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# REVIEW OF RESPONSES TO THE 2017-2018 GRAND JURY REPORTS

The *2017-2018 Sacramento County Grand Jury Final Report* contained five investigative reports that required responses from various governing boards and elected officials in Sacramento County.

The 2018-2019 Sacramento County Grand Jury reviewed the responses to these reports submitted by the identified government entities for compliance with the requirements in Penal Code Sections 933 and 933.05.

The full version of the *2017-2018 Sacramento County Grand Jury Final Report* and the submitted responses can be found at the Sacramento County Grand Jury website, [www.sacgrandjury.org](http://www.sacgrandjury.org)

## 1. Is There a Home for Every Foster Child?

### REASON FOR INVESTIGATION

The 2017-2018 Sacramento County Grand Jury conducted an investigation of the foster care system in Sacramento, focusing on the Centralized Placement Support Unit (CPSU), which is an intake center licensed to house children for up to 24 hours. The Grand Jury also looked into the entities that work with CPSU as part of the overall foster care youth intake process.

### 2017-2018 FINDINGS

- F1. CPSU has experienced, compassionate and dedicated staff whose priority is the welfare of the children they serve.
- F2. The current location of the CPSU is in a high crime neighborhood that places CPSU staff and traumatized youths in undue danger.
- F3. Since the enactment of SB 855 in 2014, no measurable progress has been made to find suitable options that address the unique treatment and placement needs of the expanded population of high risk children.
- F4. There is a lack of communication on spending priorities between senior management and the needs of the service providers.
- F5. CPS and DHHS are still focused on ineffective recruitment strategies rather than considering innovative approaches to gain more placement models for the expanded population it serves.
- F6. CPS personnel hired to recruit placement opportunities for children are unable to focus their efforts due to other job activities.

## 2017-2018 RECOMMENDATIONS

- R1. Acknowledge the social workers and supervisors of the CPSU for their outstanding service and dedication.
- R2. Relocate the CPSU to a safer environment.
- R3. Develop a plan and accelerated timeline to increase placement options for all children with immediate needs and children requiring Short Term Residential Treatment Centers.
- R4. Senior management needs to improve transparency and open communication between county policy makers and service providers so that budget allocations better match the needs of Sacramento County foster children.
- R5. Create an analytical model that compares cost effectiveness, resulting in the ability to pro-actively develop and implement alternative models.
- R6. Determine the necessary hiring or utilization of existing staff to allow recruiters to focus exclusively on placement opportunities for children.

## 2017-2018 RESPONSES

The Sacramento County Executive provided responses to the findings and recommendations noted above on September 11, 2018. The Sacramento County Board of Supervisors agrees with all responses provided by the County Executive.

The 2018-2019 Sacramento County Grand Jury notes that the required responses are in compliance with PC Section 933 and PC Section 933.05.

The Sacramento County Executive reported the following actions:

- R1. *The recommendation has been implemented.* The department supports CPS in its acknowledgement and appreciation of the important, difficult, and sometimes dangerous work CPS staff members perform on a daily basis.
- R2. *The recommendation requires further analysis.* CPS has moved several CPS staff away from the CRH site and is researching plans to take children to other locations for assessment. During the next six months, CPS will complete its analysis of the feasibility of relocating CPSU to a safer environment.
- R3. *The recommendation is being implemented.* CPS continues to work with its foster family agency (FFA); group home; Short-Term Residential Therapeutic Program (STRTP); County resource home; relative caregiver; and non-related, extended family member providers to help develop solutions.