

The County of Yuba

OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS



915 8th Street, Ste. 109
Marysville, California 95901
(530) 749-7510
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August 23, 2016

The Honorable Julia Scrogin
Judge of the Superior Court
Yuba County Courthouse
215 Fifth Street, Suite 200
Marysville, CA 95901

Re: RESPONSE TO 2015-16 GRAND JURY – “Yuba County Jail Report”

Dear Judge Scrogin,

Provided pursuant to Penal Code Section 933(c) are the comments from the Board of Supervisors related to the findings and recommendations contained in the 2015-16 Grand Jury Final Report – “Yuba County Jail Report.” Consistent with Section 933(c), responses do not address departments under control of elected officials or outside agencies, except where a specific response was solicited and then our response is consistent with provisions of Penal Code Section 933.05(c).

FINDINGS

F1. The 2015-2016 Yuba County Grand Jury finds that the Yuba County Jail has shown considerable improvement in the mental health care being provided to the inmates. They now have two crisis counselors, one part-time, and one full-time; two part-time psychiatrists (one available through Tele-psych); and a full-time forensic mental health therapist. The inmates have approximately 100 hours of non-emergency mental health care available to them per week. A Bureau of Justice 2006 report states that 64% of jail inmates throughout the nation have mental health problems. Assuming that this same statistical information applies to the Yuba County Jail; that would be an excess of 200 inmates. With 100 treatment hours available this allows for less than 30 minutes of non-emergency one-on-one mental health counselling/treatment per inmate per week. The Jail has reinstated group counsel sessions which allows more inmates an opportunity for treatment during the week. In November 2015, Yuba County was awarded to a \$20 million grant through SB 863. This grant shall be used to build a new annex next to the existing building which will include additional rooms for counselling and classroom instruction.

Correctional Officers receive annual training in suicide and suicide prevention, and mental health issues in a jail facility. The Officers also received “Mental Health First Aid” which is an 8 hour training course.

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Andy Vasquez – District 1 • John Nicoletti – District 2 • Mary Jane Griego – District 3 • Roger Abe – District 4 • Randy Fletcher – District 5

During the UC Davis (UCD) presentation to the Grand Jury, UCD advised of two suicide-by-hanging attempts, both suicide attempts were interrupted by other inmates. Prior to each situation each inmate had told UCD that they had asked for mental therapy; they wanted to see a psychiatrist, yet no treatment was offered.

With the Realignment Act, some inmates are now being housed for longer periods of time, up to five years. Inmates with mental health issues could benefit from a complete evaluation and a recovery oriented treatment plan (Interpretive Guidelines). In 2015, the Zur Institute wrote that there is no textbook definition of the standard of care in the mental health field. Based on the statistics cited, the 100 hours per week allotted to treatment of mental health issues appears to be inadequate for the number of inmates potentially requiring care.

The Board of Supervisors agrees with this finding.

- F2.** *The 2015-2016 Yuba County Grand Jury finds that the Yuba County Jail has increased the number and quality of its medical personnel by hiring a full-time Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) who will assist the doctor in the care and treatment of inmates.*

One of the current LVN's has passed the RN course, has applied for an interim permit and is expected to receive the permit prior to the release of this Grand Jury Report. This interim RN may receive permanent RN status within a few months. The Sheriff has approached the Board of Supervisors and received funding for the Correctional Facility RN pay with the goal of maintaining a valuable employee while increasing the skill, education, and experience in the Medical Unit.

The doctor stated that he tries to see an inmate within 48 hours of the inmates' request. The doctor and nurse combined see 60-80 patients a week and it can become difficult for an inmate to get an appointment with the doctor which could cause a delay in treatment.

The Grand Jury also interviewed an ex-inmate who states the inmate was miss-diagnosed by several Licensed Vocational Nurses (LVN) and the FNP as having a soft tissue damage. It wasn't until they saw the doctor, 28 days after the initial injury, that the inmate was diagnosed with a radial head fracture. However, in further researching the medical recommendations for this type of injury, the Grand Jury found that the treatment received after the fracture was found was consistent with what the US National Law of Medicine recommended for this type of fracture (US National, 2015).

The Board of Supervisors agrees with this finding.

