

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

RALPH COLEMAN, et al.,

Plaintiffs,

No. 2:90-cv-0520 LKK JFM P

vs.

EDMUND G. BROWN, JR., et al.,

Defendants.

ORDER

On February 12, 2013, the parties filed a Joint Statement Re Discovery Dispute (Joint Statement). The dispute tendered for resolution centers on the deposition of Lindsay Hayes, a non-testifying consultant for the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) and whether documents produced to plaintiffs by Mr. Hayes concerning his consultancy with CDCR must be destroyed. The deposition is noticed for February 18, 2013. Defendants seek a protective order preventing the deposition and requiring plaintiffs to “destroy any documents produced to them related to Mr. Hayes’s consultancy with CDCR.” Joint Statement, filed February 12, 2013, at 1.

BACKGROUND

On January 7, 2013, defendants filed a motion to terminate this action under 18 U.S.C. § 3626(b) and to vacate the court’s judgment and orders under Fed. R. Civ. P. 60(b)(5)

(hereafter “Termination Motion”). In relevant part, defendants contend that they have “fully implemented programs to identify, treat and supervise inmates at risk for suicide” and that they are not deliberately indifferent to the serious mental health needs of class members. Termination Motion, at 14, 21.

Lindsay Hayes is an expert in suicide prevention in jails and prisons employed by the National Center on Institutions and Alternatives in Massachusetts. Declaration of Non-Party Lindsay M. Hayes in Connection with Discovery Dispute, filed February 12, 2013 (Hayes Decl.), at ¶ 1.¹ In 2005, plaintiffs retained him as an expert witness and consultant on behalf of the plaintiff class. Declaration of Michael W. Bien in Support of Plaintiffs’ Statement Regarding Lindsay Hayes Subpoena and Document Requests, filed February 12, 2013 (Bien Decl.), at ¶ 2. On June 8, 2006, the district court ordered defendants to “develop a plan for dealing with the escalating percentage of suicides occurring in administrative segregation units” and to “collaborate with one or more of the special master’s experts, with plaintiffs’ counsel, and with plaintiffs’ expert, Lindsay Hayes” to develop that plan. Order filed June 8, 2006 at ¶¶ 1, 3. On October 31, 2006, plaintiffs filed a declaration from Mr. Hayes in support of their objections to the plan developed by defendants in response to the June 8, 2006 order. (Doc. No. 2011.)

In July 2009, Mr. Hayes received an email from CDCR’s Suicide Prevention Coordinator, Robert Canning, PhD, inquiring on behalf of CDCR’s then Mental Health Director if Mr. Hayes “would consider entering in to ‘a consultation on our suicide prevention program.’”. Hayes Decl. at ¶ 3. Mr. Hayes “conferred with Plaintiffs’ counsel, who approved on the condition that [he] would not be employed as a litigation consultant or as an expert witness, but rather as a consultant to the clinicians in mental health working on suicide prevention and

////

¹ Defendants object to the separate filing of declarations in connection with the Joint Statement on the ground that it violates this court’s January 25, 2013 order limiting the length of joint statements of discovery disputes to two pages. However, defendants have themselves appended three exhibits to the Joint Statement. Defendants’ objection is overruled.

1 policies and procedures.” *Id.* In August 2009, Mr. Hayes was approached by an attorney with
 2 the California Attorney General’s Office “about the possibility of retaining him as a litigation
 3 expert” for this action. *Bien Decl.* at ¶ 6, Ex. C. Mr. Hayes informed plaintiffs’ counsel that he
 4 declined the attorney’s request. *Id.* at ¶ 6.

5 Mr. Hayes subsequently entered into a contract with CDCR for three years of
 6 work. *Hayes Decl.* at ¶ 6. The contract provides in relevant part:

7 I. INTRODUCTION

8 The National Center on Institutions and Alternatives (NCIA) shall
 9 provide a comprehensive system-wide review of the California
 10 Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR)’s Suicide
 11 Prevention Program. This consultation will directly respond to the
 12 *Coleman* court’s stated concerns about the CDCR’s suicide review
 13 process and other aspects of suicide prevention in the department.
 14 This consultation will directly contribute to resolution of the
 15 *Coleman* litigation.

