



# **MADERA COUNTY GRAND JURY**

**P.O. Box 534, Madera, CA 93639**

**559.363.8785**



## **Madera County Juvenile Detention Facility**

**4/09/25**

**2425-04**

**Prepared by the  
2024-2025 Madera County Grand Jury**

## **The Madera County Juvenile Detention Facility**

Each year, the Madera County Grand Jury (MCGJ) inspects the Juvenile Detention Facility, focusing on its programs, safety records, educational services, and overall environment for the detained youth. The assessment is based on an inspection conducted on September 18, 2024, located at 28219 Avenue 14, Madera.

The MCGJ was welcomed by the facility's accommodating staff and granted full access to inspect various locations throughout the juvenile facility. During the inspection, MCGJ focused on the classroom training and learning environments, observed youth engaged in their studies, participating actively in lessons, and interacting with their instructors. The classrooms were well-structured, fostering a positive learning atmosphere. The youth demonstrated attentiveness and respect while answering our questions, highlighting the facility's commitment to education and personal development.

### **GLOSSARY**

BCSC - California Board Of Community and State Corrections

CYA - California Youth Authority

MCGJ - Madera County Grand Jury

MCJDF - Madera County Juvenile Detention Facility

MCPD - Madera County Probation Department

OSHA - Occupational Safety and Health Administration

### **SUMMARY**

The Madera County Juvenile Detention Facility (MCJDF) operates under the jurisdiction of the Madera County Probation Department (MCPD) and has a supportive network for detained youth aimed towards positive reinforcement of programs and resources. MCJDF is a model facility providing short-term residential placement with essential services. High School and College educational programs, mental health services, substance abuse programs, and a strong support system for youth and their families. Former detained youth are encouraged to practice the "Open Door" policy by the MCJDF staff for continued support throughout their lives. As a testament to the

dedication and commitment of staff, many youth who are now adults continue to remain in contact with staff.

## **DISCUSSION**

At the time of the Madera County Grand Jury (MCGJ) inspection, the Juvenile Detention Facility housed 35 detainees, with a maximum capacity to accommodate up to 70 detained youth. This facility operates with a dedicated team of 39 full-time employees, supplemented by an additional ten Extra-Help staff members who assist as needed. During the MCGJ inspection, we observed that staffing levels were sufficient to maintain security and provide adequate supervision for the detained youth.

The facility is structured to support juveniles in a rehabilitative environment. A key aspect of this effort is the diverse and well-trained correctional staff, which consists of 24 male and 15 female full time probation officers who are trained with trauma-informed skills to help detainees acclimate to their surroundings while addressing any past experiences that may impact their behavior and well-being. The emphasis on trauma-informed care is intended to create a supportive atmosphere where juveniles can work toward rehabilitation rather than simply enduring confinement.

Additionally, the facility has resources in place to accommodate language barriers. If a juvenile communicates in a language other than English, a staff member is available to assist with translation and ensure that the individual fully understands facility protocols, expectations, and available programs. Effective communication helps foster a more inclusive and supportive environment for all detainees.

The MCGJ noted that the facility maintains a structured, well-organized, and adequately staffed operation that prioritizes security and the rehabilitative needs of its juvenile population.

## **METHODOLOGY**

- Interviewed MCJDF personnel
- Interviewed MCJDF juvenile detainees
- inspected Juvenile Detention Facility Complex
- Reviewed prior MCGJ reports and responses: 2021-2022, 2022-2023, and 2023-2024.

## **FACILITY INSPECTION**

The MCJDF is well-maintained, adhering to high standards of cleanliness, organization, and operational efficiency. Facility maintenance is a priority, ensuring a safe and sanitary environment for detainees and staff. Youth housed within the facility play an active role in maintaining cleanliness by performing janitorial duties under the supervision of staff. These responsibilities not only contribute to the upkeep of the facility but also instill a sense of accountability, discipline, and personal responsibility among detainees. Detainees are rewarded with incentives that can be used to purchase items from Rosa's Pantry and time reductions to their sentences.

To ensure compliance with safety, health, and operational regulations, the MCJDF undergoes routine inspections by various regulatory agencies. These inspections evaluate critical aspects of facility operations, including structural integrity, health standards, security measures, and the well-being of detainees. The facility has successfully passed inspections conducted by multiple oversight bodies. Each of these multiple oversight bodies has an area of responsibility.

