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Civil Grand Jury Report 2019-2020 Updated Responses

SONOMA COUNTY SHERIFF-CORONER'S OFFICE:

The Resurrection of a Coroner's Office

Unresolved Recommendations and Current Status	Implemented
<p>R1 The Board of Supervisors, working in conjunction with the Sheriff's Office and the Coroner's Office Lieutenant, identify a new location for the Coroner's Office and Morgue facility by December 1, 2020.</p> <p><i>Current Status:</i> The Coroner's Office has moved to 2796 Ventura Ave. in Santa Rosa.</p>	Yes

HOMELESS YOUTH: Sonoma County in Dubious First Place

Unresolved recommendations and Current Status	Implemented
<p>R1 The Board of Supervisors commit to reducing the number of homeless young people in Sonoma County to functional zero within three years.</p> <p><i>Current Status:</i> A reduction in the number of homeless youth was noted in the 2023 <i>Point in Time</i> report.</p>	Yes
<p>R2 Sonoma County Community Development Commission increase the number of shelter beds for homeless youth, keeping in mind the needs for safe space for young people, by February 28, 2021.</p> <p><i>Current Status:</i> The number of beds for homeless youth has increased relative to the current number of homeless people, as noted in the 2023 <i>Point in Time</i> report.</p>	Yes
<p>R5 Sonoma County Department of Health Services establish a drug and alcohol program specifically designed to treat youth with substance abuse disorders, by February 28, 2021.</p> <p><i>Current Status:</i> DHS has established a Substance Use Disorder program for youth located at 2255 Challenger Dr. in Santa Rosa.</p>	Yes
<p>R12 Sonoma County Community Development Commission establish and budget for a Youth Action Board to improve the chances of federal funding</p>	Yes

<p>through HUD’s Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program, by February 28, 2021.</p> <p>Current Status: A Youth Action Board and budget have been established, as noted in the Youth Action Board minutes.</p>	
<p>R13 The Sonoma County Board of Supervisors and Sonoma County Administrator’s Office identify, by December 31, 2020, a stable funding source to support sustainable programs that will reduce youth homelessness to functional zero.</p> <p>Current Status: To the extent possible, these funding sources have been established as noted in the 2023 County Strategic Plan.</p>	Yes
<p>R14 The Sonoma County Board of Supervisors and Sonoma County Administrator’s Office develop and implement, by June 30, 2021, a procedure for County departments to consistently identify and track the cost of services provided to the homeless population.</p> <p>Current Status: Funding for services to the homeless, including homeless youth, is identified in the <i>Budget Binder</i> memo.</p>	Yes

**SONOMA COUNTY HAS A HOMELESS CRISIS:
Is There a Response Plan?**

Unresolved Recommendations and Current Status	Implemented
<p>R1 The Sonoma County Board of Supervisors direct the Leadership Council to develop policies and procedures to manage the homeless crisis on a Countywide and strategic basis by December 31, 2020.</p> <p>Current Status: A Continuum of Care strategic plan was developed and approved by the county.</p>	Yes
<p>R2 The Leadership Council develop and implement a strategy for funding appropriate shelter space that addresses the needs of sub-groups within the homeless community by December 31, 2021.</p> <p>Current Status: The Continuum of Care plan includes strategies for subgroups of the homeless population.</p>	Yes
<p>R3 The Leadership Council adopt a plan to deal with homeless encampment emergencies by December 31, 2020.</p>	Yes

<p>Current Status: A protocol for dealing with encampments is now in place based on recommendations to the Leadership Council in 2021.</p>	
<p>R4 The Sonoma County Board of Supervisors develop a funding source for consistent and predictable funding of homeless programs by December 31, 2021.</p> <p>Current Status: Funding sources have been identified by the Continuum of Care Council.</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>R5 The Department of Health Services and Community Development Commission remain under single leadership.</p> <p>Current Status: Consulting firm KPMG completed this study and the Homeless Services Division was established to provide integrated services.</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>R6 The County of Sonoma Board of Supervisors direct the County Administrator to develop a methodology for tracking all costs of homeless services and programs across County agencies by June 30, 2021.</p> <p>Current Status: Funding for countywide homeless services is identified in the <i>Budget Binder</i> memo.</p>	<p>Yes</p>