16 II. BACKGROUND

17 Suicide crosses all professional and organizational boundaries of
 18 the CDCR. A successful suicide prevention program in the CDCR
 19 environment targets all inmates, all staff, and all levels of custody.
 20 In the last ten years the CDCR has experienced an increase in the
 21 rate of suicide. For most years in the last decade the suicide rate in
 22 the CDCR has exceeded the national rate of suicide among the
 23 state prisoners. Recently the CDCR has stumbled in the timeliness
 24 of its suicide review and the adequacy of the responses to these
 25 reviews by the institutions and the CDCR as a whole. The
 26 recognition of and response to suicide risk in the correctional
 environment is one of the most important and difficult tasks for
 mental health staff, yet it is apparent from the CDCR’s own
 reviews of suicide and those of the *Coleman* court’s suicide expert
 that assessments are often subpar and inadequate, leading to poor
 follow-up and trajectories that may contribute to an eventual
 suicide. In addition, the CDCR has struggled with how to assure
 that local policies, procedures, and practices reflect departmental
 standards and are consistent across institutions. Finally, the ability
 of the CDCR to adequately track, monitor, and prevent suicide
 attempts has eroded until at the current time the CDCR has no
 active database of suicide attempts and no plan to systematically
 collect data on attempts as a way to better understand who may and
 who may not attempt, and ultimately complete a suicidal act.
 These factors have contributed to the CDCR’s inability to make
 progress toward an exit from the *Coleman* litigation. The
 Contractor’s experience (more than 25 years) with correctional

1 suicide prevention programs will allow the CDCR to make
2 immediate, short-term, and long-term changes in its suicide
3 prevention program to begin to decrease the overall rate of suicide
4 in the long-term. This consultation will allow the CDCR to
implement a more effective suicide prevention policy and
demonstrate to the *Coleman* court its resolve to deal with a [sic]
issue that impedes its ability to resolve the litigation.

5 Ex. A to Hayes Decl. Mr. Hayes' consultation, which began in fiscal year 2010/11, was to last
6 for three years. The contract provided that Mr. Hayes would "apply eight critical components of
7 a suicide prevention policy . . . to his consultation with the CDCR." *Id.* The tasks to be
8 performed by Mr. Hayes included an "initial consultation" which would include document
9 review, consultation at CDCR headquarters with "senior clinical and custodial staff", visits to
10 "several institutions to review suicide policies and procedures in action", and a second visit to
11 CDCR headquarters to "discuss preliminary recommendations and identified problem areas." *Id.*
12 The contract provides for a "report with recommendations to be delivered to the CDCR
13 approximately one month after the end of the on-site visit." *Id.* The contract further provides for
14 one- and two-year follow-ups, and then a consultation in year three followed by a "final report
15 and recommendations for long-term changes." *Id.* The anticipated time for completion of the
16 final report was August 30, 2013 "or within 30 days of Consultation." *Id.* The task list does not
17 include any consultation with defendants' counsel.

18 According to Mr. Hayes, "[t]he contract language was consistent with [his]
19 understanding with Ms. Aungst and Dr. Canning that [he] was not a consultant to CDCR's
20 attorneys or the Attorney General's Office, but was instead a consultant to CDCR's Division of
21 Health Care Services for the purpose of reviewing and improving CDCR's suicide prevention
22 policies and practices." Hayes Decl. at ¶ 4. Dr. Canning was the "Program Manager" for the
23 contract, and Mr. Hayes "worked directly with him and other central office staff of CDCR's
24 Division of Health Care Services." *Id.* Mr. Hayes understood that his "recommendations for
25 improvements would be shared with the Special Master and his experts, along with Plaintiffs'

26 ////

1 counsel, as part of the process of resolving [the suicide prevention] aspect of the *Coleman*
2 litigation.” Id.