- F3.** *The 2015-2016 Yuba County Grand Jury finds a number of studies have shown the benefit of providing inmates with an opportunity to earn their GED diploma, which makes this a vital issue to be considered by local, state and national legislators. An article by Matthew Clark in 2014 stated that a 2013 RAND report integrated more than 30 years of previous research on education and recidivism rates. The report states that "inmates who participated in correctional education programs had 43% lower odds of returning to prison than inmates who did not." (Clark, 2014). It goes on to state that "the odds of an offender finding employment after release from prison was 13% higher for those who did participated in academic or vocational programs compared to those who did not." (Clark, 2014)*

Another study by John Nuttall (2003) broke down two groups, offenders under the age of 21 and over 21. "Offenders under the age of 21 who earned their GED diploma were 14% less likely to return to

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prison within three years, while prisoners over 21 were 5% less likely to return to prison after earning a GED diploma. Education in prison systems is an effective way to lower recidivism.” (Nuttall, 2003)

Yuba County Jail does offer GED courses that cover the five Core Requirements as well as grammar and spelling. They work with inmates to give them an opportunity to obtain their GED certification, however they are unable to provide the GED certification test in-house and it is not always practical to transport an inmate outside the jail and watch over him/her for six hours. The Jail Administration advised the Grand Jury that they are hoping to provide the GED certification exam in-house in the future.

The Board of Supervisors agrees with this finding.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- R1.** *The 2015-2016 Yuba County Grand Jury recommends that the Sheriff apply to the Board of Supervisors to provide funding and hiring of a full-time psychiatrist that could allow the Jail to work on a mental health treatment and care plan with a focus on work and/or education.*

The 2015-2016 Yuba County Grand Jury further recommends that the Board of Supervisors approve funding for a full-time psychiatrist. This should be accomplished by the end of the 2016-2017 fiscal year.

The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable. Ongoing analysis by the Sheriff's Department and subsequent determinations of needs does not warrant a full-time position as recommended by the Grand Jury. Of further note, the Board of Supervisors relies on department heads to request augmentations for staffing and related expenses through the budget process. In this case, there has been no request. The Board of Supervisors is aware, through discussions with the Sheriff and Y-S Behavioral Health staff, services are being provided to inmates at an appropriate level through their partnership and collaborative approach. Should conditions change, it is incumbent upon the departments to recognize the need, develop a plan and submit request(s) to the Board of Supervisors for consideration.

- R2.** *The 2015-2016 Yuba County Grand Jury recommends that the Sheriff apply to the Board of Supervisors to provide funding and hiring of a full-time medical doctor that could reduce the pressure on the medical staff and decrease the time it takes to see a doctor or the Family Nurse Practitioner.*

The 2015-2016 Yuba County Grand Jury further recommends that the Board of Supervisors approve funding for a full-time medical doctor. This should be accomplished by the end of the 2016-2017 fiscal year.

The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable. The Board of Supervisors recognizes the fluid situation over the last year with the retirement of a long-term doctor that was performing medical services at our institutions. Based on options available, the Sheriff has elected the hiring of a part-time doctor to meet the current need. As mentioned previously, the Board of Supervisors relies on department heads to request augmentations for staffing and related expenses through the budget process based on their operational needs.

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R3. The 2015-2016 Yuba County Grand Jury recommends that the Sheriff continue to focus on setting up an in-house GED testing program with the goal of implementing such a program within the 2017-2018 fiscal year.

The recommendation has been implemented. Based on discussions between administration and the Sheriff's management, and relayed to the Board of Supervisors the program is being developed for implementation in FY 2017-2018.

The Board of Supervisors thanks the 2015-2016 Grand Jury for their dedication of time and commends each member for their valuable community service.

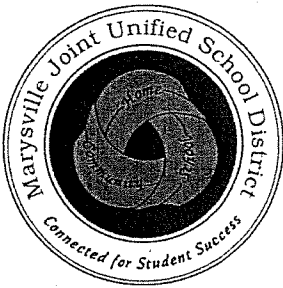
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Roger Abe', followed by a smaller, less legible signature.

