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Yuba County Jail

Summary:

The Grand Jury has routinely conducted yearly inquiries into the condition and management of the Yuba County Jail (Y CJ) as authorized by §919(b) of the California Penal Code. This year the investigation took a different turn, as a Consent Decree issued in 1978 by The United States District Court was reviewed. This Consent Decree mandates the Grand Jury to monitor the Yuba County Jail in very specific detail. Yuba County Counsel filed a motion in 2014 to terminate the Consent Decree; that motion was denied by the U.S. District Court. An appeal has been filed by Yuba County Counsel (Darrel Hedrick, et al., v James Grant, et al., 2014, 2:76-cv-00162-GEB-EFB, (Eastern District of California)) and is currently pending. In accordance with the Consent Decree as it now stands, more thorough attention than usual was applied to certain aspects of the jail. Identified items of non-compliance are included in this report and will be addressed herein.

Aside from specific Consent Decree items, other observations were made and will be noted. Significant increases in the numbers and classifications of detainees and their lengths of stay have greatly impacted the operation of the jail, and in particular, the care and safety of inmates. This year's Grand Jury placed particular attention on the medical and mental health services available for inmates. Medical and mental health issues have grown considerably since the passing of Assembly Bill AB109; known as "Public Safety Realignment" in 2011, (Public Safety Realignment, 2013). Due to recent changes in Federal laws, the US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) detainees are remaining longer (Your Complete Guide to Obama's Immigration Executive Action, 2014) and have further increased the demanding tasks of this jail. The purpose of this report is to comply with mandated duties by identifying areas of concern and non-compliance, and make recommendations regarding possible correction and improvement. Acknowledgement of the ongoing accomplishments and dedication of those in charge of Yuba County Jail and its detainees, in spite of immense challenges, is also important.

Introduction and Background:

Over the past twenty years, changes in California prison law have impacted the numbers of incarcerated persons immensely. As time passed, these changes greatly contributed to the numbers and lengths of stay for inmates in county jails. In addition to housing locally convicted prisoners, Y CJ has, for many years, housed ICE detainees. The number of ICE detainees fluctuates, but the individuals were only housed a short period prior to deportation.

In 2011, Assembly Bill 109, known as the Realignment Act, was placed into California law. The Bill changed the location of incarceration for many people convicted of a non-serious, non-violent, non-sexual felony, from state prisons to local county jails. A portion of state sales tax revenue was dedicated to local agencies to fund this change (Public Safety Realignment, 2013). The Realignment Act impacted county jails that were

designed to hold inmates for a maximum of 12 months, as the jails now must hold some individuals for many years. In addition to AB 109, recent changes in how illegal aliens are handled have increased the time the ICE detainees remain in local custody (Your Complete Guide to Obama's Immigration Executive Action, 2014).

Because of more lengthy stays, medical and mental health issues have become increasingly important. Overcrowding, compromised safety, and inadequate recreation have all added to the burden of housing hundreds of persons in facilities designed for shorter terms. Locally, jails have been unable to keep pace with the need to provide more in-depth services to a longer-detained population. Lawsuits have been filed to ensure that changes are made.

One recent lawsuit was specifically aimed at Sutter County Jail (Cyndie Denny Bock, et al. v. County of Sutter, et al., 2013, 2:11 cv 00536 MCE KJN (Eastern District of California)). It outlines detailed improvements designed to reduce suicides, suicide attempts, and addresses health related issues. A much older lawsuit, impacting Yuba County Jail specifically, resulted in a Consent Decree (1978) which directs that each Grand Jury be given a copy of same, and instructs each jury to inspect in detail a number of aspects of inmate treatment and benefits.

This Grand Jury has attempted to comply with the Consent Decree and determine how those in charge are providing a necessary environment of protection during detainment.

Methodology and Approach:

A combination of interviews, tours, and research was used to investigate the current conditions of Yuba County Jail.

