KEN PAXTON
ATTORNEY GENERAL of TEXAS

CUSTODIAL DEATH REPORT

Agency Information

CDR Number:	20-1963-CJ	Version Type:	ORIGINAL VERSION
Report Date:	6/6/2024 4:47 PM	Status:	Submitted

Agency/Facility Information

Agency Name:	Jackson County Sheriff's Office	Agency Address:	411 North Wells, RM 201
Agency City:	Edna	Agency State:	TX
Agency Zip:	77957		

Director Information

Director Salutation:	Sheriff	Director First Name:	Kelly
Director Middle Name:			
Director Last Name:	Janica		
Reporter Name:	Tara Timberlake	Reporter Email:	t.timberlake@co.jackson.tx.us

Decedent Information

Identity of Deceased

First Name: Kacey

Middle Name: Wayne

Last Name: Sowell

Suffix:

Date of Birth: 11/24/1979 Sex: Male

Race: Anglo or White

Age At Time Of Death: 40

Date/Time of Custody (arrest, incarceration) (mm/dd/yyyy hh:mm AM/PM):

Date/Time of Custody or Incident: 8/21/2020 10:26 PM

Date/Time of Death (mm/dd/yyyy hh:mm AM/PM):

Death Date and Time: 8/26/2020 5:39 PM

Manner / Cause of Death

Has a medical examiner or coroner conducted an evaluation to determine a cause of death?

Medical Examiner/Coroner Evaluation?: Yes, results are available

What was the manner of death? (select only one)

Manner of Death: Suicide

Medical Cause of Death:

Medical Cause of Death:

Hanging

Had the decedent been receiving treatment for the medical condition that caused the death after admission to your jail's jurisdiction?

Medical Treatment:	Unknown

If death was an accident, homicide or suicide, who caused the death?

Who caused the death?:	Decedent

If a weapon caused the death, what type of weapon caused the death? (Hold CTRL to select all that apply)

Type of weapon that caused death?:	Not Applicable

Was the cause of death the result of a pre-existing medical condition or did the decedent develop the condition after admission?

Pre existing medical condition?:	Not Applicable; cause of death was accidental injury, intoxication, suicide or homicide

If death was an accident, homicide or suicide, what was the means of death?

Means of Death:	Hanging, strangulation

Location / Custody Information

Where did the event causing the death occur?

Street Address:	115 West Main Street	City:	Edna
County:	Jackson	Zip:	77957

What location category best describes where the event causing the death occurred?

Location Category:	Law Enforcement Facility

What type of custody/facility was the Decedent in at the time of death:

Type of Custody:	County Jail

Specific type of custody/facility:

Specific Type of Custody/Facility:
Jail - multiple occupancy cell

What was the time and date of the deceased's entry into the law enforcement facility where the death occurred (mm/dd/yyyy hh:mm AM/PM):

Entry Date Time:	8/21/2020 10:26 PM

Where did the death occur?

Death Location:	Law enforcement facility/booking center

General Information

Did any other law enforcement agencies respond to calls for service related to this incident?

Other Agencies Respond?: Yes

What were the most serious offense(s) with which the deceased was (or would have been) charged with at the time of death?

Offense 1:

Poss CS PG2<1G

Offense 2:

Driving W/Lic Inv W/Prev Conv/Susp/W/O Fin Res

Offense 3:

Were the Charges:: Filed

What were the types of charges or reason for contact? (Hold CTRL to select all that apply)

Type of Offense: Alcohol / drug offense

At any time during the incident and/or entry into the law enforcement facility, did the decedent display or use a weapon?