Roger Abe, Chairman
Yuba County Board of Supervisors

SUPERVISORS

Andy Vasquez – District 1 • John Nicoletti – District 2 • Mary Jane Griego – District 3 • Roger Abe – District 4 • Randy Fletcher – District 5



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BOARD MEMBER

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AUG 09 2016

Marysville Joint Unified School District
1919 B Street Marysville, CA 95901 (530) 741-6000 • FAX (530) 742-0573
Clarence J. Brown, Chairman of Supervisors

August 5, 2016

The Honorable Julia L. Scrogin
Grand Jury Presiding Judge
Yuba County Superior Court
215 Fifth Street, Suite 200
Marysville, CA 95901

RE: Response by the Superintendent on Behalf of the Marysville Joint Unified School District's Assistant Superintendent of Business Services and Executive Director of Maintenance, Operations and Transportation, to the Final Report of the Yuba County Grand Jury 2015-16, Pages 38 – 47

The Honorable Julia L. Scrogin:

Pursuant to California Penal Code sections 933 and 933.05, on behalf of the Marysville Joint Unified School District's ("District") Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services and Executive Director of Maintenance, Operations and Transportation, I hereby submit the required formal response to the 2015-16 Yuba County Grand Jury Final Report ("Report"), pages 38 – 47.

REQUIRED RESPONSES TO FINDINGS

Finding 1:

The 2015-2016 Grand Jury finds that MJUSD failed to properly maintain the HVAC system at Lindhurst High School. Specifically, the Grand Jury found no evidence that the water was being treated per documented specifications as found in a number of magazines and periodicals related to building maintenance: Contracting Business, ACHR News, and Facility Management. This failure may have potentially exposed the students, staff and public to Legionnaires' disease or Pontiac Fever (CDC).

In addition, the lack of water treatment and maintenance has led to the water lines becoming corroded and blocked, reducing the efficiency of the system (Contracting, 2010) and putting pressure on the Central Plant, "resulting in an increased load and wear on the machinery" (MJUSD, Aug 14, 2016). In a public letter, the MJUSD Superintendent indicates knowledge of the hard water in this area (MJUSD, Aug. 25, 2015).

In light of this lack of maintenance on the system, the chillers failed prematurely. The chillers had only eight years of actual wear and the Grand Jury's research showed that, with proper maintenance, they have a life expectancy of around 20 to 30 years (Grassi, 2013).

Response to Finding 1:

Agree.

The District agrees with the finding that the HVAC system at Lindhurst High School was not properly maintained in the past under the previous department director. The District has not found documentation indicating the existence of a formal preventative maintenance plan for the HVAC system, including chiller water treatment, at Lindhurst High School prior to April of 2015. The District is not aware of any instances of Legionnaire's disease or Pontiac Fever resulting from improper maintenance of the HVAC system at Lindhurst High School.

The District agrees that a lack of water treatment and maintenance likely contributed blockage and corrosion of water lines to the chillers. Based on information and institutional knowledge available at this time, the District believes that in the past, a chemical company treated the water and/or lines for the chillers at Lindhurst High School on at least one occasion.

The District agrees that it is likely that the chillers failed prematurely, at least in part, due to improper maintenance.

Finding 2:

The 2015-2016 Grand Jury finds that MJUSD failed to maintain a log detailing work done on the HVAC system as well as any noted irregularities of the HVAC system at Lindhurst High School. The Grand Jury had requested to see the maintenance log but was advised by MJUSD that they were unable to locate or did not have the log. In addition, the Grand Jury finds that MJUSD has very little documentation on work done through outside contractors.

Response to Finding 2:

Agree.

The District has not found documentation indicating the existence of a maintenance log for the HVAC system at Lindhurst High School prior to April of 2015. The District does not believe that a maintenance log was kept prior to that date. Based on the information available, the District believes that the District's HVAC Technician was previously informed that the chillers at Lindhurst High School were on a preventive maintenance plan with an outside vendor, American Chiller. The District is unable to locate documentation of the maintenance work performed by American Chiller or any other outside vendor. When the previous department director left the district, no such documentation was provided to district management. Further, the district has thoroughly searched the offices of the maintenance department and could not find any of these records that should have been maintained by the previous department director.

Finding 3:

The 2015-2016 Grand Jury finds that MJUSD failed to act on a work order indicating a problem with the HVAC system at Lindhurst High School. Per Grand Jury interviews, this failure to act significantly contributed to the compressor being destroyed by a loose screw. This left the students at Lindhurst High School without air conditioning in triple-digit heat causing at least two walk-outs (Luery, 2015 and Barron, 2016).

Response to Finding 3:

Agree in part, disagree in part.

