



Grand Jury June

June 29, 2023

To the Citizens of Mendocino County and the Honorable Judge Jeanine Nadel:

The members of the 2022-2023 Civil Grand Jury are pleased to submit our Final Consolidated Report to you and the citizens of the County pursuant to California Penal Code Section 933. The mission of the Grand Jury is to facilitate positive change in Mendocino County government, including city governments, law enforcement jurisdictions, special districts, and numerous other county functions. We are tasked with investigating these entities for effectiveness and ultimately writing findings and recommendations. This year's jury carried out this oversight task with accuracy, fairness, dedication, and long hours of hard work. We hope this report reflects that and increases accountability and transparency into Mendocino County governance.

During the jury year, many individuals and groups provide information and aid to the Civil Grand Jury. We wish to thank some of the key ones including:

- People who submit Citizen Complaints on the Superior Court Website play a large role in Civil Grand Jury output and significantly help facilitate better County government. Thank you for your dedication.
- Jury investigations hinge on those interviewed by the jury. An interview is not always easy to carry out and, as sources of key information, the interviewee's cooperation is much appreciated.
- Many county administrators appear before the jury or give tours to provide background information on county departments and for general educational purposes. Learning about county functions is invariably cited as one of the most interesting aspects of jury work. We thank these people for their efforts.
- Critical to the execution of their task, the jury receives logistical support from the Superior Court, County Counsel, the Information Systems Department and County Administration. The jury workload could not be carried out without this assistance, and we sincerely thank these people for their unhesitating help.
- Training is essential for effective jury work. Thanks to the California Grand Jury Association for their excellent and energetic effort to teach us.

This jury issued reports on: The ACCOUNTABILITY AT THE COUNTY; 25 years of Transient HR Leadership and a Hobbled HR Department; Creative Approach to Improve Quality of Care for Family and Children's Services (FCS); and a Continuity Report.

In addition to these reports the jury notes the following: The Criminal Justice Committee of the Mendocino Civil Grand Jury 2022-2023 met the requirements of Penal Code § 919 by completing our annual inquiry into the jails and prisons within Mendocino County.

The Grand Jury visited the jail on two occasions during this term. On December 6, 2022, an on-site visit occurred along with interviews with custodial staff. Interviews were conducted with inmates on February 3, 2023. Also interviewed were an administrator and Psychiatric RN from \*Naphcare, the contracted provider of medical and psychiatric services in the jail. As in the past, the jail remains short staffed, with officers continuing to work 60 hour scheduled weekly shifts. Educational and self-help opportunities for inmates which were limited during the COVID pandemic are becoming more readily available. The long awaited 60 bed "jail annex" is scheduled for groundbreaking in 2025.

On April 5, 2023 the Grand Jury conducted a telephonic interview with the Camp Commander at the Parlin Fork Conservation Camp. He related, "Currently there are 48 inmates assigned to the camp, comprising two inmate firefighting crews. In 2022 they worked 250 days completing fire suppression efforts for local schools, community organizations and non-profits, in addition to 30 days actually fighting fires. Camp inmates can earn certificates in Water Treatment, as well as construction skills. Those who are disciplinary free are eligible to seek post release employment as firefighters with Cal Fire. While no internet service is available at this remote camp, inmates have access to library services via a weekly bookmobile, as well as religious services and AA/NA meetings."

\* NaphCare is an innovative provider of correctional healthcare services in jails and prisons.

Lastly, serving as Foreperson was one of the honors of a lifetime. My thanks and appreciation to my fellow jurors for having my back and making this year such a rich experience.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carole Hester". The script is cursive and fluid.

Carole Hester, Foreperson