Documents and References:

- 2008-2010 and 2010-2012 Biennial Inspections by Corrections Standards Authority
- 2014 Appeal from the United States District Court Case No. 2:76-CV-00162-GEB-EFB
- A brief history of California prisons and jails leading up to AB109 ("Public Safety Realignment") by David Fowler July 11, 2014
<https://lightinprison.org/2014/07/11/a-brief-history-of-california-prisons-and-jails-leading-up-to-ab-109/>

- America, Sign of the Times, California, Reforms for Mentally Ill Inmates
- Appeal-Democrat; Local Law Program Probes Jail over Attempted Suicide
- Board of State and Community Corrections Population Reports, 1st & 2nd quarter
- Complaints received from inmates
- Consent Decree of 1978 with additional information compiled and provided by UC Davis Civil Rights Clinic at U.C. Davis School of Law
- Consent Decree, 1978; Derril Hedrick, et al. v James Grant, et al., US District Court for the Eastern District of California, CIVIL S-76-162 TJM
- Grand Juror Reports; 2012-2013 and 2013-2014 on Jails and the responses: <http://www.yubacourts.org/divisions/grand-jury/reports>
- Human Rights Watch report - Ill Equipped: U.S. Prisons and Offenders with Mental Illness, retrieved from: <http://www.hrw.org/reports/2003/usa1003/1.htm>
- Inmate Handbook (English and Spanish versions) provided by Jail personnel
- Jail Inspection Handbook by California Board of State and Community Corrections revised April 2014
- Jails and Mentally Ill: Issues and Analysis, a briefing paper developed by The California Corrections Standards Authority (CSA) retrieved from: http://www.cdcr.ca.gov/COMIO/docs/MENTALLY_ILL_IN_JAILS_PAPER.pdf
- Fire Safety Correction Notice dated 5/8/12 and Re-inspection Report dated 7/13/12 from the Office of State Fire Marshal
- Job Descriptions of Medical Staff Positions
- Mental Health Problems of Prison and Jail Inmates, Highlights, U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics Special Report, Retrieved 03/19/15 from: <http://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/mhppji.pdf>.
- Public Safety Realignment, 2013, retrieved from: <http://www.cdcr.ca.gov/realignment/>
- Realignment – The Bottom Line by Board of State and Community Corrections, 2013, retrieved from: <http://lpmt.calbar.ca.gov/Publications/TheBottomLine.aspx>
- Related articles:
- US District Court Case No. 2:11-cv-00536-MCE-KJN can be located at: http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/USCOURTS-caed-2_11-cv-00536/pdf/USCOURTS-caed-2_11-cv-00536-12.pdf
- US District Court No. 2:76 cv 00162 GEB EFB, 2014 Appeal (Can be located at: http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/USCOURTS-caed-2_76-cv-00162/pdf/USCOURTS-caed-2_76-cv-00162-5.pdf)
- Various jail forms such as YCJ Inmate Medical Screening Form, and Non-Prescription Medication Log

- Your Complete Guide to Obama’s Immigration Executive Action, retrieved from web site: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/wonkblog/wp/2014/11/19/your-complete-guide-to-obamas-immigration-order/#economy>
- Yuba County Inmate Handbook (English and Spanish versions) provided by Jail personnel
- Yuba County Jail Division Overview
- Yuba County Jail Manual, provided by the Yuba County Sheriff staff during the visit.
- Yuba County Job Classification: Correctional Facility Medical Assistant, Human Resources Department of Yuba County, retrieved from: <http://www.co.yuba.ca.us/departments/personnel/specifications.aspx#c>
- Yuba County Job Classification: Executive Assistant, Human Resources Department of Yuba County, retrieved from: <http://www.co.yuba.ca.us/departments/personnel/documents/Specifications/E/Executive%20Assistant%20December%202013.pdf>

Site Visits:

- Pre-arranged tours of the Yuba County Jail located at 215 Fifth Street, Marysville, CA were conducted on August 26, 2014 and again on September 11, 2014.
- An unannounced visit was made on December 17, 2014 to complete the checklist of mandated inspection items. Other unannounced visits were conducted to interview inmates.