EMERGENCY WATER SHORTAGES IN SONOMA VALLEY:
The Situation Has Worsened

Unresolved Recommendations and Current Status	Implemented
<p>R3 The Valley of the Moon Water District and the City of Sonoma interconnect their distribution systems and establish an agreement for sharing water during emergencies by December 31, 2020.</p> <p><i>Current Status:</i> The two agencies have connected their water distribution systems and have a plan for sharing water during emergencies.</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>R4 Sonoma Water, Valley of the Moon Water District, the City of Sonoma, Permit Sonoma, and the California Department of General Services form an agreement by October 31, 2020, that potable water storage facilities at Sonoma Developmental Center shall remain active and available for shared access during emergencies.</p> <p><i>Current Status:</i> This recommendation was addressed in the publication <i>Regional Water Supply Resiliency</i>.</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>R5 The Valley of the Moon Water District accelerate its program for expanding well capacity and water storage by December 31, 2020.</p> <p><i>Current Status:</i> VOMWD has added two new wells, Pedroncelli and Craig.</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>R6 The Valley of the Moon Water District establish specific emergency water-use restrictions and communicate them to its customers by September 30, 2020.</p> <p><i>Current Status:</i> A Water Management Plan and website have been established.</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>R7 By September 30, 2020, the Valley of the Moon Water District inform customers annually, or when conditions change, regarding risks and deficiencies in the emergency water supply and any actions taken to mitigate them.</p> <p><i>Current Status:</i> Information is shared with customers regularly via the website and inserts included with customer bills.</p>	<p>Yes</p>

SONOMA VALLEY REGIONAL WATER RESOURCES:
Water for a Changing future

Unresolved Recommendations and <i>Current Status</i>	Implemented
<p>R1 Sonoma Water review and establish viable options for accelerating how rapidly the highest-priority mitigation measures are being funded and implemented, by December 31, 2019.</p> <p><i>Current Status:</i> This recommendation was addressed in the publication <i>Regional Water Supply Resiliency</i>.</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>R4 Sonoma Water improve coordination with water contractors, including field exercises, by December 31, 2019.</p> <p><i>Current Status:</i> Permit Sonoma reviewed the Water Supply Assessment and communicated the results to both Water Districts.</p>	<p>Yes</p>

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BROADBAND ACCESS IN SONOMA COUNTY

Broadband IS a Utility; The Quiet Crisis of Availability

Unresolved Recommendations and Current Status	Implemented
<p>R1 The Sonoma County Board of Supervisors consider recognizing and designating broadband as a “Utility” that needs prioritization by October 31, 2021.</p> <p><i>Current Status:</i> On March 2, 2021, the BOS approved a 5-year strategic plan that includes broadband deployment and access. It does not include designation of broadband service as a utility.</p>	Partially
<p>R4, R7, R8, R9 and R10 <i>Current Status:</i> These recommendations depend on broadband’s being designated as a utility. See R1.</p>	Partially

COUNTY JAIL INMATE TELEPHONE AND COMMISSARY:

Overcharging a Captive Population

Unresolved Recommendations and Current Status	Implemented
<p>R2 By September 30, 2021, the Sheriff’s Office develop a new communications model to provide for sufficient telephone kiosks to allow the inmate population free telephone and video visitation for at least 90 minutes per week until such time as a new communication contract is in effect.</p> <p><i>Current Status:</i> According to the Sheriff’s Office, inmates are allowed 70 minutes of phone calls per week at a cost to them of \$.07 per minute. Prior to Covid, inmates were charged \$.21 per minute. There are no additional telephone kiosks in place and there are no video visits.</p>	Partially
<p>R5 The Sheriff’s Office reevaluate its commissary markup to be in line with grocery store, as opposed to convenience store, pricing, on or before September 1, 2021.</p> <p><i>Current Status:</i> The commissary is now run by Summit, an outside company. More items are available to inmates, some at a lower cost, but many items are still marked up much more than grocery store prices.</p>	Partially

<p>R6 By September 30, 2021, the Sheriff’s Office, using the reserve Inmate Welfare Trust funds, resume all inmate programs in existence pre-Covid, with funding at the same level once Covid restrictions are lifted.</p> <p><i>Current Status:</i> According to the Sheriff’s Office, inmate programs are being resumed. In-person classes as well as online classes are now offered.</p>	<p>Partially</p>
<p>R7 The Sheriff’s Office restructure the 10-member Inmate Welfare Trust Committee by December 31, 2021, to include more diverse representation, for example, community members, financial analysts, social workers and educators to bring the Committee more in line with the requirements of Penal Code 5006 regarding commission membership standards to State Prisons.</p> <p><i>Current Status:</i> The jail does not have to abide by the penal code for state prisons. However, according to the Sheriff’s Office there are now two civilians on the Inmate Welfare Trust Committee, including one educator. The remaining committee members are composed of Sheriff’s Office staff.</p>	<p>Partially</p>