The District agrees with the finding that it failed to act on a work order indicating a problem with the HVAC system at Lindhurst High School under the previous department's director. According to Maintenance Department staff, the Maintenance Department previously received a work order reflecting problems with the HVAC system at Lindhurst High School. The District has not been able to locate a physical copy of this work order as records prior to April of 2015 cannot be located. For reasons only known to past department leadership, this work order was not acted upon. All documentation and records have been maintained on the HVAC system at Lindhurst High School since May 2015 when new department leadership was brought in.

The District does not agree that the compressor was destroyed by a loose screw. The District has found no evidence that the chiller failure was the result of a loose screw falling into the compressor. To the best of the District's knowledge, the chiller failed as a result of the compressor seizing up. Although the cause of failure has not been determined with certainty, it appears that the underground chiller water lines became clogged. This restricted water flow and an increase in water pressure. Ultimately, this placed too much strain on the chiller, causing it to fail.

The District agrees that as a result of the failure of the air conditioning system at Lindhurst High School, at least two walk outs occurred.

Finding 4:

The 2015-2016 Grand Jury finds that the personnel in MJUSD Facilities and Energy Management Department do not have enough knowledge and experience in handling the HVAC systems. The Grand Jury was advised, during interviews, that the technician currently assigned to maintain the HVAC system is unfamiliar with the system.

Response to Finding 4:

Disagree.

Maintenance Department staff has the tools, knowledge and expertise to work on HVAC systems in large part, and hired an additional HVAC technician in September of 2015. However, they do not have the tools, knowledge or expertise to diagnose and work on chillers specifically. In the past, Maintenance Department staff notified the Maintenance Department management that the operation of a chiller system is a specialized process requiring a specialist in that field. To fill this need, the Maintenance Department contracted with American Chiller to make repairs, diagnose problems, and conduct maintenance on the Chiller. To best of the District's knowledge, American Chiller was the contractor who did all water treatment on the central plant at Lindhurst High School for the past ten years. This information was not shared to other staff or district management by the previous director of this department.

Finding 5:

The 2015-2016 Grand Jury finds that MJUSD is currently addressing the HVAC problem with an emergency HVAC replacement project (Barron, 2016). Per K. Barron and a 2015 newsletter from MJUSD (2016); this is a multi-stage project with the first stage addressing Lindhurst High School's C and F buildings. Building C should have a new system in late March to early April 2016, Building F in late April 2016. Work on a new HVAC system for the gym, locker room and classrooms in Building E is expected to start, by early fall of 2016. Research documentation shows that proper maintenance will reduce energy costs (ACHR, 2005) as well as reduce the potential risk of exposure to Legionella bacteria which is associated with Legionnaires Disease and Potomac Fever (CDC).

Response to Finding 5:

The District notes that the Grand Jury Report does not require a Response from the District to Finding Number 5. However, in an effort to provide a comprehensive response, the District provides the following response:

The Maintenance Department, under the direction of the current Executive Director of the Maintenance, Operations, and Transportation Department, made efforts to provide the C and F buildings at Lindhurst High School with sufficient and constant cool air flow. To do so, portable cooling units were brought in along with exhaust fans being installed over each building exit way. The District was able to maintain, for the most part, a steady temperature in the buildings ranging from 80 degrees Fahrenheit to 83 degrees Fahrenheit. Maintenance Department staff was able to verify this information through daily logs which tracked temperatures in Building C twice a day via the District's Energy Management System (EMS). With regard to the HVAC replacement project, the District completed the majority of Increment 1 in April of 2016. Increment 1 involved the disconnection of Buildings C and F from the central plant/chillers, excavation and trenching for electrical and ground mounted pads, pouring of concrete pads at building C, and the installation of roof mounted mechanical equipment at

Building F. Increment 1 also included the installation of thermostats and carbon dioxide sensors in Buildings C and F. Increment 2 of the HVAC replacement project is scheduled to begin in the fall of 2016. Increment 2 will involve the following work on Buildings B and H: trenching around Building B for electrical lines; removal of old mechanical equipment and chiller lines; installation of thermostats and carbon dioxide sensors; installation of new package units or split system HVAC equipment; and air balancing, commissioning, and development of an operation and maintenance plan.