Interviews:

- Jail Employees: Medical Assistants, Substance Abuse Counselor, LVN, Executive Assistant in Medical Services, Dentist, Captain and Undersheriff. Also interviewed a former YCJ inmate in custody at Sutter County Jail at the time of interview.
- Mental Health Employees: Forensic Psychiatrist and Crisis Counselor
- A presentation by UC Davis Civil Rights Clinic and law students from U.C. Davis

Discussion and Narrative:

The following is a reporting of the results of this year's Grand Jury investigation of Yuba County Jail. The jury was aided in its quest by staff members of the jail and by associates who provide services by contract. Eight inmates filed formal complaints, however, only one agreed to meet with the Grand Jury. It was possible to converse with inmates during tours and other visits, although not in seclusion. Some inmates had been released prior to their complaint being acted upon, and had provided no forwarding contact information. It was noted that every complaint letter addressed to the Grand Jury marked "Legal Mail," had been opened and then re-sealed with tape prior to delivery. All staff interviewed about this matter stated that Legal Mail is never opened.

A temporary arrangement was established by the Grand Jury with the Probation Department in an effort to establish a confidential pathway for former inmates to express their thoughts and ideas without fear of retaliation regarding their treatment while in custody at Yuba County Jail. A two-page form and a pre-addressed envelope were given to probationers as they met their probation officers for prescribed appointments. Each former inmate was invited to complete the form and mail it to the Grand Jury, or seal it, and deposit it in a box to be delivered to the Grand Jury. There was no need to state his or her name, but the probationer could provide contact information if desired. Results were disappointing as only five out of 55 forms were returned. Of the five responses, most were unresponsive on the treatment received while at the jail.

The Consent Decree court order, issued in 1978, was agreed upon and signed by the County Counsel of Yuba County and the plaintiffs' attorneys (Consent Decree, 1978). It addresses certain areas in the housing and treatment of inmates in the Yuba County Jail. It has not been updated in 36 years, therefore, some requirements are not compatible with current technology or are lacking in relevance.

The Consent Decree requires that a copy be provided to the Grand Jury each year. Yuba County Counsel filed a motion in 2014 to terminate the Consent Decree; that motion was denied by the U.S. District Court. An appeal has been filed by Yuba County Counsel (Darrel Hedrick, et al., v. James Grant, et al., 2014, 2:76-cv-00162-GEB-EFB, {Eastern District of California}) and is currently pending. This court action shows that the County Counsel is aware of the mandates of the Consent Decree and failed to provide a copy to the members of this year's Grand Jury. This is in violation of the Consent Decree, §XV, Paragraph 4, pg. 49. The Grand Jury only became aware of the Consent Decree through media reports regarding another agency.

The original intent of the Consent Decree was designed to correct conditions found wanting at the time. Since then, no review or changes have been made to the document. The Grand Jury members were advised by the Undersheriff that YCJ follows the

California Code of Regulations, Title 15 Crime Prevention and Corrections, as well as Title 24 Building Codes. Grand Jury members were also told by the Undersheriff that the jail has oversight from many sources: fire inspections, facility inspections, and health inspections are all conducted on a regular basis. Copies of those reports were provided to the Grand Jury and it was noted that the inspections are quite thorough and cite very few infractions. Improvements are made as funds and plans coincide. At the time of the Grand Jury's last visit, call buttons were being installed in an older part of the jail in an effort to update communications for inmates.

It became apparent during our investigation that the officers and other staff that serve this particular jail are challenged not only by the large number of inmates and their complicated needs, but by the inadequacy of the facility itself. One portion of the jail was built in 1962 and is referred to by staff and inmates as "the dungeon". It was observed by this Grand Jury that space is quite limited, with narrow halls, low ceilings, and almost no windows except a very few above head height. The showers are dark and the entrance opening is covered by a heavy dark curtain. Female detainees and males with expected shorter stays are housed in "tanks," cells housing from four to 20 persons. The male and female sides of this part of the jail are completely separated, although the areas are similar in darkness and limited space.

The other half of this facility was built in 1995 in a pod formation. One deputy can observe all cells from a central location and can communicate with inmates via an intercom system. According to jail staff this requires fewer personnel and is, therefore, more economical to operate.