COVID MITIGATION AND THE COUNTY JAIL
And its Unexpected Consequences

<p>Unresolved Recommendations and Current Status</p>	<p>Implemented</p>
<p>R1 The Sheriff’s Office develop, no later than September 1, 2021, a policy to restore out of cell activity, in person and video visitation, and all programs to pre-pandemic levels.</p> <p><i>Current Status:</i> In-person visits, and some classes and programs for inmates, have been resumed. There is little out-of-cell-activity and there are no video visits.</p>	<p>Partially</p>
<p>R4 The Sheriff’s Office and the Board of Supervisors work together to develop a plan by December 31, 2021, to increase the contracted Wellpath resources to fund four additional Wellpath discharge planners for mental health and medical assignment to the Main Adult Detention Facility.</p> <p><i>Current Status:</i> Wellpath services have not increased.</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>R6 The Sheriff’s Office implement a surveillance-testing program and require 100% participation by all unvaccinated jail staff by September 1, 2021.</p> <p><i>Current Status:</i> The Public Health Order regarding Covid has been rescinded, so the vaccine mandate is no longer applicable.</p>	<p>N/A</p>

EMERGENCY ALERTS AND COMMUNICATIONS
Toward a Culture of Preparedness

Unresolved Recommendations and <i>Current Status</i>	Implemented
<p>R2 By October 31, 2021, the Board of Supervisors review and propose additional alert and warning methods such as air raid sirens and public address systems to put contingencies in place when broadband fails or is not available.</p> <p><i>Current Status:</i> Additional alert and warning systems have been implemented in some county locations. The BOS and Department of Emergency Management (DEM) continue to explore ways to improve and expand warning systems.</p>	Yes
<p>R7 By March 31, 2022, the Sheriff’s Office and Board of Supervisors provide funding to maintain the communication tower equipment/repeaters.</p> <p><i>Current Status:</i> Maintenance of communication-tower equipment is now a budgeted item.</p>	Yes
<p>R13, R14 By October 31, 2021, the Department of Emergency Management update the County Emergency Operations Plan to incorporate and post on the Department of Emergency Management website the most up-to-date information and Recommendations from the After Action Reports since the disasters of 2017. An updated Emergency Operations Plan will be approved by the BOS and posted on the DEM website.</p> <p><i>Current Status:</i> In March of 2022 an updated Emergency Operations Plan was published and posted on the DEM website.</p>	Yes
<p>R19 By December 31, 2021, the Department of Emergency Management publicize the work of community preparedness groups such as Citizens Organized to Prepare for Emergencies, Community Emergency Response Teams, and Community Organizations Around Disasters to more effectively reach all residents about emergency alerts and warnings.</p> <p><i>Current Status:</i> The work of community preparedness groups is publicized on a regular basis.</p>	Yes

ROHNERT PARK ELECTION DISTRICTS:

Transitioning from At-Large to District-Based Elections

Unresolved Recommendations and <i>Current Status</i>	Implemented
<p>R3 The City Council members proactively plan in advance and allocate time in Council Meeting agendas to give the public opportunity for robust and ongoing discussion of any changes to the City’s demographics that need to be addressed when the new census data is released on September 30, 2021. This should occur by December 31, 2021.</p> <p><i>Current Status:</i> This recommendation was implemented. The Rohnert Park City Council held four public meetings in which citizens could take part in this discussion. The fourth meeting was held on March 8, 2022.</p>	Yes

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES:

Dedication Overcame Dysfunction

Unresolved Recommendations and Current Status	Implemented
<p>R8 By December 31, 2022, the Board of Supervisors will consult with the Human Resources Department to consider establishing an Ombudsperson for County employees to provide a neutral means to voice issues of concern.</p> <p><i>Current Status:</i> The Human Resources Department responded that it plans to conduct an employee-engagement survey in 2024 to determine the best path forward.</p>	No
<p>R13 By December 31, 2022, the Board of Supervisors and County Administrator’s Office work with the Department of Health Services executive leadership team in developing an actionable plan to address work culture issues, including retaliation, harassment and bullying.</p> <p><i>Current Status:</i> DHS responded that it hired an equity manager in March of 2022 who was then hired away by Marin County. Recruitment is underway to fill this position. DHS developed an equity plan in December of 2022.</p>	Partially
<p>R14 By December 31, 2022, the Board of Supervisors direct the County Administrator’s Office to work with the Department of Health Services’ executive leadership team to develop a clearly defined and actionable plan for internal communication that includes greater transparency and staff participation throughout the department.</p> <p><i>Current Status:</i> DHS responded that it published an internal newsletter, <i>DHS Connect</i>, in the fall of 2022. Video clips of DHS employees were produced in November of 2023 and used in promotional material to recruit staff.</p>	Partially
<p>R16 By March 1, 2023, the Board of Supervisors direct the County Administrator’s Office and the County Human Resources Department to develop a plan for the Board’s review and consideration whereby the County Human Resources Department has oversight authority over all satellite human resource divisions.</p> <p><i>Current Status:</i> The Human Resources Department responded that it will work with a consultant in 2024 to develop recommendations regarding oversight of all satellite-department human resources functions.</p>	Partially