REQUIRED RESPONSES TO RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation 1:

The 2015-2016 Grand Jury recommends that MJUSD set up a maintenance schedule per the manufacturer's specifications of the new independent HVAC systems. The 2015- 2016 Grand Jury recommends that MJUSD set up a maintenance schedule for all HVAC support equipment including the chillers and controls. This is to be implemented upon the installation of the new systems. (F1)

The 2015-2016 Grand Jury recommends that MJUSD clean or replace the underground water lines that have become corroded and blocked (MJUSD, 2015). The 2015-2016 Grand Jury recommends that MJUSD maintain proper water treatment for all of the HVAC systems at Lindhurst High School. This is to be done upon the installation of the new systems. (F1)

Response to Recommendation 1:

Already implemented where applicable.

As referenced above, a preventative maintenance plan has been implemented for all HVAC units in the District and records are now being kept and maintained of all maintenance and repairs performed. In addition, the District hired a second HVAC Technician with a certified, journey-level skill set for commercial HVAC units.

Replacement of underground water lines for the chillers is not necessary as all new HVAC units in the District will be individual package units that do not incorporate the underground water lines previously used for chillers. Appropriate ongoing maintenance recommendations will be developed along with each increment of the HVAC replacement project.

Recommendation 2:

The 2015-2016 Grand Jury recommends that MJUSD set up a maintenance log for each HVAC system; documenting the date, a brief summary of the issue, and what was done. In addition, the Grand Jury recommends that MJUSD set up a filing system and maintain all work orders, purchase orders, contracts and any other paperwork documenting outside contracting work done on the HVAC system.

Response to Recommendation 2:

Already implemented.

A maintenance log has been established as part of the District's preventative maintenance plan. Pursuant to this plan, the District has an electronic filing system for work orders, purchase orders and contracts which are kept within specially tailored software. Any supplemental paper maintenance records will be kept in the preventative maintenance plan log.

Recommendation 3:

The 2015-2016 Grand Jury recommends that MJUSD address work orders immediately, document what actions were taken and maintain all documentation regarding work orders. This is to be implemented immediately.

Response to Recommendation 3:

Already implemented.

An electronic work order system was implemented in the fall of 2015 to expedite and make the work order process more effective. Since that time, the District has been addressing work orders promptly.

Recommendation 4:

The 2015-2016 Grand Jury recommends that MJUSD ensure proper training is provided for the technicians responsible for the HVAC system. This is to be implemented immediately.

Response to Recommendation 4:

Already implemented.

The District's Maintenance Department has provided training for our HVAC Technicians and will continue to ensure they are up to date with all current methods and practices for commercial HVAC systems. To address the District's HVAC needs, the District hired an additional HVAC technician in September of 2015. Both of the District's HVAC Technicians have an extensive background in their field with certifications and a minimum of four (4) years of experience in the HVAC trade. Regarding the chillers in the District, they are inspected each year and necessary repairs are made.

Recommendation 5:

The 2015-2016 Grand Jury recommends that MJUSD ensures that the projects of replacing the HVAC system for Lindhurst High School is completed.

- The gym, locker room and classrooms in Building E to be started by September 1, 2016 and completed by March, 2017.

Response to Recommendation 5:

Already Implemented.

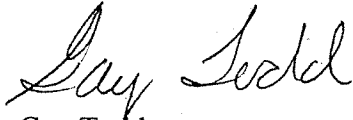
At this juncture the Grand Jury's recommendation is the best estimate of the timeline for completion of Increment 2, which should be completed in April of 2017. Please note that Buildings A, E, and G will only have commissioning completed and will not be taken off chiller #2 until Increment 3 has been completed, thus Building E will not be completed until the end of Increment 3. Increment 3 will include: disconnection of Buildings A, E, and G from the central plant/chillers; installation of ground mounted individual HVAC units for Buildings A, E, and G; removal of chiller water lines and other mechanical components; installation of concrete pads and fencing; air balancing and commissioning of new HVAC package units for Buildings A, E, and G; and decommissioning of the central plant/chillers. The District is working diligently to complete Increments 2 and 3 as soon as possible. While the District will begin commissioning for Buildings A, E, and G in the fall of 2016, the date of completion of Increment 3 is subject to the District securing adequate funding.

CONCLUSION

The District continually strives to act in the best interest of the District, its students, employees, the community, and the taxpayers, and will continue to do so in accordance with all applicable laws, policies, rules, and regulations.