The kitchen area was observed to be clean, well-organized, and special diets were clearly posted. There were no complaints about the food served; it was stated by more than one inmate that this jail has a reputation of serving the best food in the north-state area offered by a correctional facility.

The medical unit, also located in this older structure, is cramped, with only four small workstations that are shared by the visiting doctor, mental health psychiatrist, dentist, LVNs and medical assistants on staff. It is common practice for a doctor to make use of two stations during hours worked. There are also four cells in the medical unit; two holding cells where inmates wait for treatment, and two used for the isolation of contagious diseases. The Executive Assistant in medical services has an office upstairs away from his team, as there is no room for an additional desk. It was observed that this area, although spatially challenged, was clean and well-organized. To conserve space, paper copies of inmate requests such as Sick Call Sheets are scanned into the computer and then shredded. Unfortunately, the computer goes down periodically for about a day. Since backup is performed each night, recovery can be made with minimal difficulty.

Several members of the medical staff expressed dedication to their duties. They did, however, humorously deny liking the working conditions.

Interviewees agreed that the addition of a Registered Nurse (RN) would be of great benefit to the unit, as there are frequent times that Medical Assistants (MA) are working without a certified nurse at hand. Also, an RN can perform more procedures than a Licensed Vocational Nurse (LVN) or MA, thereby supplementing medical coverage when a doctor is not on site. The Consent Decree (1978), and the Human Resources Department of Yuba County (Job Classification: Correctional Facility Medical Assistant), both specify certification of the Medical Assistants.

The Grand Jury was advised, during interviews and confirmed by the Undersheriff, that YCJ does not require continuing certification for MAs. Some of the current MAs were previously certified, but have not kept their credentials current. The four LVNs are certified and routinely update their credentials. They are not, however, scheduled to cover all 24 hours of the day. As medical and mental health issues do not arise in neatly timed occurrences, this lack of coverage is of concern.

Although a full-time Registered Nurse has been recommended by previous Grand Juries and the Consent Decree (1978) mandates a part-time RN; there has been none on staff for more than three years. The Yuba County Fiscal Year 2013-2014 Budget was finalized with the elimination of the Supervising Correctional Facility Registered Nurse position, and the Yuba County Fiscal Year 2014-2015 Budget is also devoid of funding for that position. This is a specific violation of the Consent Decree (1978).

The Executive Assistant advised the Grand Jury that Jail staff is investigating the hiring of a Nurse Practitioner (NP) or Physician Assistant (PA) instead of filling the supervising RN position. A Nurse Practitioner is a Registered Nurse with additional education and training who can diagnose and prescribe under the direction of a physician. A Physician Assistant is not required to have Registered Nurse qualifications but has extensive education and training and also works under the direction of a physician. (www.calhr.ca.gov/state-hr-professionals/). Although hiring a PA would help the Jail comply with ICE requirements, the Jail would remain in violation of the Consent Decree if a PA without a RN license is hired.

A physician comes to the medical unit six days per week for approximately two to four hours per day. The physician did not respond to the Grand Jury's letter requesting to set up a meeting date. Nor did he respond to messages left and attempts to contact him at the jail through the Undersheriff. While his input would have been

welcomed, the Grand Jury felt rather than subpoenaing him to appear, the information supplied by the Medical Department employees was adequate enough to complete this report.

It was reported to the Grand Jury that mental health supports are mainly centered on prescription medication. A Board Certified Forensic Psychiatrist comes one day per week to review and update prescriptions. This doctor is available by phone. There is a second doctor with the same credentials available to fill-in if necessary.

Suicidal inmates are confined to an empty cell with a softer, padded floor. To prevent suicide while confined, the inmate must wear a protective jumpsuit; he may or may not have a blanket. Although those confined are to be visually checked every 15 minutes, little stabilization can be expected under such bleak conditions. Inmates who have psychiatric diagnoses requiring state hospital confinement must wait months to be transferred.

