



County of Contra Costa
Office of the Sheriff
Warren E. Ruff
Sheriff

April 29, 2008

*The Honorable Terence L. Bruiniers
2007-2008 Contra Costa Grand Jury
Superior Court, State of California
County of Contra Costa Courthouse
725 Court Street
Martinez, CA 94553-0091*

Dear Judge Bruiniers:

Penal Code Section 933.05 requires the Office of the Sheriff to comment on Findings and Recommendations of the Grand Jury Reports. Attached hereto you will find our response to Grand Jury Report Number 0804.

The Office of the Sheriff is committed to providing the highest quality of law enforcement available. I welcome the comments and support this independent study of governmental business by the Grand Jury.

Should there be any remaining issues not addressed by my response, please feel free to contact me personally.

Sincerely,



WARREN E. RUFF, Sheriff

*WER:kcr
Attachment*

*cc: Jerry R. Holcombe, Foreperson, Contra Costa County Civil Grand Jury
John Cullen, County Administrator
Joseph P. Caruso, Commander, Custody Services Bureau*

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"Community Policing Since 1850...."

Following is the Office of the Sheriff's response to Grand Jury Report No. 0804 dated April 3, 2008, "Report on the Inspection of Detention Facilities in Contra Costa County."

FINDINGS

Finding No. 1:

All the facilities inspected were found to meet or exceed the minimum inspection standards established by the State of California Corrections Standards Authority (CSA).

Response: AGREE

Finding No. 2:

Fees charged to detainees that qualify for the work-release program substantially support the Custody Alternative Facility in Martinez. In 2006, fees collected from detainees totaled more than \$1 million, nearly 50% of the cost of operating the facility.

Response: AGREE

Finding No. 3:

In 2006, detainees served approximately 118,000 custody alternative days. Had the detainees been obligated to serve their sentences in a detention facility, the additional cost to the county would have been approximately \$13.5 million.

Response: AGREE

Finding No. 4:

The entrance road leading to the Marsh Creek Detention Facility lacks a security gate and entrance monitoring security cameras. Such security devices would reduce the opportunities for contraband to enter the facility.

Response: AGREE

Finding No. 5:

The design of the sewage drainage systems at the Martinez and West County Detention Facilities makes them vulnerable to inmate sabotage.

Response: AGREE

Finding No. 6:

The orientation video shown to new inmates in the Martinez and West County Detention Facilities is recorded in English only.

Response: AGREE

Finding No. 7:

The Martinez Detention Facility is the sole operational intake (i.e., processing) center for all County inmates. The area designed to handle West County Detention Facility processing of new inmates is not staffed. West County sheriff's deputies and West County police department officers are required to transport detainees to the Martinez Detention Facility rather than the West County Detention Facility for processing.

Response: AGREE

Finding No. 8:

The West County Detention Facility has limited medical services as compared with the Martinez Detention Facility.

Response: AGREE

Finding No. 9:

Classrooms in Juvenile Hall lack security cameras. The cameras would allow the staff to more closely monitor the classroom activities and reduce the number of disruptive incidents.

Response: Juvenile Hall falls under the authority of the Probation Department.

Finding No. 10:

The Orin Allen Youth Rehabilitation Facility is not an option for juveniles undergoing psychotropic drug therapy due to the lack of qualified, on-site, round the clock medical staff to monitor and manage such detainees.

Response: Orin Allen Youth Rehabilitation Facility falls under the authority of the Probation Department.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The 2007-2008 Contra Costa Grand Jury recommends the following to the Contra Costa County Sheriff-Coroner and to the Board of Supervisors:

Recommendation No. 1:

That the Sheriff expands wherever possible the use of the Custody Alternative Facility.

Response:

The recommendation has been implemented. The Sheriff remains committed to prioritizing the use of alternatives to custody and will continue to expand Custody Alternative to include expanding into Drug Treatment and Prevention as an alternative to custody.

Recommendation No. 2:

That within six months of this report, the Sheriff works with the General Service Department to accomplish the installation of an electrically operated gate and security cameras at the entrance to the Marsh Creek Detention Facility.

Response:

The recommendation requires further analysis. A request for an estimate has been placed with General Services and will be considered dependent on cost and budget constraints.

Recommendation No. 3:

That within six months of this report, the Sheriff works with the General Services Department to complete feasibility study and to secure proposals that cover the available alternatives to alleviate the Martinez and West County Detention Facilities' sewage drainage systems' vulnerability.

Response:

The recommendation requires further analysis. The General Services has been advised of the Grand Jury's recommendation. CSB staff will work with GSD to study any alternatives to reduce the vulnerability of the sewage systems to include the use of flush restrictors and shutoff valves. Plumbing maintenance is the financial responsibility of General Services, and any implementation of recommendations will depend on General Services' ability to budget for them.

Recommendation No. 4:

That within six months of this report, the Sheriff obtains and uses additional copies of the Martinez and West County Detention Facilities inmate orientation videotape to include any other languages that account for a significant percentage of the inmate population.

Response:

The recommendation has been implemented. Spanish versions have been completed and are being loop-played after the English version. We will continue to monitor significant changes in inmate population and adjust as needed.

Recommendation No. 5:

That within six months of this report, the Sheriff completes a full evaluation of the costs and benefits of making the West County Detention Facility intake area fully operational.

Response:

The recommendation will not be implemented. Operating the West County intake area has been studied, studied again, and then studied some more to include the original decision by the Board of Supervisors not to open the intake area when West County opened over 17 years ago. The current and prospective budgets of the County, particularly the Office of the Sheriff, have, or will result in staff reductions. When the County fiscal situation improves, at least \$12 million will be necessary to restore the nearly 100 positions that are now vacant or otherwise unfunded.

Recommendation No. 6:

That within six months of this report, the Sheriff works with the County Health Services Department to complete a full evaluation of the costs and benefits of providing West County Detention Facility medical services similar to those available at the Martinez Detention Facility.

Response

The recommendation requires further analysis. This Office will be working with the County Health Services Department as they explore contracting health services delivered to inmates. We, of course, will encourage that a primary goal is to provide similar health care at the West County Detention Facility.

Recommendation No. 7:

That within six months of this report, the Probation Department works with the General Services Department to install security cameras in the classrooms at Juvenile Hall.

Response: N/A

Recommendation No. 8:

That within six months of this report, the Probation Department works with the County Health Services Department to complete a full evaluation of the costs and benefits of making specialized medical services available around the clock to the detainees being treated with psychotropic drugs at the Orin Allen youth Rehabilitation Facility.

Response: N/A