**AFFORDABLE HOUSING:
PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE**

Unresolved Recommendations and <i>Current Status</i>	Implemented
<p>R2 By December 31, 2022, Permit Sonoma and the nine cities should meet to consider standardizing procedures related to the development of affordable housing.</p> <p><i>Current Status:</i> New and revised procedures related to the development of affordable housing are described in Section 2.1 of the Sonoma County Housing Element of August 2023 (Housing Goals and Policies). Also see Housing Element Program 12: Permitting Procedures, Priority Processing, and Proactive Farmworker Housing Measures, p. 53.</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>R3 By December 31, 2022, Permit Sonoma and the nine cities should meet to discuss coordination of fee-reduction standards for affordable housing throughout the County.</p> <p><i>Current Status:</i> See Sonoma County Housing Element 2023 Program 12: Permitting Procedures, Priority Processing, and Proactive Farmworker Housing Measures, p.53 and Program 17: Development Fees and Transparency Requirements, p. 58.</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>R8 By December 31, 2022, Permit Sonoma and the nine cities should review permitting requirements to allow nontraditional options such as manufactured homes, factory-built homes and tiny homes to increase housing supply.</p> <p><i>Current Status:</i> See Sonoma County Housing Element Section 2.2 5b, Housing Action Plan, p. 49</p>	<p>Yes</p>

**AFFORDABLE HOUSING:
MONITORING AND COMPLIANCE**

Unresolved Recommendations and Current Status	Implemented
<p>R1 By December 31, 2022, the Sonoma County Community Development Commission (CDC) and the nine cities will meet and develop agreed-upon standards and procedures for monitoring affordable housing.</p> <p><i>Current Status:</i> Policies and procedures have changed with the 2023-2031 Housing Element in effect, as this provides for ongoing, dedicated Permit Sonoma and CDC funding and staff support to implement Housing Element programs.</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>R3 By January 1, 2023, the CDC and the nine cities will review and ensure that they have sufficient personnel to conduct on-site monitoring and to process self-reported monitoring data to meet future Regional Housing Needs Allocations.</p> <p><i>Current Status:</i> In December of 2021 the Board of Supervisors approved a revision to the CDC’s compliance-monitoring policies that increases and expands on-site monitoring, adding a staff position to support this work.</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>R5 By January 1, 2023, the nine cities will develop informational documents and policies to provide both upfront and ongoing training in the monitoring and compliance procedures for developers and managers of affordable housing projects.</p> <p><i>Current Status:</i> Section II, the Housing Action Plan, of the 2023 Housing Element notes, beginning on p. 35, that staff is in place and will have training opportunities every month.</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>R7 By November 1, 2022, the nine cities will meet to discuss pooling resources to fulfill their monitoring responsibilities, either through a consultant or through designated employees.</p> <p><i>Current Status:</i> On-site monitoring was halted during Covid. All nine cities and the CDC resumed on-site monitoring by October of 2021, and by March of 2022 all monitoring required by federal regulations had been brought current.</p> <p>Additional staff have been hired to ensure that monitoring of existing and future affordable housing units continues.</p>	<p>Yes</p>

<p>R8. By December 31, 2022, the CDC and the nine cities should update and maintain their inventory of affordable houses within their jurisdictions and verify that all of their property titles are flagged for restricted sale.</p> <p><i>Current Status:</i> The CDC maintains an updated list of affordable housing stock available countywide. This list will be updated quarterly through coordination with the nine cities.</p>	Yes
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**ROHNERT PARK DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY:
Better Procedures to Avoid Future Misconduct**