3 In August 2011, pursuant to the contract, Mr. Hayes delivered a report to CDCR,
4 dated August 16, 2011, with his findings and recommendations. Hayes Decl. at ¶ 5. The “report
5 was written with the explicit intent to provide CDCR with a strategy to reduce inmate suicides
6 within the prison system.” Id. CDCR has not requested additional consulting services from Mr.
7 Hayes since he sent that report. Id. at ¶ 6. “CDCR did subsequently request that [he] prepare a
8 redacted version of [his] August 2011 report that removed all of [his] opinions and
9 recommendations other than those concerning CDC’s use of Outpatient Housing Units
10 (“OHUs”), so that the redacted report could be shared with the Special Master and Plaintiffs’
11 counsel.” Id. CDCR also informed Mr. Hayes in May 2012 that he could speak with plaintiffs’
12 counsel and an expert for the Special Master about that part of his report. Id.

13 Mr. Hayes resigned as a CDCR consultant in January 2013. Id. at ¶ 8. In January
14 2013, plaintiffs’ counsel contacted Mr. Hayes and asked if he would agree to be retained as a
15 plaintiffs’ expert witness in opposition to defendants’ Termination Motion. Id. Plaintiffs’
16 counsel subsequently withdrew the offer after plaintiffs’ counsel was unable to obtain an
17 agreement with CDCR that they would not “raise any objections.” Id.

18 On February 4, 2013, plaintiffs subpoenaed Mr. Hayes for a deposition on
19 February 18, 2013. Ex. 1 to Joint Statement. The notice of deposition was accompanied by a
20 document production request. The request for documents includes requests for:

21 2. All documents, for the time period January 1, 2010 to
22 December 31, 2011, that are or contain or refer to any report
23 authored, co-authored, or completed by you for or with the
24 California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR)
25 covering subjects that include, but are not limited to, CDCR’s
26 suicide prevention policies and procedures and CDCR’s use of
Outpatient Housing Units (OHUs) and other alternative locations
for inmates at risk of suicide.

3. All documents that are or refer or relate to any reports, notes,
summaries, research materials, recommendations, or

communications (*i.e.*, letters, handwritten notes of conversations, faxes, email, text messages, etc.) between you and CDCR staff, representatives, or counsel.

4. All documents that are or refer or relate to contracts or agreements between you and CDCR.

Id. Mr. Hayes has provided the documents to both plaintiffs and defendants. Hayes Decl. at ¶ 8.

DISPUTE

The dispute at bar centers on whether plaintiffs may depose Mr. Hayes concerning his consulting work for CDCR, and whether plaintiffs must destroy the documents produced by Mr. Hayes in response to the request included with the deposition subpoena. Defendants contend first that plaintiffs agreed not to seek production of the report prepared by Mr. Hayes for CDCR or to use that report in any litigation, that they have “broken that promise” and that the court “should not permit this bad faith attempt to pursue information they agreed not to use in litigation – especially when Defendants have not placed Hayes’s opinions directly at issue in this termination litigation.” Joint Statement at 1. Defendants also contend that the information is protected from discovery by Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(b)(3) and (4) because the ongoing Coleman litigation “‘permeated’ the purpose for which [Mr. Hayes] was retained as a consultant.” Id.

Plaintiffs contend that Mr. Hayes was a “non-litigation consultant” and that his report, related documents, and opinions are therefore discoverable under Rule 26. Plaintiffs also contend that the information is discoverable pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(b)(3)(A)(ii). Specifically, plaintiffs contend that defendants “hired Mr. Hayes to advise them on ways to improve suicide prevention in CDCR prisons, but then subsequently ignored and refused to implement” his recommendations, that this is “strong evidence of Defendants’ deliberate indifference to the ongoing Eighth Amendment violations, which Defendants have placed front and center with their termination filing” and that plaintiffs have a “substantial need” for the evidence and an “inability to obtain equivalent proof by other means.” Joint Statement at 2

////

(citing Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(b)(3)(A)(ii)). Plaintiffs also contend they did not agree to refrain from seeking Mr. Hayes' report and testimony. Joint Statement at 2.

