

JUVENILE REHABILITATION FACILITY REPORT

Transforming The Lives of Youth

May 14, 2025



SUMMARY

California Penal Code Section 919(b) mandates that the grand jury will annually inquire into the conditions and management of all public prisons within the county. Since the Juvenile Rehabilitation Facility (JRF) is under the authority of the Probation Department, it is not considered a prison. However, the grand jury opted to include the JRF as an addendum to the jail inquiries.

The Shasta County Grand Jury made three visits to the facility, interviewed staff and management and interacted with the youth. The grand jury reviewed budgets, staffing levels, medical care, education services, and rehabilitation programs offered.

The grand jury reviewed the guidelines in the California Board of State and Community Corrections Handbook (BSCC) *Title 15, Minimum Standards for Juvenile Facilities*. During the most recent BSCC biennial inspection in 2024, the JRF was found to be in full compliance with or exceeding California Code of Regulations Title 15 guidelines, which included seven minimum standards for mental health services. A list of these minimum standards is included in the Discussion section of this report.

The Shasta County Grand Jury would like to commend the Shasta County Office of Education (SCOE) and Shasta Community Health Center for their work in addressing the mental health and educational needs of the juvenile offenders residing at the JRF.

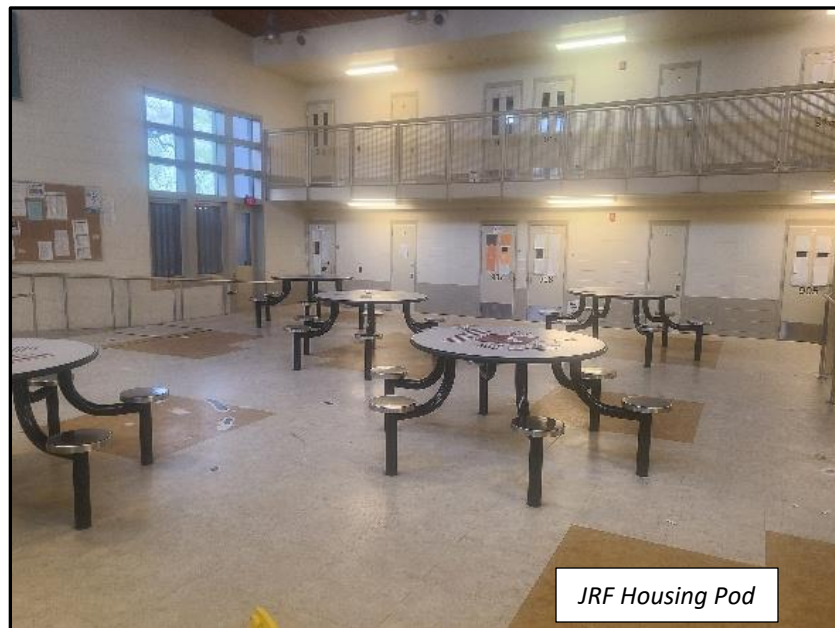
The grand jury found that the JRF is run by a professional, dedicated staff where the youth are well cared for in a state-of-the-art facility.

BACKGROUND

The JRF opened in January of 2014, capable of housing up to 90 residents. However, the current maximum number of juvenile offenders held is 45. Residents vary in age from 12 through 19 years of age. The average length of stay is approximately 20 days.

The Probation Department employs 70 probation officers with 20 being assigned to juvenile offenders. Juvenile Detention Officers (JDO) provide the bulk of youth supervision within the facility, the main focus being education, work ethic, physical development and counseling. The goal is to return the youths to the community as responsible, productive, law-abiding citizens. The JRF provides temporary, secure custody of juveniles who are referred by law enforcement agencies, Probation Department, and Juvenile Court.

The youth are held while awaiting due process through the juvenile court system. The law requires that reasonable efforts be made to keep juveniles at home and in their community, rather than in detention. The youth are only kept in the JRF if public and personal safety issues rise to the level where home release is not feasible, or there is a strong likelihood that the juvenile will not make his or her court appearance. Upon intake, all juveniles undergo comprehensive medical and mental health screenings, after which they are classified according to their arrest status and housed in an appropriate unit, also known as pods.