Sincerely,

MARYSVILLE JOINT UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT



Gay Todd
Superintendent

cc: Board of Trustees, Marysville Joint Unified School District



Yuba County Sheriff's Department

Steven L. Durfor, Sheriff-Coroner

215 5th Street, Suite 150, Marysville, CA 95901
Ph: 530-749-7777 • Fax: 530-741-6445



June 24, 2016

The Honorable Stephen Berrier
Yuba County Superior Court
215 5th Street, Suite 200
Marysville, CA 95901

RE: Response to 2015/2016 Grand Jury Findings and Recommendations

Dear Judge Berrier:

This letter, provided pursuant to California Penal Code Section 933, is the Yuba County Sheriff's Department's response to the 2015/2016 Grand Jury Final Report – Findings and Recommendations concerning the investigation into the Yuba County Jail.

We would like to express our thanks to the 2015/2016 Yuba County Grand Jury for their dedication to their duties. Please accept the following response to the Grand Jury Findings and Recommendations:

FINDINGS

***Finding #1:** The 2015-2016 Yuba County Grand Jury finds that the Yuba County Jail has shown considerable improvement in the mental health care being provided to the inmates. They now have two crisis counselors, one part-time and one full-time; two part-time psychiatrists (one available through Tele-psych); and a full-time forensic mental health therapist. The inmates have approximately 100 hours of non-emergency mental health care available to them per week. A Bureau of Justice 2006 report states that 64% of jail inmates throughout the nation have mental health problems. Assuming that this same statistical information applies to the Yuba County Jail; that would be an excess of 200 inmates. With 100 treatment hours available this allows for less than 30 minutes of non-emergency one-on-one mental health counseling/treatment per inmate per week. The Jail has reinstated group counsel sessions which allows more inmates an opportunity for treatment during the week. In November, 2015, Yuba County was awarded a \$20 million grant through SB 863. This grant shall be used to build a new annex next to the existing building which will include additional rooms for counseling and classroom instruction.*

Correctional Officers receive annual training in suicide and suicide prevention, and mental health issues in a jail facility. The Officers also received "Mental Health First Aid" which is an 8 hour training course.

During the UC Davis (UCD) presentation to the Grand Jury, UCD advised of two suicide-by-hanging attempts, both suicide attempts were interrupted by other inmates. Prior to each situation each inmate had told UCD that they had asked for mental therapy; they wanted to see a psychiatrist, yet no treatment was offered.

YCSO Grand Jury Response

With the Realignment Act, some inmates are now being housed for longer periods of time, up to five years. Inmates with mental health issues could benefit from a complete evaluation and a recovery oriented treatment plan (Interpretive Guidelines). In 2015, the Zur Institute wrote that there is no textbook definition of the standard of care in the mental health field. Based on the statistics cited, the 100 hours per week allotted to treatment of mental health issues appears to be inadequate for the number of inmates potentially requiring care.

RESPONSE TO FINDING #1: Agree.

Finding # 2: *The 2015-2016 Yuba County Grand Jury finds that the Yuba County Jail has increased the number and quality of its medical personnel by hiring a full-time Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) who will assist the doctor in the care and treatment of inmates.*

One of the current LVN's has passed the RN course, has applied for an interim permit and is expected to receive the permit prior to the release of this Grand Jury Report. This interim RN may receive permanent RN status within a few months. The Sheriff has approached the Board of Supervisors and received funding for the Correctional Facility RN pay with the goal of maintaining a valuable employee while increasing the skill, education and experience in the Medical Unit.

The doctor stated that he tries to see an inmate within 48 hours of the inmates' request. The doctor and nurse combined see 60-80 patients a week and it can become difficult for an inmate to get an appointment with the doctor which could cause a delay in treatment.

The Grand Jury also interviewed an ex-inmate who states the inmate was miss-diagnosed by several Licensed Vocational Nurses (LVN) and the FNP as having soft tissue damage. It wasn't until they saw the doctor, 28 days after the initial injury, that the inmate was diagnosed with a radial head fracture. However, in further researching the medical recommendations for this type of injury, the Grand Jury found that the treatment received after the fracture was found was consistent with what the US National Law of Medicine recommended for this type of fracture (US National, 2015).

