

This document is an extract of a larger publication.

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Findings

1. Firefighting crews can mobilize quickly during emergencies.
2. Inmates contribute to communities by volunteer work, such as cooking for those in need and preparing Thanksgiving dinners in the community and by donating handmade wood items to charitable groups like The Greater Bay Area Make-A-Wish. Foundation. Inmates do guest speaking at high schools about Drinking and Driving.
3. To combat ethnic differences and tensions, all camps stress social harmony through work, recreation teams and living arrangements.
4. Firefighters are required to perform at capacity while enduring high heat and shortness of oxygen in rough environments. Fitness is a must to maintain physical conditioning when responding to all emergencies.
5. In adherence to Penal Code Section §5010 weight training equipment has been removed from all prisons.
6. In California, Parlin Forks is one of three Conservation Camps, which have a full working sawmill, and cuts wood for furniture and crafts.

Comment

Chamberlain Creek and Parlin Fork Conservation Camps are well-organized, functional units. They have proven to be a beneficial program in Mendocino County and the State of California.

Response Requested

California Department of Corrections
California Department of Forestry

MENDOCINO COUNTY JAIL

The Mendocino County Jail (MCJ) is located in Ukiah, California and is staffed by The Sheriff Department with a staff of 49 officers. The Grand Jury is mandated to inspect the facility each year.

METHOD OF INVESTIGATION

The Grand Jury reviewed the California Code of Regulation §1027. The Grand Jury interviewed: kitchen staff, jail inmates, the Sheriff, a jail supervisor, a laundry worker and classroom councilors.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Grand Jury is charged with conducting an oversight of the Jail annually. (California Penal Code §919). The Jail operated by the Sheriff, holds a maximum for 296 inmates.

FINDINGS

1. The staffing is adequate for the number of inmates.
2. Jail improvements are ongoing.
3. The jail now has better facility to accommodate attorney-inmate conferences.
4. A library stocked with material available for G.E.D. education; self-improvement, entertainment and spiritual study is contained in a spacious

well-lighted area. The inmates have also the opportunity to read children stories, tape them and send the tape home to their children.

5. The “in-house/jail Psychiatric unit has been successful since being integrated the past (2) two years.
6. During the past year, security and surveillance has been up-graded.
7. According to the Psychiatric Department, the use of Methamphetamine is cited to be the most prevalent cause of crime in Mendocino County.
8. Recovery, rehabilitation and self-improvement are available through staff-counselors and guest speakers who are contract providers and background checked volunteers.
9. Parenting classes, alcohol and drug abuse, life skills, anger management, and religious services are offered at this facility.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- A. Continue work to improve quality of service and re-habilitation for the inmates.

COMMENTS

Inmates need more motivation to study and move on to higher education they should be encourage to be involved in personal improvement activities.

RESPONSE REQUIRED

Board of Supervisors

Mendocino County Sheriff

RESPONSE REQUESTED

Jail Commander of Mendocino County

Report completion date: 13 June 2003

**Racial Profiling in the Willits Unified School
District and in
the City of Willits Police Department.**

Reason for the Investigation

The Grand Jury received complaints from four families that Willits High School and Willits Police Department were engaged in racial profiling due to concerns about gang activities in Willits. The major complaint was that students, parents and Willits High School staff adopted a dress code.

Procedure

The Grand Jury interviewed the complainants, the Willits Chief of Police, a captain on the Willits Police force, and the school principals at Willits High School and Baechtel Grove Middle School. The Grand Jury also interviewed the Willits School District Superintendent of Schools. The Grand Jury interviewed two students of Willits High School and their fathers. The Grand Jury attended a news conference promoted by three parents and some of their children.

Findings

1. The Willits Police Department is concerned about gang activity, especially in the schools where adolescents might be initiated into gang affiliations and/or activity.
2. The administrative staffs of schools in Willits are concerned about gang activity where adolescents might become connected with gang activity.
3. Gangs make their turf known by tagging objects with gang symbols. Disputes over “ownership” of turf can result in “rumbles”, events where people can be hurt or killed.
4. There are many kinds of gangs that can attract students. Schools discourage the use of identifying gang graffiti, clothing or body signals.
5. Public schools are charged with assuring the safety of their students while they are in school. Safety and avoiding unnecessary distractions are reasonable and essential concerns.
6. The faculties of Willits High School and Baechtel Grove Middle School do not reflect the racial distribution of the students.
7. The Grand Jury found no solid evidence of discrimination against Latino or other minority students that would interfere with the education of students who want to learn and who attend school regularly.

8. The Grand Jury found that school administrators are dedicated to providing the best educational opportunities possible to the students. They have many programs to help students who need help beyond classroom instruction. Peer counseling is one example of their “outreach” programs.
9. Not all minority students feel that racial profiling is a problem in Willits.
10. Willits High school has recently published a dress code that was formulated by recommendations from parents in the community.

Recommendations

- A. Willits Police Department work closely with the community to keep it informed and educated as to any gang activities. (Findings 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 10)**
- B. The school administrators work closely with parents about gang activities and inform parents about how to recognize gang symbols, clothing and signs. (Findings 2, 3, 4 and 10)**
- C. Police notify public works as soon as possible about tagging so it can be removed. (Findings 1, 3 and 4)**

Comment

The Grand Jury commends the Willits Police Department and Willits School Administrators.

The Grand Jury urges all parents, who are concerned about any difficulties their children are experiencing in schools, to address these problems and to work cooperatively with the schools.

Responses Required

Willits Chief of Police

Principal of Willits High School

Principal of Baechtel Grove Middle School

Superintendent of Willits Public Works.

Report completion date: June 13, 2003