

COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE
MANAGEMENT & BUDGET TEAM
COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT

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INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
FROM: PHILLIP SMITH-HANES, COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER *FSH*
SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO 2013-12 GRAND JURY REPORT 2013-JAILS-01
DATE: AUGUST 19, 2013

The 2012-13 Grand Jury has issued report 2013-JAILS-01 and the Board of Supervisors is required to respond to recommendations R1, R2, and R6. I recommend that the Board respond as follows:

Recommendation R1: *The County should continue its attempt to secure funding for construction of a more modern Sheriff's station in the Hoopa or Willow Creek area.*

Recommendation 1 will be implemented, when funds are available.

Although the Board of Supervisors agrees that the construction of a modern facility is warranted, such a facility will not be constructed until financial resources are available. The existing facility is still compliant with code and with limited resources available for facility construction this is currently not considered a priority project.

Recommendation R2: *The Sheriff's Work Alternative Program should be expanded to include more non-violent offenders and inmates as the prison realignment process continues.*

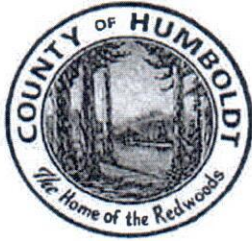
Recommendation 2 has been implemented and will continue to be implemented.

State funding is available for expansion of the Sheriff's Work Alternative Program. The program is being expanded and is a useful tool to address overcrowding issues in the Correctional Facility. The County continues to search out additional funding sources to address the jail population as a result of the early release of State inmates due to Assembly Bill (AB) 109.

Recommendation R6: *The County has no jurisdiction over State-run correctional facilities, even those located within the County's borders. The Board of Supervisors should ask our State representatives to investigate possible remedies for problems described in Finding 6.*

This recommendation has been implemented.

Finding 6 identifies that there are no medical facilities onsite for inmates who become severely injured or ill at two conservation camps in Southern Humboldt, which are operated by the State. These two conservation camps are State operated facilities. The County does not have jurisdiction over State operated facilities. However, the County has forwarded this particular report to our legislative representatives, Assemblymember Wesley Chesbro and State Senator Noreen Evans, as seen in the attached letter.



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August 19, 2013

The Honorable Wesley Chesbro
State Capitol
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249-0002

The Honorable Noreen Evans
State Senator, District 2
State Capitol, Room 4085
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Humboldt County's 2012-13 Grand Jury Report

Dear Assemblymember Chesbro and Senator Evans:

On behalf of the Humboldt County Grand Jury I am writing to respectfully offer the Grand Jury's report (2013-JAILS-01) partially concerning State-run correctional facilities. The Humboldt County Grand Jury has identified an area of concern and would like to offer the below for your consideration.

Finding F6: *The two conservation camps operated by the State in southern Humboldt have no medical facilities on site. Inmates who become severely ill or are injured are transported to the hospital in Garberville.*

Less seriously ill or injured inmates have their ailments diagnosed over the telephone by off-site health care workers. Inmates who require treatment that cannot be provided by onsite correctional officers are transported by prison bus to the state prison at Susanville, a journey of several hours. The buses do not run every day, so sick inmates may have to wait more than a day before being treated. There are no "sick bays" at the conservation camps where contagious inmates can be segregated from healthy inmates.

Recommendation R6: *The County has no jurisdiction over State-run correctional facilities, even those located within the County's borders. The Board of Supervisors should ask our State representatives to investigate possible remedies for problems described in Finding 6.*

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Phillip Smith-Hanes
County Administrative Officer
County of Humboldt



HUMBOLDT COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

MICHAEL T. DOWNEY, SHERIFF

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(707) 446-7335

MAIN STATION
826 FOURTH STREET • EUREKA CA 95501-0516
PHONE (707) 445-7251 • FAX (707) 445-7298

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(707) 441-5169

DATE: July 30, 2013

TO: THE HONORABLE PRESIDING JUDGE CHRISTOPHER WILSON OF THE SUPERIOR COURT

FROM: MICHAEL T. DOWNEY, SHERIFF

RE: AMMEDED RESPONSE TO THE 2012-2013 GRAND JURY REPORT

GRAND JURY REPORT-2012-JAILS-01

The Grand Jury found most of the facilities visited to be clean, well maintained and in good order. The members of the Jails Committee were met by friendly, helpful staff who were happy to answer any questions and provide a tour of their facilities. The Grand Jury commends the pride, professionalism and courtesy exhibited to them by the management, sworn officers and civilian employees of all the agencies visited.

The following facilities were found to be in need of improvements:

Finding No. F 1 Humboldt County Sheriff's Hoopa Station

The Hoopa Sheriff's Station is obsolete. Deputies often use the California Highway Patrol station in Willow Creek, which has better communications equipment.

Grand Jury Recommendation R 1

The County should continue its attempt to secure funding for construction so a more modern Sheriff's station in the Hoopa or Willow Creek area.

SHERIFF'S RESPONSE TO RECOMMENDATION NO. R1 Humboldt County Sheriff's Hoopa Station

Agree. The Hoopa station is over fifty (50) years old and routine maintenance is no longer able to adequately maintain a suitable environment for employees to work in. The holding cells are dark, cold and unsanitary in need of expensive renovation. The cited reason for moving to the California Highway Patrol office, communication equipment, is only one of the problems that deputies confront on a daily basis.

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MCKINLEYVILLE STATION
(707) 839-3857

HOOPA STATION
(530) 625-4231

GARBERVILLE STATION
(707) 923-2761

ANIMAL CONTROL
(707) 840-9132

A new facility should be built with the intent of providing adequate space to house more than one agency with a more regional approach, including the California Highway Patrol and other Law Enforcement partners.

