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COUNTY OF MENDOCINO
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
501 Low tap Road • Room 1090
Ukiah, California 95482

July 17, 2007

The Honorable Cindee Mayfield, Presiding Judge
Superior Court of California
County of Mendocino County
Mendocino County Courthouse
Ukiah, CA 95482

Re: Response to Report of the 2006-2007 Grand Jury's Final Report
Mendocino County Juvenile Hall

Dear Judge Mayfield:

Enclosed is the official response to the findings and recommendations contained
in the 2006-2007 Grand Jury's Final Report regarding Mendocino County
Juvenile Hall.

The Mendocino County Board of Supervisors approved this response on July 17,
2007, and meets the statutory 60-day deadline,

Sincerely,

Kendall Smith
Kendall Smith
Chair

KS/dkm

cc: County Executive Office
Grand Jury
File 2007-07-17 GJ-Juv Hall

Enclosure

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

MICHAEL M. DELBAR
First District

JIM R. WATTENBURGER
Second District

JOHN PINCHES
Third District

KENDALL SMITH
Fourth District

J. DAVID COLFAX
Fifth District

RESPONSE PROCEDURE TO GRAND JURY REPORTS

The governance of responses to Grand Jury Final Report is contained in Penal Code § 933 and § 933.05. Responses must be submitted within 60 or 90 days. Elected officials must respond within sixty (60) days. Governing bodies (for example: the Board of Supervisors) must respond within ninety (90) days. Please submit all responses in writing and digital format to the Presiding Judge, the Grand jury Foreperson and the CEO's office.

Report Title: Mendocino County Probation/Juvenile Hall **Report Date:** May 3, 2007

Response By: Wesley M. Forman, Chief Probation Officer
Jim O. Brown, Juvenile Hall Superintendent

Findings

- I (we) agree with the findings numbered:
1, 3 through 17, and 19 through 22.
- I (we) disagree wholly or partially with the Findings numbered:
2 and 18.

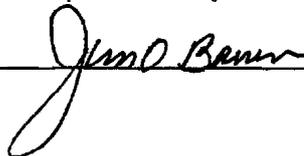
(Attach a statement specifying any portions of the Findings that are disputed; include an explanation of the reasons therefore.)

Recommendations

- Recommendation(s) numbered: 3
have been implemented. (attach a summary describing the implemented actions.)
- Recommendation(s) numbered: 2
have not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future. (attach a time frame for implementation)
- Recommendations numbered: 1, 4 & 5
require further analysis. (attach an explanation and the scope and parameters of an analysis or study, and a time frame for the matter to be prepared for discussion by the officer and/or director of the agency or department being investigated or reviewed; including the governing body of the public agency when applicable. This time frame shall not exceed six (6) months from the date of publication of the Grand Jury Report)
- Recommendations numbered: _____
will not be implemented because they are not warranted and/or are not reasonable. (attach an explanation.)

Date: June 15, 2007

Signed: _____



RESPONSE PROCEDURE TO GRAND JURY REPORTS

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Report Title : JUVENILE HALL

Report Date : May 3, 2007

Response by: BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Contact Person: ALISON GLASSEY, Assistant Chief Executive Officer

Findings

I (we) agree with the findings numbered: 22, 23

I (we) disagree wholly or partially with the Findings numbered:

(Attach a statement specifying any portions of the Findings that are disputed; include an explanation of the reasons therefore.)

Recommendations

Recommendations numbered: 3 have been implemented. (Attach a summary describing the implemented actions.)

Recommendations numbered: 1 have not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future. (Attach a time frame for implementation.)

Recommendations numbered: 4, 5 require further analysis. (Attach an explanation and the scope and parameters of an analysis or study, and a time frame for the matter to be prepared for discussion by the officer and/or director of the agency or department being investigated or reviewed; including the governing body of the public agency when applicable. This time frame shall not exceed six (6) months from the date of publication of the Grand Jury Report.)

Recommendations numbered: will not be implemented because they are not warranted and/or are not reasonable. (Attach an explanation.)

Date: 7-11-07

Signed: Alison Glassey

MENDOCINO COUNTY JUVENILE HALL

May 3, 2007

Summary

The Grand Jury conducted its mandated annual visit to the Mendocino County Juvenile Hall (MCJH) on Low Gap Road in Ukiah. This facility houses youths under the age of 18 who are wards of the court. It is extremely well managed and is dedicated to providing a safe and secure environment. The administrators and staff of the Juvenile Hall have implemented several programs designed to educate and rehabilitate these youths for re-entry into society.

