

Grand Jury Report

RESPONSE FORM

Grand Jury Report Title: County Delivery of Animal Care Services

Report Dated: 6/9/14

Response Form Submitted By:

Mendocino County Board of Supervisors

Response MUST be submitted, per Penal Code §933.05, no later than:

9/7/14

We have reviewed the report and submit our responses to the FINDINGS portion of the report as follows:

We agree with the Findings numbered:

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.
1,2,5,6,8,9 and 10

We have reviewed the report and submit our 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:

3 and 5

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:

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- x 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)

1

- x 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:

2

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

Number of Pages attached: 3

We 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.

We understand that we 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: Douglas L. Losak

Title: Acting County Counsel

Signed: _____

Date: _____

MENDOCINO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS' REPOSE TO
GRAND JURY REPORT TITLED:
COUNTY DELIVERY OF ANIMAL CARE SERVICES

FINDINGS:

(F1, F2, F5, F6, F8, F9, F10)

F1 - Organizational separation of Animal Control and Animal Care has led to discord between the two factions resulting in delivery-of-service problems.

The Board of Supervisors disagrees wholly with this Finding. Animal Care and Animal Control work well together and strive to improve their ability to provide outstanding services to the citizens of this County at every opportunity.

F2 - The Shelter physical plant is not properly maintained.

The Board of Supervisors disagrees wholly with this Finding. The Board of Supervisors agrees with and adopts the response of the H&HSA director to this Finding.

F5 - The overcrowding has a very serious effect on staff morale and is severely detrimental to the well-being of the animals.

The Board of Supervisors disagrees wholly with this Finding. The Board of Supervisors agrees with and adopts the response of the H&HSA director to this Finding.

F6 - The relationship between the management of the two organizations has become acrimonious hindering the possibility of meaningful dialogue.

The Board of Supervisors disagrees wholly with this Finding. The Grand Jury presents no evidence in its report that supports this finding. The two organizations work well together and there are no complaints that there is a lack of communication between the two organizations.

F8 - Senior managers lack formal management training, including contract writing, negotiation, and implementation.

The Board of Supervisors disagrees partially with this Finding. The Board of Supervisors agrees with and adopts the response of the H&HSA director to this Finding.

F9 - The budgeted line item 861031 (County Contribution to unemployment insurance for the employees of the Shelter) for 2013-2014, adopted at \$0, is an unexplained deviation from prior years.

The Board of Supervisors partially disagrees with this Finding. The Board of Supervisors agrees that budget line item 861031 is zero for 2013-2014. Mendocino

County is self-insured for unemployment purposes. The amount budgeted is based on the amount of money paid on claims by the County. Based on the reserve balance in this fund, no departments were required to contribute for fiscal year 2013-2014.

F10 - The budgeted line item 862130 (Maintenance to structure and improvement to grounds) and line item 864360 (Structure/improvements) for 2013-2014 both show adopted at \$0. This gives the impression that the Board of Supervisors request to add \$20,000 for kennel repair is a misrepresentation because line item 865802 added an operating transfer out of funds, thereby negating the appropriation.

The Board of Supervisors partially disagrees with this Finding. The cost for the kennel repairs (\$20,000) is reflected in the net County cost for this budget unit. If the department was going to have an outside vendor perform the kennel work, an appropriation would have been placed in the line item 862130 and the vendor would have been paid directly. However, because the work was done by the County's General Services Agency per Fund Accounting rules, the department must budget the transfer amount in line item 865802 (which was done) and then transfer (expend) it to General Services Agency when the kennel is completed.

RECOMMENDATIONS:
(R1, R2, R3, R5)

The Grand Jury recommends that:

R1 -The Board of Supervisors re-integrate Animal Control and Animal Care as a single operational unit under the Sheriff's Office. (F1, F2, F3, F4, F6)

This Recommendation requires further study. The Board of Supervisors will request that H&HAS Director Cryer and Sheriff Allman evaluate the pros and cons of this proposed change and make a recommendation to the Board within six months.

R2 - The Board of Supervisors use a third party to perform quarterly health and safety inspections of the Shelter. (F2, F3)

This Recommendation will not be implemented. The Board of Supervisors agrees with and adopts the response of the H&HSA director.

R3 - The Board of Supervisors recognize in County policy and actual practice that Animal Control and Care in a rural county is an integrated service to the community. (F1, F3, F5, F6, F8)

This Recommendation has been adopted. The County has always recognized that the services are integrated.

R5 - The Board of Supervisors develop and adopt a realistic and understandable final County budget for Animal Control and Care. (F9, F10)

This Recommendation has always been adopted. The County's budget for Animal Care and Animal Control have always been realistic, understandable and based on the current needs and financial situation of the County.