- Fire Safety Inspections – Ensuring fire prevention systems, emergency protocols, and response measures are in place and fully functional.
- Medical & Mental Health Evaluations – Assessing the availability and quality of healthcare services, including medical screenings, mental health counseling, and access to necessary treatments.
- Environmental Health Inspections – Verifying that sanitation standards, air quality, and overall environmental conditions within the facility are conducive to health and safety.
- Nutritional Health Assessments – Reviewing the nutritional value of meals provided to detainees to confirm that dietary requirements and guidelines are met.

### **Physical and Mental Health**

Medical services are available through Well-Path. Once in custody, youth are seen within 72 hours of booking. Medical staff is onsite daily from 7 am - 7 pm. Physicians are available by phone and on-site when called.

Care is given to assess the mental health of the youth. Gender expression is identified and respected by staff. Religious preferences are accommodated with services, and their preferred spiritual leadership is available for spiritual counseling.

Mental Health programs are available that aim towards issues such as anger management and drug and alcohol abuse diversion programs are provided in a group setting. These services are provided by Madera County Behavioral Health Services, a Certified Drug and Alcohol Counselor, and educational providers.

## **Education**

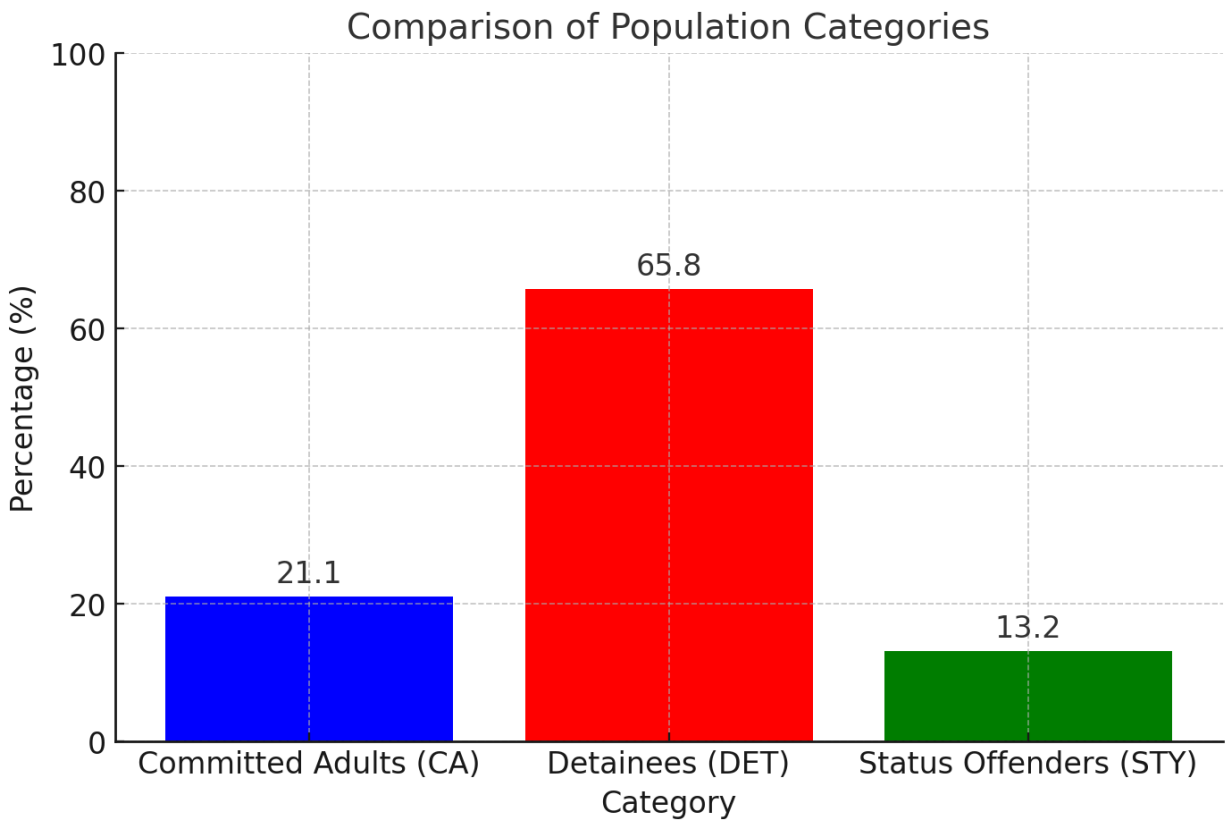
The MCJDF is committed to providing quality education for detained youth. The facility has an educational staff of four full-time teachers, one full-time instructional aide, and one special education teacher.

