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## **TEHAMA COUNTY JUVENILE DETENTION FACILITY CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE**

### **SUMMARY**

The mission of the Juvenile Detention Center is to improve public safety and the quality of life in Tehama County through offender compliance and accountability. Their vision is to have fewer crimes and victims.

### **METHODOLOGY**

The members of the Tehama County Grand Jury visited the Juvenile Detention Facility, and conducted an interview with leadership. The facility is located at 1840 Walnut Street, Red Bluff on April 29, 2021. The tour was led by the Probation Department leadership.

### **DISCUSSION**

This is a state-of-the art facility with an up-to-date kitchen, pods, and restrooms. Each pod contains a classroom and day area and is continuously monitored from a centralized control station. The capacity of the facility is 64 beds. There are currently 18 wards housed in the facility. There are three pods, with 20 beds each, two of which are currently in use. The facility is staffed by 32 employees working four shifts.

Tehama County contracts with Plumas, Glenn, Lassen, Trinity, Lake, and Siskiyou counties to house their youth in Red Bluff. The cost to house out of county wards is \$150 per day. The rural county trend is not to remove youth from their family unless they are considered to be a danger to self or society. It is found that, in most cases, they do better in a family situation. This has a bearing on the number of wards housed in the center.

When a youth is released they are assigned a probation officer to assist with the transition and monitor their behavior. At any given time, there are 30 youths that have to check in with their probation officer.

### **Programs and Services**

The wards are provided three meals per day. In addition, 150 hot lunches per day are prepared on site for the Senior Nutrition Program which generates additional revenue for the facility.

The Probation Department contracts for mental and physical health services at the facility. The Tehama County Department of Education funds two teachers and two aides. The wards attend class from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., five days a week.

Upon initial entry into the program, all youth receive a full needs assessment to address strengths and needs in order to create a full treatment case plan. There are programs that are provided for the youths to prepare them for successful transition when they leave the detention center. These programs include:

**Restore Program:** A counseling, mentorship, and activities program for first time offenders.

**Hope Program:** A treatment and mentorship program through a contract with Empower Tehama.

**Changing ARMOR Program:** A behavior modification program supported by evidence-based programming designed to match a youth's strengths and needs in order to assist them in taking responsibility for their actions and develop new life and coping skills.

**The Makerspace:** A program where young people have an opportunity to explore their own interests, learn to use tools and materials, both physical and virtual, and develop creative projects.

**Tehama County Skills Program:** Training in woodworking, welding, and culinary arts.

**Gardening and Community Service:** An opportunity to work in the year-round community garden that provides fresh produce to the center as well as several non-profit agencies.

**Transitional Services:** It is the expectation that the youth's probation officer and family members become active participants to create a transitional case plan to assist the youth in successfully transitioning upon completion of the program. Youth are accommodated in attaining CA ID cards, Medi-Cal cards and assisted in completing FAFSA and college applications through the Tehama County Office of Education. Vocational and educational programs are also provided for students who are currently under court directed supervision.

**Services and resources that are provided are:**

Mental Health Counseling

Drug and Alcohol Treatment

Faith Based Support Groups

Education and Credit Recovery

Advanced Education

Reentry into the Community

Employment Application Training

## **FINDINGS**

F1. The Juvenile Justice Center is a well-run program that provides individualized programming to assist the wards with educational and rehabilitation needs. It is operating well below the maximum capacity of 64 due to COVID-19 constraints.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

R1. Continue current practices that support the needs of Tehama County youth and the needs of youth in surrounding counties.

**REQUIRED RESPONSE: None**