

Grand Jury Report

RESPONSE FORM

**Grand Jury Report Title : A Report on Mendocino County Mental Health Branch
Report Dated: March 7, 2012**

Response Form Submitted By:

John McCowen, Chair
Board of Supervisors, Mendocino County
501 Low Gap Road room 1010
Ukiah, Calif. 95482

**Response MUST be submitted, per Penal Code §933.05, no later than:
August 2, 2012**

I have reviewed the report and submit my responses to the FINDINGS portion of the report as follows:

- I (we) agree with the Findings numbered:
2, 4, 6, 10-13, 17, 20, 22, 23, 25
- I (we) disagree wholly or partially with the Findings numbered below, and have **attached, as required**, a statement specifying any portion of the Finding that are disputed with an explanation of the reasons therefore.
1, 3, 5, 7-9, 14-16, 18, 19, 21, 24, 26

I have reviewed the report and submit my responses to the RECOMMENDATIONS portion of the report as follows:

- The following Recommendation(s) have been implemented and **attached, as required**, is a summary describing the implemented actions:
1, 2, 6, 7
- The following Recommendation(s) have not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future, **attached, as required** is a time frame for implementation:
4, 5, 8

The following Recommendation(s) require further analysis, and **attached as required**, is an explanation and the scope and parameters of the planned analysis, and a time frame for the matter to be prepared, discussed and approved by the officer and/or director of the agency or department being investigated or reviewed: (This time frame shall not exceed six (6) months from the date of publication of the Grand Jury Report)
9, 11

The following Recommendations will NOT be implemented because they are not warranted and/or are not deemed reasonable, **attached, as required** is an explanation therefore:
3, 10

I have completed the above responses, and have attached, as required the following number of pages to this response form:

Number of Pages attached: 3

I understand that responses to Grand Jury Reports are public records. They will be posted on the Grand Jury website: www.co.mendocino.ca.us/grandjury. The clerk of the responding agency is required to maintain a copy of the response.

I understand that I must submit this signed response form and any attachments as follows:

First Step: E-mail (word documents or scanned pdf file format) to:

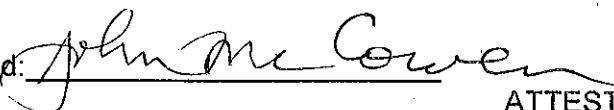
- The Grand Jury Foreperson at: grandjury@co.mendocino.ca.us
- The Presiding Judge: grandjury@mendocino.courts.ca.gov

Second Step: Mail all originals to:

Mendocino County Grand Jury
P.O. Box 939
Ukiah, CA 95482

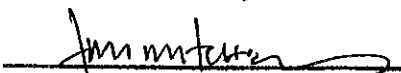
Printed Name: John McCowen

Title: Chair, Mendocino County Board of Supervisors

Signed: 

Date: 7/31/12

ATTEST:
Carmel J. Angelo, Clerk of the Board
Mendocino County Board of Supervisors

 DEPUTY

Grand Jury Report Title: A Report on Mendocino County Mental Health

Report Dated: March 7, 2012

Findings 1: The Mendocino County Board of Supervisors disagrees in part with this finding. While there is a persistent perception by some individuals of a top down management style, there are numerous examples of efforts to more fully involve staff and the community, as detailed by the Health and Human Services Agency (HHS) Director in her response to this finding, which is incorporated herein, by reference.

Finding 3: The Mendocino County Board of Supervisors disagrees partially with this finding based on the response by the HHS Director to this finding, which is incorporated herein, by reference.

Finding 5: The Mendocino County Board of Supervisors disagrees partially with this finding based on the response by the HHS Director to this finding, which is incorporated herein, by reference.

Finding 7: The Mendocino County Board of Supervisors disagrees with this finding. The opinion expressed is not consistent with actual practice. Several non mandated programs have been restructured or discontinued in response to budgetary constraints, but mandated programs, which are not always self-supporting, are not eliminated for budgetary or for any other reasons. According to the response by the HHS Director, which is incorporated herein, by reference, General Funds are not used for matching other grant funds.

