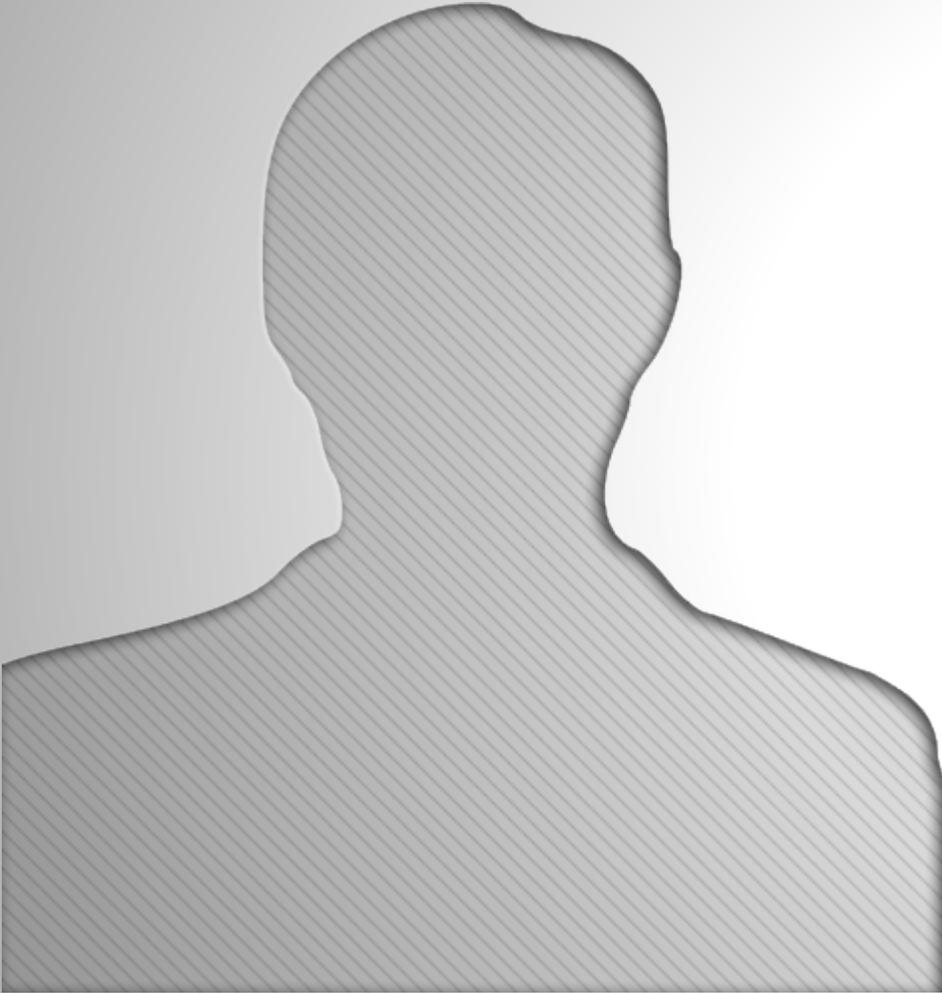
Constant Watch

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.

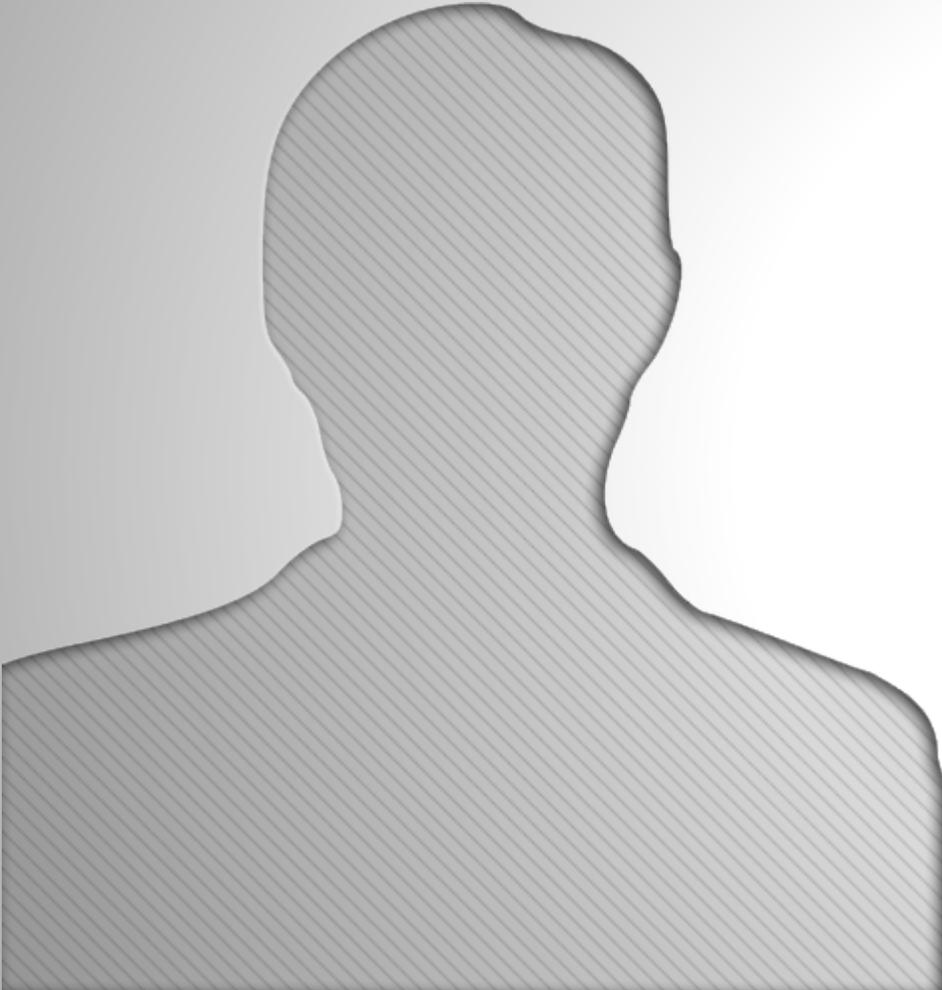
Booking charges during FY14 included:

- 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**

