KEN PAXTON
ATTORNEY GENERAL of TEXAS

CUSTODIAL DEATH REPORT

Agency Information

CDR Number:	19-657-CJ	Version Type:	AMENDED
Report Date:	9/16/2019 2:29 PM	Status:	Submitted

Agency/Facility Information

Agency Name:	Bowie County Sheriff's Office	Agency Address:	100 North State Line, BOX 18
Agency City:	Texarkana	Agency State:	TX
Agency Zip:	75501		

Director Information

Director Salutation:	Sheriff	Director First Name:	JAMES
Director Middle Name:	W		
Director Last Name:	PRINCE		
Reporter Name:	Robby McCarver	Reporter Email:	robby.mccarver@bowiecounty.org

Decedent Information

Identity of Deceased

First Name: Michael

Middle Name: Lowell

Last Name: Rodden

Suffix:

Date of Birth: 3/25/1971 Sex: Male

Race: Anglo or White

Age At Time Of Death: 48

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

Date/Time of Custody or Incident: 7/3/2019 10:22 PM

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

Death Date and Time: 7/6/2019 8:59 AM

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:

Per Medical Examiner Stephen M. Lenfest MD-"Based on the case history and autopsy findings, it is my opinion the Michael Lowell Rodden, a 48 year old male, died as a result of hanging"

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

Medical Treatment: No

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?: Other Weapon,
specify:

Other weapon, specify:

ligature

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:	100 N. State Line Avenue	City:	Texarkana
County:	Bowie	Zip:	75501

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 - single 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:	7/3/2019 10:22 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:

Bond Surrender POCS-PG1 O/1gr-U/4gr

Offense 2:

POCS PG1 O/1gr-U/4gr

Offense 3:

Fail to Identify-Fugitive

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; Other, specify

Type of Offense, Other:

Fail to Identify-Fugitive

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 7-6-2019, inmate Michael Rodden was discovered in his single occupancy cell within M Pod of the Bi State Jail located in Bowie County. He was last observed by jail staff at approximately 8:11am and later found by inmates at approximately 8:59am. Inmates within the day room of M Pod discovered Rodden hanging from a window within his cell and immediately notified jail personnel. Rodden had tied two socks together and created a ligature that he used to suspend himself from a bolt that was securing metal to the exterior window of his cell. Jail personnel removed the ligature from the bolt and lifesaving measures were attempted unsuccessfully. The scene was secured and the Bowie County Sheriff's Office responded along with Texas Ranger John Vance. Upon arrival, I recognized the decedent as the subject of a recent "Officer Safety" message that had been disseminated on July 3rd 2019. Rodden had been arrested by the Texarkana Texas Police Department on that date and subsequently booked into the Bi State Jail. Rodden intimated to the Texarkana TX Police Department that he would commit suicide by cop in future interactions with law enforcement. Those officers relayed that information to area law enforcement by EMAIL but neglected to inform jail staff during the book-in procedure. Rodden did not display nor communicate suicidal behavior

within the jail facility during processing. Justice of the Peace Nancy Talley responded to the scene and performed an inquest, requiring the autopsy of Michael Lowell Rodden. He was transported to the Southwestern Institute of Forensic Sciences at Dallas for medical examination. Those results are pending.