Finding 8: The Mendocino County Board of Supervisors disagrees partly with this finding. As clarified by the HHS Director in her response, which is incorporated herein, by reference, the State conducts annual Cost Report Settlement Audits, however, due to staffing shortages at the state level, these audits are conducted six years after the fact. Mistakes do not accrue penalties – it is the audit exceptions themselves that have been a financial drain. MH has made great progress in its most recent audit reports but the failure to do timely audits by the State means that problems may not be identified and corrected in a timely manner, potentially resulting in multi-year audit exceptions.

Finding 9: The Mendocino County Board of Supervisors disagrees partially with this finding. Based on the response by the HHS Director, which is incorporated herein, by reference, for the past four years, MH has implemented internal audits and training that have consistently reduced billing errors to below 5%. Inability to achieve goals for Medi-Cal billable hours has contributed significantly to past MH deficits, but the Board of Supervisors agrees with the HHS Director that an average rate that approaches the department standard should be achievable.

Finding 14: The Mendocino County Board of Supervisors partially disagrees with this finding. Based on the response by the HHS Director to this finding, which is incorporated herein, by reference, the conditions described resulted from construction delays and have been corrected.

Finding 15: The Mendocino County Board of Supervisors partially disagrees with this finding based on the response by the HHSA Director, which is incorporated herein, by reference.

Finding 16: The Mendocino County Board of Supervisors partially disagrees with this finding. Alternatives to hospitalizations (which usually result in out of County placement) often result in treatment that is less traumatizing and more appropriate and therapeutic to the client. See the response to this finding by the HHSA Director, which is incorporated herein, by reference.

Finding 18: The Mendocino County Board of Supervisors partially disagrees with this finding. Mental Health services for Juvenile Hall have not been reduced. Mental Health and other services for the Jail are being restructured so that better all around services can be provided. See the responses to this finding by the Juvenile Hall Manager and HHSA Director and the response to recommendation 9 by the HHSA Director, all of which are incorporated herein, by reference, for more information.

Finding 19: The Mendocino County Board of Supervisors disagrees partially with this finding. Mental Health services have experienced reductions, eliminations and restructuring countywide as staff have struggled to provide the highest level of essential services in the face of shrinking resources, and the coast has been no exception. However, according to the response by the HHSA Director, within the past six months, numerous services and programs on the coast have been enhanced and trainings provided. See the response by the HHSA Director to this finding, which is incorporated herein, by reference, for a detailed explanation of coastal service enhancements.

Finding 21: The Mendocino County Board of Supervisors disagrees with this finding except for the comment regarding high caseloads. It is not true that "two years ago" MH had 125 employees. In March of 2010, two years prior to issuance of the Grand Jury report, MH staffing had already declined to approximately 75 employees. There are now approximately 47 employees with a budgeted staffing level of 53. See the response to this finding by the HHSA Director, which is incorporated herein, by reference, for a detailed explanation of clinician staffing.

Finding 24: The Mendocino County Board of Supervisors disagrees with this finding for the reasons stated by the HHSA Director in her response to this finding, which is incorporated herein, by reference.

Finding 26: The Mendocino County Board of Supervisors disagrees partially with this finding for the reasons stated by the HHSA Director in her response to Finding 14 and this finding, both of which are incorporated herein, by reference. The temporary lack of appropriate check in windows and waiting room space resulted in construction delays and was always intended to be corrected. See the response to this finding by the HHSA Director for more information.

Recommendations 1, 2, 6, 7: These recommendations have been implemented. The Board of Supervisors incorporates herein, by reference, the responses to these recommendations prepared by the HHS Director.

Recommendation 3: This recommendation is not feasible under current budgetary conditions, and therefore will not be implemented.

Recommendation 4, 5, 8: These recommendations have not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future. The Mendocino County Board of Supervisors incorporates herein, by reference, the responses to these recommendations prepared by the Mendocino County HHS Director.

Recommendation 9: This recommendation has been implemented with respect to Juvenile Hall, and merits further study with respect to the Jail, and the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors will work with the Executive Office within the next 6 months to review the need and financial feasibility for this recommendation.

Recommendation 10: This recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or reasonable in that the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors has no authority to direct actions of the health clinics.

Recommendation 11: This recommendation requires further analysis. The language used in recruitment flyers is based on language adopted by the Civil Service Commission. The Civil Service Commission is the only body that can change the job descriptions. Human Resources will review applicable job descriptions and bring to the Civil Service Commission any recommended changes.