METHODOLOGY

During its investigation, the grand jury reviewed numerous documents, including:

- State Juvenile Facility Inspections
- BSSC Title 15, Minimum Standards for Juvenile Facilities
- Current Juvenile Probation Budgets
- Medical and Mental Health Services Contracts
- JRF Programs offered

Site Visits

The grand jury made three visits to the Juvenile Rehabilitation Facility.

Interviews:

The grand jury interviewed members of the probation management staff as well as medical staff, educators, Juvenile Detention Officers and interacted with juvenile offenders.

DISCUSSION

Facility

The JRF is a 44,627 square foot building opened in January 2014. The California Department of Corrections paid \$15.05 million of the \$18 million project. The facility has three housing pods with the ability to house up to 90 youths; however, the facility is only funded for a maximum of 55 youths. Both male and female youth are housed at the JRF.

The facility features a secure intake area, medical clinic, multipurpose room, a classroom in each of the three units, and a commercial kitchen. The kitchen staff consists of three full time employees who prepare all meals for the facility.

During the grand jury's second visit to the facility on a rainy day, numerous buckets were placed throughout the facility to catch dripping water from roof leaks. The grand jury also noticed, and was advised by staff, that worn carpets throughout the facility need attention. The grand jury found the facility to be safe, clean and secure.



JRF Kitchen



Lunch Food Prep

The BSSC inspects the JRF on an annual basis. In addition, annual inspections are conducted by the local health department, fire authority, and county building inspector. Areas of inspection include mental health/behavioral health, nutrition, environmental/fire safety, education, juvenile court procedures, proper staff training, and staffing of facilities. The grand jury reviewed multiple BSSC inspection reports and found no items of noncompliance. Inspectors found the JRF “fortunate to have such a significant base of collaborative partners and staff to implement all services for the youth.”

There is currently a 3,000 square foot vocational shop and classroom being built to provide training in trades skills for the juvenile offenders. Training being offered will be welding, industrial sewing, bicycle and auto repair and woodworking. Shasta College and SCOE will be responsible for this vocational training.



Staffing

The JRF Facility meets California’s Title 15 staffing requirements as to safety, security and educational needs of youths. The management and staff appear to be well-trained and committed to working with the juvenile detainees to enable them to become productive citizens. The JRF, at the time of our investigation, had four Juvenile Detention Officer (JDO) vacancies. These shortages cause mandatory overtime for other JDOs to maintain the required staff to juvenile offender ratio.

Education

SCOE operates a fully accredited high school program within the JRF. SCOE provides all educational materials and staffing, including teachers and support staff. The JDOs provide the safety and security for the educational staff at the facility. Youth take courses that lead to a high school diploma or GED certificate. Additionally, college level classes are offered by Shasta College.

The youth receive classroom instruction as required by the State of California Education Code and attend classes weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Upon release from the facility, the youth can resume their education at their last school attended, or at a school of their choice. The facility is staffed with a principal, three full-time teachers, a resource teacher, and three aids. There have been 99 high school graduates through June 2024. From July 1, 2024, to December

31, 2024, five youths graduated high school in the JRF. Last year, one student at the JRF received an Associates of Arts (AA) degree from Shasta College.

Medical Care

Many of the youth entering the JRF have mental health problems and substance abuse issues. Currently, 56% of the juvenile offenders are prescribed psychotropic medications. To effectively manage those in custody, targeted mental health services are needed. A secondary goal of treatment is to help reduce recidivism, which currently is 12.7%. The medical staff provides quality 24-hour on-site or if required, off-site medical, dental, and psychiatric treatment services to juveniles housed at the JRF.

The JRF procured a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Shasta Community Health Center starting on June 1, 2022. This agreement was in compliance with standards of care, applicable law, the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) standards, and regulations including, but not limited to, the provisions of Title 15 of the California Code of Regulations.

