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MENDOCINO COUNTY JUVENILE HALL

Juvenile Hall (JH), under the direction of the Probation Department, provides for the physical and emotional care of incarcerated youth in Mendocino County. The Grand Jury reviewed the recent changes involving youth classified as Code I (maximum-security), Code II (medium security) or Code III (committing a violent crime).

Reason for Review

The Grand Jury conducted a review of Juvenile Hall regarding the specific recommendations of the 1998-1999 Grand Jury.

Method of Investigation

Interviews held: Chief Probation Officer; Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent and staff of JH. Documents reviewed: Copy of Juvenile Justice Commission Inspection Report for 1999, State Fire Marshall report and Adult/Juvenile Detention Facility Inspection Guide. The Grand Jury made two site visits to JH (before and after the completion of the new Intake Center and Violent Offender Wing).

Relevant Law

California Code of Regulations: Minimum Standards for Juvenile Facilities Title 15, Section 1313, 1370, 1371 and 1488 and Building Standards Title 24.

Findings

1. Code III youth are now out of their rooms at least six hours per day (Court school three hours and recreation three hours).

Response (Juvenile Hall): Agree with this finding.

Response (Board of Supervisors): The Board agrees with this finding.

2. Productive Work Programs now include work at Plowshares and painting curbs and fire hydrants for the city.

Response (Juvenile Hall): Agree with this finding. New and continuing projects include a contract with the Ukiah Landfill, litter clean up on Vichy Springs Road, and painting at the Senior Center in Willits.

Response (Board of Supervisors): The Board agrees with this finding and the response provided by the Chief Probation Officer.

3. Once a week a counselor provides a Reality Awareness (anger management) training program.

Response (Juvenile Hall): Agree with this finding. We are also in the process of obtaining a grant to provide Art Therapy, using interns from San Francisco State University.

Response (Board of Supervisors): The Board agrees with this finding and the response provided by the Chief Probation Officer.

Recommendation

The Grand Jury recommends implementing additional programs designed to promote social awareness and reduce recidivism, such as victim awareness, conflict resolution and self-esteem building.

Response (Juvenile Hall): Agree with this recommendation and will continue to seek such program providers.

Response (Board of Supervisors): The Board agrees with this recommendation and the Chief Probation Officer has agreed to seek these additional programs within funding constraints.

Time Frame for Implementation: On-going.

Findings

4. There is daily recreation for all, including a variety of reading materials, access to television, arts and crafts and indoor games, including ping-pong.

Response (Juvenile Hall): Agree with this finding.

Response (Board of Supervisors): The Board agrees with this finding.

5. Presently, Code III youth exercise in a small outdoor caged area.

Response (Juvenile Hall): Agree with this finding, but the small, caged area is used only during school hours. Code III youth are exercised in the quad area during non-school hours.

Response (Board of Supervisors): The Board agrees with the response provided by the Chief Probation Officer. The small, caged area is only used during school hours. These youth exercise in the quad area during other times of the day.

6. The JH now has additional undeveloped outdoor space.

Response (Juvenile Hall): Agree with this finding. Recreation area is being developed, using the labor and energy of incarcerated and work program youth.

Response (Board of Supervisors): The Board agrees with this finding.

Recommendation

The Grand Jury recommends developing this space for additional recreational activities.

Response (Juvenile Hall): Agree with this recommendation. The development is in process.

Response (Board of Supervisors): The Board agrees with this recommendation. The development of the space is in process.

Time Frame for Implementation: Estimated completion date is mid summer 2001.

Finding

7. As of April 2000, no haircuts are being offered. Title 15, Section 1488 states "Hair care services shall be available in all juvenile facilities. Minors shall receive hair care services monthly."

Response (Juvenile Hall): Agree with this finding. However, we now have a counselor on staff who is a licensed cosmetologist and is willing to give haircuts.

Response (Board of Supervisors): The Board agrees with this finding but notes the Chief Probation Officer's response that states that Juvenile Hall now has a counselor on staff that is a licensed cosmetologist and is willing to provide haircuts.

Recommendation

Juvenile Hall should provide hair care as mandated.

Response (Juvenile Hall): Agree with this finding. See above response.

Response (Board of Supervisors): The Board agrees with this recommendation and the response provided by the Chief Probation Officer.

Time frame for Implementation: Already implemented.

Findings

8. Each JH Counselor is now trained in using the JALAN computer program, which is used to track all juveniles booked into custody in the County.