Background

California Penal Code Section §919 (b) states "the Grand Jury shall inquire into the conditions and management of the public prisons within the county." The Juvenile Hall falls under this directive.

Methods

The Grand Jury oversight included inspection of the cells, booking area, sally port, recreation areas, classrooms, and food handling facilities. The following documents were reviewed: complaints submitted by youths, a 2005 Corrections Standard Authority Safety Inspection Report, 2004 State Fire Marshal Fire/Life Safety Inspection Report, the 2006 Report on Admissions, 2006 Public Health inspection report, Mendocino County Buildings Dept. inspection report, Mendocino County Office of Education report, and the 2005 Juvenile Justice Commission Juvenile Halls and Camps Inspection Report. Senior management and several employees were interviewed.

Findings

1. The staff consists of: one Superintendent, four Supervising Correctional Officers, 22 Correctional Officers, one Licensed Vocational Nurse, one Mental Health Clinician, and five staff who are employed in the kitchen.

Response (Mendocino County Juvenile Hall):

Juvenile Hall agrees with this Finding.

2. There are six unfilled Correctional Officer positions.

Response (Mendocino County Juvenile Hall):

Juvenile Hall disagrees partially with finding; since Grand Jury's last visit three Correctional Officers have been hired. Presently there remain three vacant Correctional Officer positions.

MENDOCINO COUNTY JUVENILE HALL

May 3, 2007

3. It is difficult filling these positions due to low pay and a lack of qualified applicants. Most failing applicants are unable to pass the background investigation.

Response (Mendocino County Juvenile Hall):

Juvenile Hall agrees with this Finding.

4. The maximum capacity for the facility is 43 youths, on average there are 27 to 35.

Response (Mendocino County Juvenile Hall):

Juvenile Hall agrees with this Finding.

5. All youths fill out a health questionnaire and receive a physical, which includes a TB test.

Response (Mendocino County Juvenile Hall):

Juvenile Hall agrees with this Finding.

6. Older or violent youths are separated from the younger ones.

Response (Mendocino County Juvenile Hall):

Juvenile Hall agrees with this Finding.

7. Males and females are housed separately; however, they attend school and outdoor recreation activities together.

Response (Mendocino County Juvenile Hall):

Juvenile Hall agrees with this Finding.

8. Individual gangs are not segregated. The facility has zero tolerance for any gang activity, including graffiti.

Response (Mendocino County Juvenile **Hall**):

Juvenile Hall agrees with this Finding.

9. All youths are given an orientation on acceptable behavior each time they are incarcerated. There is a "step program", whereby all youths can advance from an entrance step level of zero, and earn additional privileges by achieving steps one and two.

Response (Mendocino County Juvenile Hall):

Juvenile Hall agrees with this Finding.

MENDOCINO COUNTY JUVENILE HALL

May 3, 2007

10. Good behavior is rewarded with activities that include "in-house field trips", gardening and yard work. Magazines, posters, CD's, books, TV, and telephone privileges are also provided.

Response (Mendocino County Juvenile Hall):

Juvenile Hall agrees with this Finding.

11. Eighty percent (80%) of the youths are repeat offenders and of these 75% exhibit unacceptable behavior.

Response (Mendocino County Juvenile Hall):

Juvenile Hall agrees with this Finding.

12. Youths with mental health and/or behavioral issues require approximately 85% of the Correctional Officers' time.

Response (Mendocino County Juvenile Hall):

Juvenile Hall agrees with this Finding.

13. Seventy five percent (75%) of the youths have substance abuse problems.

Response (Mendocino County Juvenile Hall):

Juvenile Hall agrees with this Finding.

14. Special diets are available for any youth who requires it; diabetic and low fat diets are two examples. The menu is varied throughout a six-week cycle.

Response (Mendocino County Juvenile Hall):

Juvenile Hall agrees with this Finding.

15. The contracting phone company transfers some of the money they receive from collect call charges to the MCJH. This money is used for recreational and entertainment purposes for the youths.

Response (Mendocino County Juvenile Hall):

Juvenile Hall agrees with this Finding.

16. MCJH provides rehabilitation of youths through counseling, life skills and parenting classes, and Alcoholics and Narcotics Anonymous programs. Religious services are available for those who wish to attend.

Response (Mendocino County Juvenile Hall):

Juvenile Hall agrees with this Finding.

MENDOCINO COUNTY JUVENILE HALL

May 3, 2007

17. Year-around school is mandatory.

Response (Mendocino County Juvenile Hall):

Juvenile Hall agrees with this Finding.