Those with substance abuse problems have access to a certified Substance Abuse Counselor who appeared enthusiastic and dedicated. The Counselor advised that when released, such individuals would be best served by being enrolled in recovery programs but funds are not available. The Counselor reports an unknown success rate since follow-up to his work does not occur.

Additional counseling is provided by a dedicated, although uncertified, Crisis Counselor who is employed by Sutter Butte Mental Health. This individual makes it a point to walk throughout the female holding units to inquire about detainees' well-being and ask if any help is needed. No corresponding service is provided to the male inmates, although they have the option to request a counseling session with a psychiatrist by filling out a form. This counselor previously conducted on-site support groups which were suspended two years ago.

One area of concern identified by the jury was the procedure for fire drills and evacuation. The medical staff does not participate in drills and many expressed confusion about procedure in case of evacuation. Although there are evacuation maps posted throughout the facility, the method of leaving the area can be confusing: the elevators are not to be used, stairwells are locked, and cameras are relied upon for communication with the upper floors. However, the medical staff is aware of where fire extinguishers are stored. Correctional Officers are well trained in procedures necessary for safe fire evacuation and are knowledgeable about which areas are segregated for fire control. That information, shared with medical staff, could help reduce confusion and possible panic.

A nearby facility has been purchased to alleviate the crowded situation in the jail. That facility requires remodeling, however, and funding is an issue. The current plan is for administrative staff located in the Yuba County Courthouse (above the Jail), to move to the newer facility. Most of the vacated space would be used for training areas for deputies and correction officers. At the same time, a storage area near the medical unit is to be remodeled to alleviate the current cramped conditions. The Executive Assistant in medical services would join his team in this larger medical area instead of moving with the other administrators.

Findings:

- F1. Longer periods of incarceration, due to the Realignment transfer of state prisoners to local facilities (Public Safety Realignment, 2013: <http://www.cdcr.ca.gov/realignment/>) and the extended stay of ICE prisoners (Your Complete Guide to Obama's Immigration Executive Action, web site: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/wonkblog/wp/2014/11/19/your-complete-guide-to-obamas-immigration-order/#economy>), have increased the medical and mental health needs of inmates. The Mental Health Professional (psychiatrist) although available by phone, is on site only one day per week mainly to evaluate incoming inmates and update prescriptions. There are no non-emergency or on-going mental health services available to the inmates. Inmates diagnosed as needing treatment at a state mental hospital wait for months to transfer. Suicidal inmates can stay in padded cells, with little or no comforts, for weeks. The California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation advised:

“Where there are options, however, it is recommended that there be a limit to the length of time an inmate can be housed in a safety cell. Title 15 requires medical and mental health checks and regular review by a watch commander for retention in a safety cell. Additionally several large counties have established internal policies in this regard, saying that after 24 hours, the person must be removed either through a 5150 process or by placement somewhere else in the jail. Of course, extensive housing in a safety cell or sobering cell should be avoided to the greatest extent possible for mentally ill inmates as well as for all others.” (Jails and Mentally Ill: Issues and Analysis, a briefing paper developed by The California Corrections Standards Authority (CSA), pg. 26. http://www.cdcr.ca.gov/COMIO/docs/MENTALLY_ILL_IN_JAILS_PAPER.pdf)

Additionally a Human Rights Watch Report states:

“Yet most independent psychiatric experts, and even correctional mental health staff, believe that prolonged confinement in conditions of social isolation, idleness, and reduced mental stimulation is psychologically destructive. How destructive depends on each prisoner’s prior psychological strengths and weaknesses, the extent of the social isolation imposed, the absence of activities and stimulation, and the duration of confinement.” (Human Rights Watch report - Ill Equipped: U.S. Prisons and Offenders with Mental Illness, §VII paragraph <http://www.hrw.org/reports/2003/usa1003/1.htm>)

Female inmates have a higher rate of mental health problems than the males: 75% of female inmates v. 63% of male inmates (Mental Health Problems of Prison and Jail Inmates, Highlights, U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics Special Report, from: <http://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/mhppji.pdf>).