Unresolved Recommendations and Current Status	Implemented
<p>R1 By December 31, 2022, the City Manager institute an annual written performance evaluation for the Director of Public Safety.</p> <p><i>Current Status:</i> The City of Rohnert Park responded that the City Manager now conducts this performance evaluation.</p>	Yes
<p>R2 By December 31, 2022, the City Manager obtain input from a representative sample of Rohnert Park Department of Public Safety personnel to be considered in the evaluation of the Director’s annual performance.</p> <p><i>Current Status:</i> The City of Rohnert Park responded that the City Manager obtains input from Department of Safety personnel for the Director’s performance evaluation.</p>	Yes
<p>R3 By December 31, 2022, the City Manager establish a schedule for communicating with and getting feedback from the Public Safety Officer Association.</p> <p><i>Current Status:</i> The City of Rohnert Park responded that the City Manager receives feedback biannually from the Public Safety Officers Association.</p>	Yes
<p>R5 By December 31, 2022, the City Manager and the Director of Public Safety complete the recruitment for and establishment of the Chief’s Community Round Table as recommended to the City Council on August 10, 2021.</p> <p><i>Current Status:</i> Members of the Community Round Table have been selected and meetings have been held with the Director of Public Safety.</p>	Yes
<p>R6 By July 1, 2023, the City Council allocate funds to install GPS tracking on all police vehicles.</p> <p><i>Current Status:</i> The City Council approved funding for GPS tracking devices in November of 2022.</p>	Yes

<p>R7 By December 31, 2023, the Director of Public Safety shall install GPS tracking on all police vehicles.</p> <p><i>Current Status:</i> The City of Rohnert Park responded that the installation of GPS tracking devices on all police vehicles was completed in May of 2023.</p>	<p>Yes</p>
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SMART DECISION-MAKING:
Citizen Feedback is Critical for Success

Unresolved Recommendations and Current Status	Implemented
<p>R1 By January 31, 2023, The Board of Directors expand the role of the Citizens Oversight Committee beyond the minimal requirements of the Measure Q Expenditure Plan to achieve expectations of citizen oversight and accountability.</p> <p><i>Current Status:</i> This was implemented in December of 2022 through adoption of the COC bylaws.</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>R2 By January 31, 2023, the Board of Directors consider additional advisory committees to generate informed, independent advice on important matters under consideration, including but not limited to increasing ridership, building public trust, new lines of business, sale of assets, finance, and other significant decisions.</p> <p><i>Current Status:</i> The BOD responded that it held multiple topic-specific public hearings in 2022 and received input from the public and stakeholders.</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>R3 By January 31, 2023, the Board of Directors reassess the SMART organizational structure such that the Citizens Oversight Committee and any future advisory committees report directly to the Board.</p> <p><i>Current Status:</i> This was implemented in December of 2022 through adoption of the COC bylaws.</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>R4 By January 31, 2023, the Board of Directors require written Citizen’s Oversight Committee analysis and recommendations prior to all strategic decisions whether or not incorporated in the five-year Strategic Plan.</p> <p><i>Current Status:</i> The COC bylaws require the COC to issue reports, on at least an annual basis, on issues related to the Strategic Plan, but not on all strategic decisions.</p>	<p>Partially</p>

<p>R5 The Board of Directors define and implement advisory committee bylaws for the Citizens Oversight Committee, by January 31, 2023.</p> <p><i>Current Status:</i> This was implemented in December of 2022 through adoption of the COC bylaws.</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>R6 The Board of Directors define the length of terms for Citizens Oversight Committee members, by January 31, 2023.</p> <p><i>Current Status:</i> This was implemented in December of 2022 through adoption of the COC bylaws.</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>R7 By January 31, 2023, the Board of Directors develop suitable training programs for new and existing members of the Citizens Oversight Committee regarding their newly defined role and proper public committee protocols, such as the Brown Act rules.</p> <p><i>Current Status:</i> This was implemented at the March 2023 COC meeting.</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>R8 By January 31, 2023, the Board of Directors direct the Citizens Oversight Committee to prepare written recommendation reports to be presented at or entered into the record of the Board of Directors meetings.</p> <p><i>Current Status:</i> The COC bylaws require that written reports be presented to the BOD on at least an annual basis.</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>R11 The Board of Directors direct advisory committees to develop and implement a policy to keep documents and information related to their advisory role centrally located and remotely accessible, by January 31, 2023.</p> <p><i>Current Status:</i> This was implemented in August of 2022. Documents and information are now stored electronically.</p>	<p>Yes</p>

In summary, the tables above give an update of the recommendations of the Civil Grand Jury reports of 2018-2019, 2019-2020, 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 that were unanswered when the follow-up reports were published. While there are still unresolved issues, this update shows the progress made after the Civil Grand Juries’ terms expired.