

Grand Jury Report

RESPONSE FORM

Grand Jury Report Title : ARREST A PLUMBER – FIX THE JAIL!
A REPORT ON THE MENDOCINO COUNTY JAIL
AND COURTHOUSE HOLDING CELLS

Report Dated : June 9, 2010

Response Form Submitted By:

BOS
c/o Executive Office
Attn: Steve Dunicliff
501 Low Gap Road
Ukiah, CA 95482

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

September 1, 2010

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:

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.

1-32 (See Attached)

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:

2

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:

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 (See Attached)

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:
3-4

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
- The County's Executive Office: ceo@co.mendocino.ca.us

Second Step: Mail all originals to:

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

ATTEST:

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



DEPUTY

Printed Name: CARRE BROWN

Title: Chair, Mendocino County Board of Supervisors

Signed: 

Date: AUG 3 1 2010

ATTACHMENT

REPORT: ARREST A PLUMBER—FIX THE JAIL!

FINDINGS

FINDINGS 1-32: The Mendocino County Board of Supervisors has no specific information regarding Findings 1-32 and therefore incorporates by reference herein, the responses to findings prepared by the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office, Jail Commander, and General Services Agency.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Recommendation No. 1: The Mendocino County Board of Supervisors supports this recommendation to the extent the budget allows for full staffing.

Recommendation No. 2: The Mendocino County Board of Supervisors refers the Grand Jury to the responses of the General Services Agency.

Recommendations 3 and 4: The Mendocino County Board of Supervisors does not have the authority to direct the Sheriff to implement these recommendations. The Mendocino County Board of Supervisors supports these recommendations.

Findings, Jail

1. The maximum capacity of the jail is 302 inmates. There were 257 inmates; 35 females and 222 males on October 28, 2009.
2. The jail is divided into several areas; it may be overcrowded due to the necessity to segregate prisoners. The inmates are classified as males, females, non-sentenced, sentenced, violent, protected custody, and those with gang affiliations.
3. Current staff consists of one Captain/Commander, two Lieutenants, six Sergeants, (eight allocated), two Sheriff's Service Technicians, (five allocated), and 41 line-staff, (46 allocated). Staff is ethnically diverse, and seven are bilingual.
4. The daily minimum is eight-line staff with one Sergeant and may fall below minimum if anyone calls in sick.
5. Staffing levels and hiring are frozen at this time. Allocated positions will not be filled due to budgetary cuts.
6. Under-staffing results in long hours, and may result in errors due to fatigue.
7. In 2009, there was one suicide, and 184 reported safety issues involving inmates with mental health problems. No data is kept on attempted suicides.

8. Inmates have reported being assaulted by other inmates.
9. Video security cameras monitor all doors and common areas.
10. The organic garden was un-planted due to the mandatory 50% water rationing. A garden will be planted in the fall.
11. The GJ found the following plumbing problems:
 - toilet bowls are leaking underneath and tank water runs continually,
 - too much or too little water pressure in drinking fountains; some run continually,
 - the plumbing, located on the outside walls of the facility, was found to be leaking,
 - previous repairs were made with self-manufactured parts, including a combination of various metals and plastics.
12. There are no grounds and maintenance personnel assigned to the jail. In previous years, there were one or two full time positions. GS provides eight personnel who can be contacted 24/7 for emergency repairs.
13. The newly installed bakery is providing bread for the jail and juvenile hall, saving taxpayer dollars.
14. Inmates work in the kitchen, laundry, yard, and garden.
15. Schooling is provided by Mendocino County Adult School. Inmates, who stay longer than the average 15-16 days, may work toward earning a General Education Diploma, (GED).
16. Medical, mental health and dental services are provided. A doctor is on site Monday through Friday, two hours per day. Program managers and doctors are always available by telephone. A nursing staff is on site 24 hours a day and a dentist one day a week.
17. The Sheriff's Work Alternative Program, (SWAP), is available for low-risk offenders to work in lieu of serving a jail term.
18. The Home Detention Program, (HDP), is available for low-risk offenders, allowing inmates to work while serving their sentence from home, wearing an ankle bracelet.
19. Discipline of inmates can range from verbal warnings or loss of privileges, to lock down.
20. Regular visits by family and friends are supervised. Appointments by attorneys or clergy are considered by a supervisor on a case by case basis. Video visitations are available upon request.
21. All inmates have access to telephone and mail service. Letters may be read for content. Telephone calls are monitored.
22. Correspondence to attorneys, legislators, or Corrections Standards Authority are logged and inspected for contraband, however, not scanned or read.

Findings, Courthouse Holding Cells

23. There are five full time officers available for transport. Prisoners are transported between the County Jail and the Courthouse.
24. The Courthouse has no Sally Port for the secure transfer of prisoners.
25. Public safety is the highest priority when inmates are in a public environment.
26. Prisoners are checked for contraband when entering or exiting the jail or

Courthouse.

27. Prisoner classification makes transport difficult. Gang members, medical, protected custody, violent, and non-violent prisoners can not be transported or held together.
28. Three of the four holding cells hold 10 inmates each. One cell holds six, has a privacy screen, and is designated for females. Line of sight observation of inmates is maintained at all times. Inmates are held for an average of 30 minutes before being moved to the court room.
29. There is an Attorney-Inmate Interview Room.
30. Fire extinguishers were observed to have current certification tags. Two emergency exit doors are controlled by jail personnel. Gun lockers, storage lockers, and a telephone are located outside the holding cell area. Guns are not permitted inside the holding cell area.
31. In one cell, the drinking fountain was found to have high water pressure and spewed water onto the floor when used, creating a safety hazard.
32. A small ceiling area in the North hallway has water damage.

Recommendations

The Grand Jury recommends that:

1. The Mendocino County Board of Supervisors implement full staffing at the jail, as indicated in the budget. (Findings 3-6)
2. General Services schedule one full time Maintenance staff to maintain the jail. (Findings 11-12)
3. The Mendocino County Sheriff develop a plan to renovate the plumbing. (Findings 11-12)
4. The Mendocino County Sheriff use asset forfeiture funds to do jail renovation. (Findings 11-12)