18. Video observation and security are maintained for doors and common areas throughout the facility at all times.

Response (Mendocino County Juvenile Hall):

Juvenile Hall disagrees partially with finding; there are areas of Juvenile Hall, constructed in the 1970s, which are not under video observation.

19. At night, individual cells are visually checked every fifteen minutes.

Response (Mendocino County Juvenile Hall):

Juvenile Hall agrees with this Finding.

20. Maintenance is provided by the General Services Agency on a priority basis.

Response (Mendocino County Juvenile Hall):

Juvenile Hall agrees with this Finding.

21. The maximum sentence at Juvenile Hall is one year.

Response (Mendocino County Juvenile Hall):

Juvenile Hall agrees with this Finding.

Response (Mendocino County Juvenile Probation):

Juvenile Probation agrees with this Finding.

22. MCJH had a County funded juvenile work program which was discontinued in 2003.

Response (Board of Supervisors):

The Mendocino County Board of Supervisors agrees with this Finding.

Response (Mendocino County Juvenile Hall):

Juvenile Hall agrees with this Finding.

23. Asset Forfeiture funds can be used to fund the juvenile work program for one year.

Response (Board of Supervisors):

The Mendocino County Board of Supervisors agrees with this Finding.

MENDOCINO COUNTY JUVENILE HALL
May 3, 2007

Recommendations

The Grand Jury recommends that:

1. a study be made to determine suitable wages. (Findings 2-3)

Response (Board of Supervisors):

This recommendation is in the process of being implemented, per the negotiated MOU with the Probation Counselors bargaining unit for the term of October 1, 2006-September 30, 2009. Annual cost-of-living adjustments of 3%, 3%, and 3.5% are being paid after January 1 of 2007, 2008, and 2009 respectively. In addition, the salary ranges for all Juvenile Hall positions were increased by 1% in January 2007 and are being increased by 5% as of July 15, 2007. Additional market adjustments will occur in July 2008. These increases will make Mendocino County wages more competitive when compared with market average in comparable counties.

Response (Mendocino County Juvenile Hall):

The recommendation requires further analysis. According to an in-house salary survey, Mendocino County Juvenile Hall staff earns approximately 20% less than their counterparts. Mendocino County has promised to conduct a salary survey and make salary adjustments by July 1, 2008.

2. the six vacant staff positions be filled. (Finding 2-3)

Response (Mendocino County Juvenile Hall):

The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be in the future. Juvenile Hall works closely with Human Resources to recruit, test and fill vacant positions. Presently there are three vacant positions in the Correction Officer classification.

3. budgeted staff not be reduced. (Finding 1-2)

Response (Board of Supervisors):

This recommendation has been implemented as of the 2007-08 County Proposed Budget.

Response (Mendocino County Juvenile Hall):

The recommendation has been implemented. Preliminary budget hearings indicated no loss of funded, allocated positions.

MENDOCINO COUNTY JUVENILE HALL

May 3, 2007

4. the juvenile work program be reinstated. (Finding 22)

Response (Board of Supervisors):

This recommendation is not being implemented because it requires further analysis regarding effectiveness and because it requires additional funding, which is unavailable in the 2007-08 County budget.

Response (Mendocino County Juvenile Hall):

The recommendation requires further analysis. The Juvenile Work Program requires staffing and net County dollars. Finding qualified staff is troublesome. The County has elected not to fund a Work Program for the past four years. There has not been a reduction in services as a result of losing the program.

Response (Mendocino County Juvenile Probation):

The recommendation requires further analysis. The Juvenile Work Program requires staffing and net County dollars. Finding qualified staff is troublesome. The County has elected not to fund a Work Program for the past four years. There has not been a reduction in services as a result of losing the program.

5. asset forfeiture monies be utilized to fund the first year of a juvenile work program. (Findings 22-23)

Response (Board of Supervisors):

This recommendation will be shared with the departments that oversee the asset forfeiture monies and the possibility of sharing those funds with Juvenile Probation will be explored with them by December 31, 2007.

Response (Mendocino County Juvenile Hall):

The recommendation requires further analysis. Juvenile Hall/Probation does not control how Asset Forfeiture Funds are spent. It is unknown if this is an appropriate use of these monies.

Response (Mendocino County Juvenile Probation):

The recommendation requires further analysis. Juvenile Hall/Probation does not control how Asset Forfeiture Funds are spent. It is unknown if this is an appropriate use of these monies.

Response Required

Board of Supervisors
(Finding 22-23; Recommendations 3-5)

Mendocino County Juvenile Hall
(Findings 1-22; Recommendations 1-5)

Mendocino County Juvenile Probation
(Finding 21; Recommendation 4-5)
