

Johnny Garcia was caught trying to cover up an attempted suicide by an adolescent in the Bexar County Jail after a teenager was locked in solitary confinement and left to hang herself. Garcia lied to the public to protect his department and was called out by the University Health System when Garcia falsely claimed that they were only following recommendations from these doctors on treatment for this minor.

Public Information Officer Controversy

In 2019, A Teenage Inmate Who Was Arrested On A Misdemeanor Charge Told Jail Officials When She Was Booked That She Would Kill Herself “First Chance She Got”, And While In Custody Drank Cleaning Supplies In An Apparent Suicide Attempt. “The teenage inmate, who was arrested on a misdemeanor charge July 6, told jail officials when she was booked that she would kill herself ‘first chance she got.’ And on July 18, while in custody at the jail, she drank cleaning supplies in an apparent attempt to harm herself, the Sheriff’s Office confirmed. Johnny Garcia, a spokesman for the Sheriff’s Office, said the July 18 incident required the inmate to be hospitalized but that she was placed in general population after she was released from the hospital.” (Mariah Medina, “BCSO Placed Teen Inmate In Solitary Confinement Against Recommendations Of Medical Staff,” [KSAT](#), 8/1/19)

After Being Released From The Hospital, Bexar County Jail Did Not Place The Teen On Suicide Watch And Instead Placed Her In Solitary Confinement Against The Recommendations Of University Health System, The Primary Healthcare Provider For The Bexar County Jail. “Elizabeth Allen, a spokeswoman for University Health System, said the teenage inmate was placed in solitary confinement against the recommendations of UHS staff. The inmate was found hanging from a bedsheet in solitary around 11 p.m. Saturday. UHS is the primary healthcare provider for the Bexar County Jail. The teenage inmate, who was arrested on a misdemeanor charge July 6, told jail officials when she was booked that she would kill herself “first chance she got.” And on July 18, while in custody at the jail, she drank cleaning supplies in an apparent attempt to harm herself, the Sheriff’s Office confirmed. Johnny Garcia, a spokesman for the Sheriff’s Office, said the July 18 incident required the inmate to be hospitalized but that she was placed in general population after she was released from the hospital. Despite her apparent suicidal tendencies, the Sheriff’s Office confirmed that the teenager was not on suicide watch when she was found hanging in her cell. She remains on life support at Downtown Baptist Hospital.” (Mariah Medina, “BCSO Placed Teen Inmate In Solitary Confinement Against Recommendations Of Medical Staff,” [KSAT](#), 8/1/19)

Despite Her Apparent Suicidal Tendencies, The Sheriff’s Office Confirmed That The Teenager Was Not On Suicide Watch When She Was Found Hanging In Her Cell. “Despite her apparent suicidal tendencies, the Sheriff’s Office confirmed that the teenager was not on suicide watch when she was found hanging in her cell. She remains on life support at Downtown Baptist Hospital.” (Mariah Medina, “BCSO Placed Teen Inmate In Solitary Confinement Against Recommendations Of Medical Staff,” [KSAT](#), 8/1/19)

Two Days After The Suicide Attempt, Johnny Garcia Stated That The Jail Staff Involved University Health Systems Staff And Adhered To The Recommendations Of Their Doctors. “Two days after the suicide attempt, when asked why the 19-year-old wasn’t on suicide watch, Garcia said the agency was following recommendations from University Health System staff. “This inmate was provided mental health and medical treatment during her incarceration,” Garcia said Monday. “In each instance where this inmate displayed suicidal ideations, jail staff involved University Health Systems staff and adhered to the recommendations of their doctors.”” (Mariah Medina, “BCSO Placed Teen Inmate In Solitary Confinement Against Recommendations Of Medical Staff,” [KSAT](#), 8/1/19)

University Health Systems Directly Disputed Garcia Stating That The Decision To Place The Inmate In Solitary Confinement Was Contrary To The Recommendations Of UHS Staff. “UHS, however, disputed that account Thursday, releasing the following statement: ‘It is our understanding that (the inmate) was placed in a solitary confinement/lock down unit by the Bexar County Sheriff’s Office. This decision was contrary to the recommendations of UHS staff. Unfortunately we cannot comment further due to privacy concerns of (the inmate) in order

to honor her protected health information.” (Mariah Medina, “BCSO Placed Teen Inmate In Solitary Confinement Against Recommendations Of Medical Staff,” [KSAT](#), 8/1/19)