RESPONSE TO FINDING #2: Agree

Finding #3: *The 2015-2016 Yuba County Grand Jury finds a number of studies have shown the benefit of providing inmates with an opportunity to earn their GED diploma, which makes this a vital issue to be considered by local, state and national legislators. An article by Matthew Clark in 2014 stated that a 2013 RAND report integrated more than 30 years of previous research on education and recidivism rates. The report states that "inmates who participated in correctional education programs had 43% lower odds of returning to prison than inmates who did not." (Clark, 2014). It goes on to state that "the odds of an offender finding employment after release from prison was 13% higher for those who participated in academic or vocational programs compared to those who did not." (Clark, 2014).*

Another study by John Nuttall (2003) broke down two groups, offenders under the age of 21 and over 21. "Offenders under the age of 21 who earned their GED diploma were 14% less likely to return to prison within three years, while prisoners over 21 were 5% less likely to return to prison after earning a GED diploma. Education in prison systems is an effective way to lower recidivism." (Nuttal, 2003).

YCSO Grand Jury Response

Yuba County Jail does offer GED courses that cover the five Core Requirements as well as grammar and spelling. They work with inmates to give them an opportunity to obtain their GED certification, however they are unable to provide the GED certification test in-house and it is not always practical to transport an inmate outside the jail and watch over him/her for six hours. The Jail Administration advised the Grand Jury that they are hoping to provide the GED certification exam in-house in the future.

RESPONSE TO FINDING #3: Agree

RECOMMENDATIONS

***Recommendation #1:** The 2015-2016 Yuba County Grand Jury recommends that the Sheriff apply to the Board of Supervisors to provide funding and hiring of a full-time psychiatrist that could allow the Jail to work on a mental health treatment and care plan with a focus on work and/or education.*

The 2015-2016 Yuba County Grand Jury further recommends that the Board of Supervisors approve funding for a full-time psychiatrist. This should be accomplished by the end of the 2016-2017 fiscal year. (F1)

RESPONSE TO RECOMMENDATION #1: The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable. We agreed with the finding associated this recommendation (F1), as the statements made in the finding were based on statistical data, statements made to the Grand Jury or, as is the case in this matter, was a what *appeared* to be a need based on the number of inmates *potentially* needing mental health care. There is no evidence in the finding that a full-time psychiatrist is necessary. Our internal and external reviews do not suggest the need for a full-time psychiatrist.

***Recommendation #2:** The 2015-2016 Yuba County Grand Jury recommends that the Sheriff apply to the Board of Supervisors to provide funding and hiring of a full-time medical doctor that could reduce the pressure on the medical staff and decrease the time it takes to see a doctor or the Family Nurse Practitioner.*

The 2015-2016 Yuba County Grand Jury further recommends that the Board of Supervisors approve funding for a full-time medical doctor. This should be accomplished by the end of the 2016-2017 fiscal year. (F1)

RESPONSE TO RECOMMENDATION #2: The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable. We agreed with the finding associated this recommendation (F2), as the statements made in the finding were based on statistical data, or statements made to the Grand Jury. Our internal and external reviews do not suggest the need for a full-time physician.

***Recommendation #3:** The 2015-2016 Yuba County Grand Jury recommends that the Sheriff continue to focus on setting up an in-house GED testing program with the goal of implementing such a program within the 2017-2018 fiscal year. (F3)*

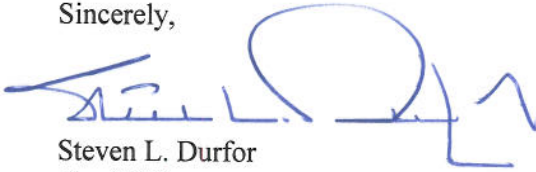
RESPONSE TO RECOMMENDATION #3: The recommendation has been implemented. We continue to focus on setting up in-house GED testing and our goal is to implement such a program within the 2017-2018 fiscal year.

YCSO Grand Jury Response

Conclusion

We would like to express our gratitude to the 2015/2016 Grand Jury for their recognition of our on-going efforts to enhance the operation of the Yuba County Jail. We find value in others inspecting our operation and look forward to working with the 2016/2017 Grand Jury. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 749-7779.

Sincerely,



Steven L. Durfor
Sheriff-Coroner

cc: Yuba County Board of Supervisors
Yuba County Counsel