LEGAL STANDARDS

Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(b)(3)(A) provides:

(3) Trial Preparation: Materials.

(A) Documents and Tangible Things. Ordinarily, a party may not discover documents and tangible things that are prepared in anticipation of litigation or for trial by or for another party or its representative (including the other party's attorney, consultant, surety, indemnitor, insurer, or agent). But, subject to Rule 26(b)(4), those materials may be discovered if:

(I) they are otherwise discoverable under Rule 26(b)(1); and

(ii) the party shows that it has substantial need for the materials to prepare its case and cannot, without undue hardship, obtain their substantial equivalent by other means.

Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(b)(3). Rule 26(b)(3) codifies the work product doctrine. See In re Grand Jury Subpoena (Mark Torf/Torf Environmental Management), 357 F.3d 900, 906 (9th Cir. 2004). The work product doctrine "protects 'from discovery documents and tangible things prepared by a party or his representative in anticipation of litigation.' Admiral Ins. Co. v. United States District Court, 881 F.2d 1486, 1494 (9th Cir.1989). Such documents may only be ordered produced upon an adverse party's demonstration of 'substantial need [for] the materials' and 'undue hardship [in obtaining] the substantial equivalent of the materials by other means.' Fed.R.Civ.P. 26(b)(3)." Id. The United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit has "previously held that 'to qualify for protection against discovery under [Rule 26(b)(3)], documents must have two characteristics: (1) they must be "prepared in anticipation of litigation or for trial," and (2) they must be prepared "by or for another party or by or for that other party's representative."' In re California Pub. Utils. Comm'n, 892 F.2d 778, 780-81 (9th Cir.1989) (quoting Fed.R.Civ.P. 26(b)(3))." Id. at 907.

////

Where documents are prepared both in anticipation of litigation and for a purpose other than litigation, work product protection extends to “such ‘dual purpose’ documents . . . if ‘in light of the nature of the document and the factual situation in the particular case, the document can be fairly said to have been prepared or obtained because of the prospect of litigation.’” Charles Alan Wright, Arthur R. Miller, and Richard L. Marcus, 8 Federal Practice & Procedure § 2024 (2d ed. 1994) (“Wright & Miller”).” Id. The so-called “because of” standard “does not consider whether litigation was a primary or secondary motive behind the creation of a document. Rather, it considers the totality of the circumstances and affords protection when it can fairly be said that the ‘document was created because of anticipated litigation, and would not have been created in substantially similar form but for the prospect of that litigation[.]’” Id. at 908 (internal citation omitted).

Rule 26(b)(3) “permits discovery when mental impressions are the pivotal issue in the current litigation and the need for the material is compelling.” Holmgren v. State Farm Mutual Auto Insurance Co., 976 F.2d 573, 577 (9th Cir. 1992). Moreover, “[t]he work-product doctrine’s protections are waivable.” U.S. v. Richey, 632 F.3d 559, 567 (9th Cir. 2011) (citing Hernandez v. Tanninen, 604 F.3d 1095, 1100 (9th Cir. 2010)). An implied waiver of work product privilege is found where a party places in issue a matter that implicates the material for which the privilege is claimed.

“[T]he doctrine of implied waiver allocates control of the privilege between the judicial system and the party holding the privilege.” Privileged Communications, 98 Harv. L.Rev. at 1630. The court imposing the waiver does not order disclosure of the materials categorically; rather, the court directs the party holding the privilege to produce the privileged materials if it wishes to go forward with its claims implicating them. The court thus gives the holder of the privilege a choice: If you want to litigate this claim, then you must waive your privilege to the extent necessary to give your opponent a fair opportunity to defend against it.

Bittaker v. Woodford, 331 F.3d 715, 720 (9th Cir. 2003) (internal citations omitted.)

