



CONTRA COSTA COUNTY OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF
DAVID O. LIVINGSTON
SHERIFF - CORONER

June 6, 2016

The Honorable John T. Laettner
2015-2016 Contra Costa County Grand Jury
Superior Court, State of California
County of Contra Costa Courthouse
725 Court Street
Martinez, CA 94553-0091

Dear Judge Laettner:

Penal Code Section 933.05 requires the Office of the Sheriff to comment on Findings and Recommendations of the Grand Jury Report; attached hereto you will find our response to Grand Jury Report Number 1605.

The Office of the Sheriff is committed to providing the highest quality of emergency management possible. I welcome the comments and support of this independent study of government business by the Grand Jury.

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

Sincerely,


DAVID O. LIVINGSTON
Sheriff - Coroner

DOL:sl

Attachment

cc: Michael Simmons, Foreperson, 2015-2016 Contra Costa County Civil Grand Jury
David Twa, Contra Costa County Administrator
via email: epant@contracosta.courts.ca.gov

Following is the Office of the Sheriff's response to Grand Jury Report No. 1605 dated May 10, 2016, "Caring for the Victims Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in Contra Costa County."

FINDINGS – *California Penal Code Section 933.5(a) requires a response to the designated findings of the Grand Jury.*

F6. Many social workers in CFS, law enforcement, officers in Juvenile Hall and victim advocates in the DA's Office are not implementing the CSEC Protocol because they have not seen it.

Response: *Agree.*

F7. CFS, the leader of the Oversight Committee, has not followed up with its interagency partners that have signed off on the Protocol, but have not submitted their own CSEC department plan/protocols to the Oversight Committee.

Response: *Agree.*

F9. Suspected CSEC victims are being arrested and booked into Juvenile Hall for their own safety pursuant to various statutes under the Welfare & Institutions Code, relating to infractions and crimes committed by youth, while the County assesses the appropriate health and social services to provide.

Response: *Disagree. As a practice, Deputy Sheriffs do not book juveniles into Juvenile Hall for infractions or misdemeanors. Juvenile offenders are issued a citation and referred to the Juvenile Probation Department. Additionally, at no time are "status offenders" taken to Juvenile Hall per Sheriff's policy and procedure.*

F11. No single database covering all CSEC-related arrests, referrals, and pending cases exists in the County.

Response: *Agree.*

F12. Due to the lack of a single database in the County covering all CSEC-related arrests, referrals and pending cases, the County does not know the number of victims of CSEC and where they are located.

Response: *Agree.*

F13. County personnel and law enforcement dealing with victims of CSEC are well-meaning, compassionate and dedicated people trying to make the best of a very difficult situation.

Response: *Agree.*

F14. Most County personnel and law enforcement dealing with victims of CSEC lack in-depth CSEC training, necessary facilities for temporary accommodating the victims and a clear-cut plan of action, which lays out how to rescue, protect and serve the victims of CSEC in a manner that is caring and trauma-informed.

Response: Agree.

RECOMMENDATIONS – California Penal Code Section 933.05(b) requires a response to the designated recommendations of the Grand Jury.

R2. The Board of Supervisors, City Councils and Sheriff's Department should consider recommending that all CSEC interagency partners, as listed in the CSEC Protocol, in Contra Costa County adopt their own CSEC protocols and submit them to CFS for approval.

Response: The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future. The Office of the Sheriff will collaborate with CFS to adopt its own CSEC protocols to aid in the identification, assessment and delivery of services to CSEC youth in the community. The timeframe for the adoption of CSEC protocols will take approximately three months from the date of the initial collaboration meeting with the Oversight Committee. This meeting is to be scheduled by CFS.

R9. The Board of Supervisors, City Councils, and Sheriff's Department should consider recommending that all first responders (usually law enforcement) refer suspected victims of CSEC to specialized and dedicated CSEC personnel, to be established within CFS.

Response: The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future. The Office of the Sheriff will begin to refer victims of CSEC to specialized and dedicated CSEC personnel. The Sheriff's Office will update internal policies, to include the notification of Sheriff's personnel regarding CSEC referral procedures. The time frame will commence once CFS notifies the Office of the Sheriff whom the dedicated and specialized personnel are to be notified. Upon such notification from CFS, Sheriff's policies will be updated and the notification of personnel will be completed within 10 days.

R11. City Councils and Sheriff's Department should direct law enforcement to avail themselves of the CSEC training programs formulated by CFS.

Response: The recommendation will not be implemented at this time due to insufficient funding. The Office of the Sheriff supports CSEC training. However, the current operating budget for the Office of the Sheriff does not include funds to increase additional training programs. Should funding opportunities become available, Sheriff's personnel will avail themselves to CSEC training formulated by CFS.