Response (Juvenile Hall): Agree with this finding.

Response (Board of Supervisors): The Board agrees with this finding.

9. The Department of Probation has recently hired a half-time employee who is knowledgeable in computer technology and is able to train other employees. This person will work at JH to train personnel as needed.

Response (Juvenile Hall): Agree with this finding.

Response (Board of Supervisors): The Board agrees with this finding.

Recommendation

The Grand Jury recommends that the administration continue to train all staff in basic computer skills and in the use of JALAN.

Response (Juvenile Hall): Agree with this recommendation and will continue to do so.

Response (Board of Supervisors): The Board agrees with this recommendation and Juvenile Hall will continue to train all staff in these areas.

Time frame for Implementation: On-going.

Findings

10. Title 15 Section 1313 requires that "...on an annual basis, each juvenile facility Administrator shall obtain a documented inspection and evaluation from the following:"
- (a) Mendocino County Safety Officer;
 - (b) State Fire Marshall;
 - (c) Health Administrator, inspection in accordance with Health and Safety Code Section 101045;

- (d) County Superintendent of Schools on the adequacy of educational services and facilities; and,
- (e) The Juvenile Justice Commission.

Response (Juvenile Hall): Agree with this finding.

Response (Board of Supervisors): The Board agrees with this finding.

- 11.** The Ukiah Fire Chief and Fire Marshall and the State Fire Marshall inspected the Hall. The Juvenile Justice Commission and State Fire Marshall completed their inspections in November 1999 and both reports showed no deficiencies.

Response (Juvenile Hall): Agree with this finding.

Response (Board of Supervisors): The Board agrees with this finding.

- 12.** Fire drills are conducted and documented once a month. Fire alarms are checked every Thursday.

Response (Juvenile Hall): Agree with this finding.

Response (Board of Supervisors): The Board agrees with this finding.

- 13.** Use of telephone is a privilege that is earned.

Response (Juvenile Hall): Agree with this finding.

Response (Board of Supervisors): The Board agrees with this finding.

- 14.** Each youth may make collect calls three nights a week. The County contracts with a private communications corporation. The charges are costly even for local calls and are charged to the receiving party.

Response (Juvenile Hall): Agree with this finding.

Response (Board of Supervisors): The Board agrees with this finding.

- 15.** A portion of telephone profits is returned to JH and is currently being used to purchase recreational equipment for use by the youth.

Response (Juvenile Hall): Agree with this finding.

Response (Board of Supervisors): The Board agrees with this finding.

Recommendation

Each person called should be advised of the high charge these collect calls will add to their telephone bill.

Response (Juvenile Hall): Agree with this recommendation. This notice will be included in the "Parents' Information Packet."

Response (Board of Supervisors): The Board agrees with this finding. A notice will be placed in the Parents Information Packet.

Time Frame for Implementation: Implemented

Findings

- 16.** The charge for each incarcerated youth is \$10.00 per day.

Response (Juvenile Hall): Agree with this finding. Since the investigation, the fee has been raised by BOS resolution to \$15.00 per day.

Response (Board of Supervisors): The Board notes that the charge has been raised to \$15.00 per day.

- 17.** Since last year, the Probation Department has been more aggressive in collecting lost revenue. The Superintendent stated that the billing department has doubled the amount collected from the previous year.

Response (Juvenile Hall): Agree with this finding

Response (Board of Supervisors): The Board agrees with this recommendation and encourages the Probation Department to continue their efforts.

Recommendation

The Grand Jury recommends the Probation Department continue to be aggressive in collecting this revenue from parents who are required to pay the costs of their child being incarcerated.

Response (Juvenile Hall): Agree with this recommendation and will continue to do so.

Response (Board of Supervisors): The Board agrees with this recommendation.

Time Frame for Implementation: On-going.

Comment

The new Intake Center and Violent Offenders Wing will be opened by May 1, 2000. Seven new staff positions were allocated (six line staff and one supervisor). The Grand Jury was impressed by the modern design that added space for intake, interviews, security, booking and sleeping facilities. The new unit has added 10 rooms and a total of 12 beds.

Because of the improved booking area, Juvenile Hall will no longer have to shut down every time a new youth is admitted.

Response (Juvenile Hall): Agree with this comment. Since the unit was opened, there has not been a need to close down programs for bookings.

I thank the Grand Jury for its observations and comments.

Response Required

Mendocino County Board of Supervisors

Response Requested

Mendocino County Probation Department