////

1 Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(b)(4)(D) provides in relevant part:

2 (D) *Expert Employed Only for Trial Preparation.* Ordinarily, a
3 party may not, by interrogatories or deposition, discover facts
4 known or opinions held by an expert who has been retained or
5 specially employed by another party in anticipation of litigation or
6 to prepare for trial and who is not expected to be called as a
7 witness at trial. But a party may do so only:

8 . . .

9 (ii) on showing exceptional circumstances under
10 which it is impracticable for the party to obtain facts
11 or opinions on the same subject by other means.

12 Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(b)(4)(D).

13 ANALYSIS

14 The evidence before the court demonstrates that Mr. Hayes was retained by
15 CDCR as a consultant to CDCR's Division of Health Care Services in connection with CDCR's
16 suicide prevention efforts, and not as an expert witness for defendants in this litigation. It is true
17 that this action was playing a part in highlighting deficiencies in those efforts, and the contract
18 expressly stated CDCR's expectation that the consultation with Mr. Hayes would "demonstrate
19 to the *Coleman* court its resolve to deal with a [sic] issue that impedes its ability to resolve the
20 litigation ." Ex. A to Hayes Decl. But it is equally true that Mr. Hayes was retained to assist in
21 improving CDCR's suicide prevention efforts, not to assist defendants with litigation efforts.
22 Mr. Hayes turned down a request from the California Attorney General's Office to be retained as
23 a litigation expert for this action, and he anticipated that his report would be shared with both the
24 Special Master and the plaintiffs in this case. Under the facts at bar, defendants' contention that
25 litigation "permeated" the purpose for which he was retained as a consultant sufficient to render
26 his work privileged is without merit.

Even assuming arguendo that the part of the hiring intended to facilitate resolution
of the remedial phase of this action was sufficient to bring Mr. Hayes' report within the ambit of
Rule 26(b)(3), but cf. U.S. v. Richey, 632 F.3d 559, 568-69 (9th Cir. 2011) (discussing standards

1 that apply to determination of whether dual purpose documents qualify for work-product
2 protection), defendants have waived any work product privilege that might attach.

3 Defendants assert in their Termination Motion that they that they are not
4 “deliberately indifferent” to inmates’ serious mental health needs. Termination Motion at 14.
5 The question of deliberate indifference implicates both what defendants know and their response
6 to that information. See Farmer v. Brennan, 511 U.S. 825, 837 (1994). By asserting that they are
7 not deliberately indifferent, defendants have placed the question of their subjective response to
8 suicide prevention at issue and to that extent have waived work product protection, if any, that
9 might have attached to Mr. Hayes’ report. Plaintiffs are unable to know what defendants were
10 told by Mr. Hayes about CDCR’s suicide prevention program or to make any fact-based
11 assessment of what defendants did with that information unless they obtain the report and
12 associated documents. Plaintiffs have demonstrated a substantial need for the information
13 provided to defendants by Mr. Hayes, a national expert on suicide prevention in prisons in jails,
14 and that it is impracticable for them to obtain the information they need by means other than by
15 the discovery at issue. Plaintiffs are not required to destroy the documents Mr. Hayes has
16 provided to them.

17 With respect to Mr. Hayes’ deposition, this court finds that Rule 26(b)(4) has no
18 application to Mr. Hayes. As set forth above, Mr. Hayes was hired as a consultant to CDCR’s
19 Division of Health Care Services to review CDCR’s suicide prevention policy and make specific
20 recommendations for improvements in suicide prevention. Mr. Hayes expressly declined a
21 request to be retained as an expert by Coleman defense counsel. Defendants are not entitled to a
22 protective order preventing his deposition.

23 /////

24 /////

25 /////

26 /////

1 For all of the foregoing reasons, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that defendants'
2 request for a protective order is denied.

3 DATED: February 14, 2013.

4
5 
6 UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE
7

8 12
9 termination.disc1
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26