Currently, 30 youth are enrolled in high school courses fully accredited by the Madera County Superintendent of Schools, ensuring that students receive recognized academic credits. Additionally, five youth actively participate in college courses accredited by the Madera Community College, furthering their education and expanding their opportunities for success.

Vocational classes are also available through Workforce and teach metal and workshop skills. At the time of the MCGJ inspection, MCJDF reported one youth works part-time off-site. Selected youth must be certified to participate in these programs with certifications given by the California Occupational Safety and Health Administration (Cal Osha) and the California Food Handler Authority. This is reflected in the yard of the MCJDF, which has a well-maintained vegetable garden to encourage self-sustainability and concrete work to beautify the outside visiting area. Equipping the youth with the necessary skills towards gainful employment is imperative for a successful reintegration into society.

The MCGJ was particularly impressed by the professionalism, dedication, and compassion demonstrated by MCJDF personnel. Overall, staff members consistently displayed a genuine interest in helping detained youth make meaningful changes in their lives, providing guidance and support, in an effort to reduce recidivism and promote long-term success.

There are three categories of youth, residents, detainees, who spend time at the Madera County Juvenile Detention facility.



**Committed Adults:** Someone who is 18 years or older but whose case originated in Juvenile court and is still under the jurisdiction of the juvenile system until age 25.

**Detainees :** A minor who was arrested for a crime and held in a juvenile facility.

**Status Offender:** A juvenile who has committed an act that would not be considered a crime if committed as an adult.

## **FINDINGS**

**F1.** The Madera County Grand Jury finds that the facility is well-maintained and clean, with juveniles participating in janitorial duties under staff supervision.

**F2.** The Madera County Grand Jury finds that routine inspections have been conducted and successfully passed by multiple regulatory bodies, including Fire, Medical/Mental Health, Environmental Health, Nutritional Health, the California Board Of Community and State Corrections (BSCC).

**F3.** The Madera County Grand Jury finds that the facility has a dedicated educational staff, including four full-time teachers, one full-time instructional aide, and one special aide teacher.

**F4.** The Madera County Grand Jury finds that the MCJDF staff actively promotes responsibility, discipline, and self-improvement among detainees through structured educational programs, counseling services, and life skills training.

**F5.** The Madera County Grand Jury finds that a high level of professionalism, dedication, and compassion exists from the MCJDF staff.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

**R1.** The Madera County Grand Jury commends the Madera County Juvenile Detention Facility staff for the continual support and impact made on the detained youth.

## **REQUIRED RESPONSES**

Pursuant to Penal Code Section 933 and 933.05, the Madera County Grand Jury requests responses as follows:

From the following elected officials within 90 days:

Board of Supervisors  
200 West Fourth Street  
Madera, CA 93637

## **INVITED RESPONSES**

Pursuant to Penal Code Section 933 and 933.05, the Madera County Grand Jury requests responses as follows:

From the following governing body within 60 days:

Madera County Chief Probation Officer  
300 South G Street Suite 100  
Madera CA 93637

Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC)  
2590 Venture Oaks Way, Suite 200  
Sacramento, CA. 95833

Madera County Juvenile Justice Commission  
1675 E. Olive  
Madera CA 93638

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Reports issued by the Civil Grand Jury do not identify individuals interviewed. Penal Code Section 929 requires that reports of the Grand Jury not contain the name of any person or facts leading to the identity of any person who provides information to the Civil Grand Jury. The California State Legislature has stated that it intends the provisions of Penal Code Section 929 prohibiting disclosure of witness identities to encourage full candor in testimony in Grand Jury investigations by protecting the privacy and confidentiality of those who participate in any Civil Grand Jury investigation.

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\* Note: This report was prepared using current information available on the websites listed.

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