Decedent display/use of weapons: No

At any time during the incident and/or entry into the law enforcement facility, did the decedent:

Attempt to Injure Others?: No

At any time during the incident and/or entry into the law enforcement facility, did the decedent:

Appear intoxicated (alcohol or drugs): No

Make suicidal statements?: Yes

Exhibit any mental health problems?: No

Exhibit any medical problems?: No

At any time during the incident and/or entry into the law enforcement facility, did the decedent:

Barricade self or initiate standoff?:	No	Resist being handcuffed or arrested?:	No
Physically attempt/assault officer(s):	No	Gain possession of officer's weapon:	No
Verbally threaten other(s) including law:	No	Escape or attempt to escape/flee custody:	No
Attempt gain possession officer's weapon:	No		

Was the deceased under restraint in the time leading up to the death or the events causing the death?

Under Restraint: No

Summary of Incident

Summary of How the Death Occurred: (max. 30,000 characters)

Summary:

On Friday, August 21, 2020 at approximately 2226hrs, Kacey Wayne Sowell was brought to the Jackson County Jail by Edna Police Department for Possession CS PG2<1G; State Jail Felony and Driving While Lic Inv W/Prev Conv/Susp/W/O Fin Res; Misdemeanor B. CO Burttschell asked the Screening Form for Suicide and Medical/Mental/Developmental Impairments and CO Sless booked Sowell into the jail.
On Sunday, August 23, 2020 at approximately 1515hrs, Sowell notified Jail staff that he was having an asthma attack. EMS was dispatched to the jail. Sowell was transported to the Jackson County Emergency Room via ambulance escorted by CO Girnt. Sowell was treated for asthma and returned to the Jackson County Jail.
On Monday, August 24, 2020 at approximately 1320hrs, Sowell contacted Jail Staff stating he felt suicidal. CO Terry, pulled Sowell out of Cell 105 and spoke with him. Sowell informed Terry that he wasn't going to hurt himself, but was feeling like he wanted to and would like to speak with someone from Gulf Bend. At approximately 1327, CO Terry contacted Reese from Gulf Bend and advised him of the situation. Reese asked Terry if the tele-video was working in the jail, Terry stated he was not sure and Reese stated a phone conference would suffice. At approximately 1339, Sowell was placed on the phone with Gulf Bend Services (Reese). At approximately 1443hrs, the phone call ended. Sowell stated he was feeling better mentally and ready to return to his cell. Sowell was returned to Cell 105 without further incident.
On Wednesday, August 26, 2020 at approximately 1647hrs, Inmate Gilbert Luis Saenz pushed the intercom button and made statements that something was wrong with Sowell in the shower. Corrections Sergeant Timberlake and Corrections Officer Burttschell conducted a walkthrough of Cell 105. CO Burttschell went to the shower area and pulled the shower curtain back. Burttschell observed Inmate Kacey Sowell on his knees in the shower with his inmate uniform pants tied around his neck and the other end tied around the handle area of the shower fixture. Sgt. Timberlake notified CO Sless to come to the cell door so that she could assist Burttschell. CO Burttschell used a cutting tool to cut the inmate uniform pants above the knot. After cutting Sowell down Burttschell checked for a pulse on his wrist and his neck and was unable to find one. At approximately 1657, Jackson County EMS was dispatched to the jail. At approximately 1700hrs, Jackson County EMS arrived at the Jail and attended to inmate Sowell. At approximately 1704, Chief Deputy Rick Boone notified Texas Ranger John Lingle. At approximately 1720, Justice of the Peace Precinct 2 Cyndi Poulton was notified. At approximately 1739, JP2 Cyndi Poulton confirmed Kacey Wayne Sowell was deceased. At approximately 1801hrs, Texas Ranger John Lingle arrived at the Jackson County Jail and conducted an on site investigation.

On Thursday, August 27, 2020 at approximately 0900hrs, Timothy Fagen, DO, Deputy Medical Examiner, Travis County Medical Examiner's Office, Austin, Texas, under written authorization of Cyndi Poulton, Justice of the Peace, Precinct 2, for Jackson County, Texas and Texas Ranger John Lingle conducted a postmortem examination on Kacey Wayne Sowell. Cause of Death: Hanging, Manner of Death: Suicide.