- F2. As reported by the substance abuse counselor, in-house support groups, which were beneficial to inmates’ mental health, were suspended two years ago, and there are limited funds for referring released inmates to recovery programs.
- F3. The Consent Decree (Consent Decree, 1978; Derril Hedrick, et al. v James Grant, et al., US District Court for the Eastern District of California, CIVIL S-76-162 TJM) mandates a licensed Registered Nurse (RN) on site at least 15 hours per week; however, there is not a RN currently on staff. This is a violation of the Consent Decree §V A1, pg. 11. The need for a RN is even more vital with the extended stays caused by Realignment (Realignment – The Bottom Line by Board of State and Community Corrections, 2013, http://www.bscc.ca.gov/s_californiapublicsafetyrealignment.php) as well as the change in housing the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) detainees (Your Complete Guide to Obama’s Immigration Executive Action, <http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/wonkblog/wp/2014/11/19/your-complete-guide-to-obamas-immigration-order/#economy>).

The Executive Assistant in medical services advised that YCJ are considering several persons that have Physician Assistant (PA) credentials which will more than meet the requirement. However, a PA may not necessarily have nursing experience (A Patients Guide to the Physician Assistant, http://www.pg2pa.org/PA_NP.html); therefore, unless the PA also has RN certification, the PA will not satisfy the mandate listed in the Consent Decree for a RN. YCJ is also considering hiring a Nurse Practitioner, which would more than meet the requirements of the Consent Decree.

- F4. Several of the Medical Assistants (MA) and one contracted crisis counselor do not have the appropriate credentials and is in violation of Yuba County Human Resources Job Classification for Medical Assistants.
- F5. The Executive Assistant in medical services does not have a degree, although his job description requires a two-year degree (Job Classification: Executive Assistant, Human Resources Department of Yuba County; <http://www.co.yuba.ca.us/departments/personnel/documents/Specifications/E/Executive%20Assistant%20December%202013.pdf>).

There is a disparity between the Consent Decree (1978), the Yuba County Human Resources and the Yuba County Jail policies in regards to the licensing/credentialing requirements.

- F6. The medical unit staff does not participate in fire drills, nor understand the procedure for emergency evacuation. The supervisor conducting the tour was unable to explain the procedure to the Grand Jury members on the tour.
- F7. A copy of the Consent Decree has not been provided to the Grand Jury for an undetermined number of years, and was not provided to this year's Grand Jury until the Grand Jury discovered the omission through a news report. This is in violation of the Consent Decree, §XV, Paragraph 4, pg. 49.

The Consent Decree §XV (1978) holds the Law Enforcement Committee of each Grand Jury as responsible for monitoring jail compliance of the Consent Decree. There has been a failure of the parties to the Consent Decree to provide the Grand Jury with a copy of the Consent Decree as mandated by the Consent Decree.

The Grand Jury was unable to find a recent record of prior Grand Juries having been informed of the Consent Decree.

“The members of the Yuba County Grand Jury who serve on the Court and Law Enforcement Committee shall be provided each year with a copy of the Consent Decree so that they will know the minimum legal standards for conditions of confinement in the Jail. The Grand Jury shall be requested to do an analysis of whether the Jail is in conformity with all provisions of the Consent Decree and include that analysis in its yearly report.”
(Consent Decree, 1978; Derril Hedrick, et al. v. James Grant, et al., US District Court for the Eastern District of California, CIVIL S-76-162 TJM §XV, paragraph 4, pg. 49)

- F8. The medical unit is housed in cramped quarters below street level as observed during the Grand Jury YCJ tour. Until the upstairs administrative staff is moved to a remodeled facility expansion plans for the medical unit are on hold.
- F9. As observed during the Grand Jury’s tours of the jail, the physical layout of the jail raises safety issues for the staff and the inmates, most notably the section built in 1962 known by staff and inmates as the “dungeon”.
- F10. A copy of a summary of the Consent Decree is provided to the inmates upon booking; however, it is not identified as a “Consent Decree”, as a mandate for the jail to follow, nor does it explain that a full copy can be obtained in writing (Yuba County Inmate Handbook).