The MOU provides a medical doctor two to three times per week or more as needed, a registered nurse five days a week working 12-hour shifts, and a licensed vocational nurse who covers the night shift. The JRF has a mental health clinician and a psychiatrist on staff who work full-time. Mental health coverage is Monday through Friday, 2 p.m. to 10 p.m. and 24-hour weekend coverage.

As a baseline for determining the minimum standards for mental health services at the JRF facilities in California, the grand jury used the guidelines found in Title 15, "Minimum Standards for Mental Health Services," Section 1347 that lists seven minimum standards for mental health services. The grand jury found that the JRF was compliant in all seven minimum standards. These standards consist of:

- Quick screening for psychiatric problems
- Treatment plans that stabilize juveniles with mental disorders
- Medication support services
- Crisis intervention and the management of acute psychiatric disorders
- Suicide prevention measures
- Transition planning and arrangements for continuation of therapeutic and medication in community settings
- Timely referrals and admission to licensed mental health facilities for juveniles whose psychiatric needs exceed the treatment capability of Juvenile Hall

Budget

The Shasta County Probation Department operates the JRF, but its budget is administered separately from the Shasta County Probation Department Adult Division. The JRF 2024/2025 budget approved by the Board of Supervisors is \$14.1 million, with Shasta County being

responsible for 41% of that budget. The balance of the budget comes from state and federal allocations and grants.

Since 2015, several Northern California counties closed their juvenile detention facilities and are now under contract with the Shasta County JRF to house their juvenile offenders, agreeing to pay a daily bed rate. The counties currently under contract are Trinity, Modoc, Lassen, Siskiyou, Del Norte, Mendocino and Plumas. In the summer of 2024, the Shasta County Board of Supervisors approved the JRF charging a market-based bed rate of \$325 per day for out-of-county juveniles.

Programs

The JRF programs provide a wide variety of educational and treatment services based on the juvenile's risk and needs assessment. The JRF programs are all designed to engage and rehabilitate juveniles. This is done through a variety of interactive social programs that include:

- Social development programs such as basketball and flag football
- Arts and Crafts
- Culinary Arts, including hands on food preparation and safety
- Gardening, Responsibility, and Ownership of Self and Community Wellbeing (GROW)

The juvenile probation department partners with several community-based organizations that provide a variety of services. Victor Community Support Services and HOPE City works with juvenile offenders in and out of custody by providing rehabilitative and treatment services including Aggression Replacement Training (ART), Moral Recognition Training (MRT), and other mental health programs.

During tours of the JRF, the grand jury observed numerous art projects and paintings displayed in the hallways of the facility. The jury also toured the GROW area where they observed the chicken and goats housing area, where eggs will be gathered and used in food preparation. With the assistance of volunteers, the JRF grows vegetables for use in meal preparations. This gardening project teaches the youth a healthy lifestyle by practical gardening, farming, and the therapeutic benefit of caring for farm animals.



FINDINGS

- F1.** The physical facilities at the Shasta County Juvenile Rehabilitation Facility provide a safe, clean, and secure environment for the detained juveniles in compliance with Title 15; however, due to the age of the facility, some infrastructure repairs and upkeep are needed.
- F2.** The Juvenile Rehabilitation Facility is run by a dedicated and professional team who meets the needs of the juveniles.

RECOMMENDATION

- R1.** The Shasta County Board of Supervisors ensures funding is available to make the necessary infrastructure repairs and direct the Chief of Probation to complete noted repairs.

REQUEST FOR RESPONSES

The following responses are required pursuant to Penal Code sections 933 and 933.05 from the following governing body within 90 days.

- The Shasta County Board of Supervisors as to F1 and F2
- The Shasta County Board of Supervisors as to R1

INVITED RESPONSES

The Chief Probation Officer is invited to respond to F1, F2 and R1

DISCLAIMERS

Reports issued by the Shasta County Grand Jury do not identify the 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 grand jury.
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