Finding No. F2 Sheriff's Work Alternative Program

The Sheriff's Work Alternative Program farm is an exemplary program that provides much needed relief from overcrowding at the County Jail.

Grand Jury Recommendation R 2

The Sheriff's Work Alternative Program should be expanded to include more non-violent offenders and inmates as the prison realignment process continues.

SHERIFF'S RESPONSE TO RECOMMENDATION R 2. Sheriff's Work Alternative Program

Agree. The Sheriff's Work Alternative Program (SWAP) is an exemplary program, as the grand Jury report indicates. The program has been in place for many years and has contributed to a lower number of housed inmates in the correctional facility.

Recently, through state funding, the program has been expanded and is a successful tool for the overcrowding issue as well as being a great public relations tool for the Sheriff's Office. My office will continue to seek additional programs through the SWAP program in order to reduce impacts on the Correctional Facility due to prison realignment.

FINDING NO. F3. Sheriff's Boat Yard Evidence Facility

The Sheriff's boat yard evidence facility has inadequate control and inventory issues. The evidence is not stored, tagged, or organized in a safe controlled manner.

Grand Jury Recommendation R 3

The Sheriff's office should develop a safe, controlled and organized method of storing evidence in its boat yard.

SHERIFF'S RESPONSE TO RECOMMENDATION R 3. Sheriff's Boat Yard Evidence Facility

No Response. The stated purpose of the Humboldt County Grand Jury Jails Committee is as follows; *"The Jails Committee of the Humboldt County Grand Jury is statutorily required to inspect and report on the conditions at all jails, prisons and holding facilities located in the County. The following report details the findings and resulting recommendations of the current year's (2012/2013) Grand Jury arising out of those inspections, and reviews the response of the County to the findings and recommendations made by the previous year's (2011/2012) Grand Jury."*

The evidence area referred to in this report has no relevant connection to any holding facility and is not under the purview of the Humboldt County Grand Jury Jails Committee. I did respond to the Grand Jury Jails Committee finding in the 2011/2012 report due to the close proximity to the Humboldt County Correctional Facility but the area of scrutiny in this report has no connection to the Correctional Facility.

My main concern is citing findings of one of the functions of the sheriff's office with out having the statutory authority to make such a finding. I will say the facility is being managed satisfactorily with improvements made routinely, due to the Sheriff's records management system.

Finding No. F4. Cameras in the Women's Cell Block

Some of the cameras in the women's cellblocks of the County Jail are broken.

Grand Jury Recommendation R 4

The broken cameras in the woman's cell blocks of the County Jail should be repaired or replaced.

SHERIFF'S RESPONSE TO RECOMMENADTION TO R 4 Cameras in the Women's Cell Block

Agree. There are numerous cameras inoperable and in need of replacement. This is an expensive infrastructure expense and capital project, which has not been budgeted for due to increased expense in running the facility and continued status quo budgets. Funding for replacement of the cameras was submitted as a supplemental budget request for the 2013/2014 budget but that request was not approved.

The need for the camera repairs and replacement is necessary. Alternatives will be explored to secure funding of this much needed, expensive maintenance issue for the Humboldt County Correctional Facility.

Finding No. F5. Full-Time Maintenance Staff Member

No full- time maintenance staff member is assigned to the County Jail, although there is enough ongoing maintenance work to warrant such an assignment.

Grand Jury Recommendation R 5

A full-time maintenance worker should be assigned to the County Jail.

SHERIFF'S RESPONSE TO RECOMMENADTION R 5. Full-Time Maintenance Staff Member

Agree. Currently Humboldt County Public Works provides one (1) maintenance mechanic to the correctional facility, just as they do for other county owned buildings. The Correctional Facility is owned and maintained by the County of Humboldt and maintenance is not the responsibility of the Sheriff, the Sheriff only utilizes the space for the holding of county inmates.

Based upon the amount of work and need for daily maintenance of the facility, I would support the addition of one (1) maintenance mechanic.

Finding No. F7. Overall Conditions in the Correctional Facility, Based on Inmate Interviews.

The inmate interviews conducted by the committee indicate that the Sheriff's Correctional Facility provides satisfactory or better housing and services to inmates. The inmates indicated that outreach and educational programs are available, and that adequate medical care is available. Some inmates did express concerns that the jail is not providing inmates with adequate information concerning "jail rules and regulations".

Grand Jury Recommendation R 7

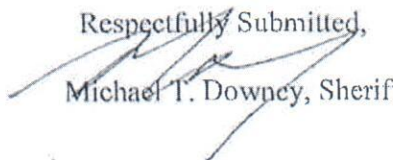
The Sheriff's office should provide all inmates with written information about the County Jail's rules and expectations when they enter the facility.

SHERIFF'S RESPONSE TO RECOMMENDATION R 7. Overall Conditions in the Correctional Facility, Based on Inmate Interviews.

Partially Agree. Sheriff's Office correctional officers and support staff goes to great lengths to provide a clean, safe and as stress free environment as possible to housed inmates. The kitchen is a model to many in the area and routinely receives the highest marks possible from the health department during routine inspections. Educational opportunities exist and many inmates take advantage of the services with some completing high school requirements along with limited college credits.

In regards to rules and regulations, each inmate upon booking receives a booklet that provides the rules and regulations. Also, upon booking, those rules and regulations are explained and consistently reinforced during housing meetings with inmates, while in a group setting. Each officer, upon request or if bad behavior is observed, will explain the rules and regulations as they apply to a question or during corrective action for behavior issues.

Respectfully Submitted,


Michael T. Downey, Sheriff

Cc: Undersheriff Thomas
Ed Wilkinson, Jail Commander
Linda Modell, Business Manager
Philip Smith-Hanes, County Administrative Officer