



June 2024

To the Citizens of Mendocino County and the Honorable Judge Ann Moorman:

The members of the 2023-2024 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 investigative reports found here reflect the belief that the County's elected officials and leaders must continue to be held responsible for their actions and inaction. The Civil Grand Jury takes its role to serve the residents of Mendocino County seriously and embraces the trust that has been given to it. This report is a consolidation of the reports that have been released.

The mission of the Civil 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 writing findings and recommendations. This year's jury conducted 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 key contributors:

- 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.
- 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 Civil Grand Jury Association for their excellent and energetic effort to teach us.

This jury issued reports on:

- “*MENDOCINO COUNTY FAMILY AND CHILDREN’S SERVICES:
The Broken Process at Family and Children’s Services*”
- “*MENDOCINO COAST HEALTH CARE DISTRICT
Sick, but Returning to Health*”
- Continuity Report.

In addition to these reports the jury notes the following: The Criminal Justice Committee of the Mendocino Civil Grand Jury 2023-2024 met the requirements of Penal Code § 919 by completing our annual inquiry into the condition and management of the facilities at the Mendocino County Jail, the Juvenile Detention Center, and California Work Camp at Parlin Fork.

The Grand Jury interviewed the Sheriff of Mendocino County, a retired State Parole Agent, and the Captain in charge of the Sheriff’s Corrections Division. At Parlin Fork we interviewed the Lieutenant Commander, a Sergeant and a CalFire Lieutenant. At the Juvenile Detention Center, we interviewed the Chief Probation Officer, the Assistant Chief and the Lieutenant in charge of the facility.

The long-awaited jail annex is scheduled to break ground in 2025 and at this time looks as if all agencies are on board with the project and it will proceed as planned.

The populations of Parlin Fork Conservation Camp near Fort Bragg and the Juvenile Detention Center in Ukiah have diminished in recent years, however both institutions are in good condition and being managed well.

At the time this report was written and after touring these facilities the Grand Jury is satisfied that despite staff shortages, personnel are trained, dedicated, and respectful of each other and those in their charge.

Therefore, the Mendocino Grand Jury of 2023-24 has elected not to conduct further interviews or investigations of these three county detention sites or other detention operations in the county.

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,

Carole Hester

Carole Hester, Foreperson
Mendocino Civil Grand Jury 2023-2024