The Consent Decree (1978) states it is to be posted in the ‘Libraries and the Women’s Tank’. The Undersheriff advised that the Consent Decree is posted in the ‘Law Library’ and that the information is available in the Inmate Handbook.

Recommendations:

- R1. The Yuba County Jail Commander request and the Board of Supervisors approve a budget for a full-time licensed mental health counselor, within the next budget cycle. (See F1)
- R2. Reinstate and expand support groups. Support staff use creative means of financing to include grant applications for funds to support in-house groups and inmates in programs when they are released. (See F2)

- R3. Hire a full-time Registered Nurse or a full-time Nurse Practitioner for the medical unit to be on the job no later than October 15, 2015. This will bring the Jail into compliance with the Consent Decree (1978). (See F3)
- R4. The Sheriff shall uphold the mandates of the Yuba County Human Resources regulations in regards to job classification requirements by supporting and facilitating the Medical Assistants to obtain and maintain their MA credentials. Proper certification is to be in effect by June 30, 2016. (See F4)
- R5. The Sheriff shall uphold the Yuba County Human Resources regulations in regards to job classification requirements for the position of Executive Assistant and support the Executive Assistant in medical services to obtain the minimum two-year college degree by June 30, 2016. (See F5)
- R6. For the safety of all YCJ staff and personnel, an immediate review and implementation of all fire drill procedures, with an emphasis on making sure all staff members in the medical unit of the facility are well-informed about evacuation. (See F6)
- R7. The Yuba County Board of Supervisors, the County Counsel and the Sheriff shall determine and name which agency will be responsible for delivering the Consent Decree to the Foreperson of the Grand Jury in the future. The Consent Decree will be provided to the new Grand Jury, along with a report as to how the Jail is complying with the conditions listed in the Consent Decree (1978). The Consent Decree and the report of compliance will be provided by July 30th of each year to the Grand Jury Foreperson. (See F7)
- R8. Because the expansion of the medical unit quarters does not involve making use of any of the upstairs administrative space to be vacated, remodeling of the nearby storage area should be planned and completed by June 30, 2016. (See F8)
- R9. It is recommended that the Sheriff and the Board of Supervisors explore all available federal, state, county, and grant funding sources to build a new facility or upgrade the 1962 portion of the facility utilizing optimum architectural design for the safety and well-being of staff and inmates. This will assist the Correctional Officers in managing inmates and to meet the needs of the growing inmate population. (See F9)
- R10. The Yuba County Inmate Handbook is to be immediately corrected by the Sheriff to identify the Consent Decree as a legally enforceable Judgement, and that a copy of which can be obtained upon request. The Sheriff shall order copies of the Consent Decree to be posted immediately in the 'Libraries and the Women's Tank'. (See F10)

Commendations:

- C1. The 2014-2015 Grand Jury commends the personnel involved in the daily activities of the Yuba County Jail and for their dedication and enthusiasm while working under trying conditions with limited resources. Additionally, the entire Yuba County Sheriff's Department is to be commended for their professionalism.
- C2. The medical unit, in particular, is commended for the dedication and enthusiasm for their duties as exhibited by its members. They are working under trying conditions with limited resources, including the lack of a registered nurse, but manage to maintain an impressive passion for providing care.
- C3. The Substance Abuse Counselor is commended for the enthusiasm and dedication shown in helping not only the specific clients, but by making contact with as many other inmates as possible.

Request for Responses:

Pursuant to Penal Code §933.05, the Grand Jury requests responses as follows:

- The Executive Assistant in medical services (F5 and R5)
- Yuba County Jail Commander (F1, F2, F6, F8, F10, R1, R2, R6, R8 and R10)
- Yuba County Sheriff (F1-F10 and R1-R10)
- Yuba County Counsel (F7 and R7)
- Yuba County Board of Supervisors (F1, F3, F7, F9, R1, R3, R7 and R9)

The governing bodies indicated above should be aware that the comment or response of the governing body must be conducted in accordance with Penal Code §933(c) and subject to the notice, agenda and open meeting requirements of the Brown Act.

