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Jail Inspection

Yuba County Sheriff's Department

SUMMARY

The Yuba County Jail, located at 215 5th Street in Marysville, is operated under the supervision of the Yuba County Sheriff. California Penal Code Section 919(b) requires that the "Grand Jury shall inquire into the condition and management of the public prisons within the county." Two inspections of the County Jail and a follow-up interview with Sheriff's Department staff were conducted by members of the Grand Jury. Tours of the jail included inspection of detainee housing areas, laundry facilities, the kitchen (food preparation and distribution) areas, the medical facilities, as well as the law library contained within the jail. The Grand Jury has concluded that the jail operates very efficiently and that Sheriff's Department staff are well trained and serve the residents of Yuba County in an efficient and professional manner.

BACKGROUND

The Yuba County Jail is located at 215 5th Street in Marysville and is operated under the supervision of the Yuba County Sheriff. Both the Marysville Police Department and the Wheatland Police Department, each with its own chain of command, operate within Yuba County. Both agencies, as well as the California Highway Patrol, utilize the Yuba County Jail for detention purposes. The Yuba County Jail is also a detention center for Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) detainees. Annual inspections by the Grand Jury of public prisons within the county are required under California Penal Code 919(b).

APPROACH

Members of the Grand Jury conducted initial interviews with the Yuba County Sheriff, the Captain of the Jail, as well as several support staff. An overview of the operations and management of the Jail was given to Grand Jury members, followed by a tour of the Jail facilities. Upon request, Sheriff Department staff also provided the Grand Jury members with copies of the most recent State and Federal inspection report, including the Federal ICE Detention Standards Compliance Review Report, the State Fire Marshal Inspection Report, the Yuba County Health Inspection Report, and the State of California Corrections Standards Authority Report.

DISCUSSION

On August 16th, 2011, Grand Jury members met with the Sheriff, the Captain of the Jail and several staff members, followed by a tour of the facilities. The tour included the booking-intake area, visiting area, control room, sobering cells, solitary confinement cells, general population cells, court holding cells, law library and the educational class room, in which an English class was in progress. All areas visited by Jury members were clean and in a good state of repair, with minor exceptions where the age of the facility was apparent. Grand Jury members were informed that approximately 8500 people are booked into the jail annually. On the day of the tour, there were 348 inmates in custody, 183 were ICE detainees. The Sheriff indicated that the

daily cost of housing local general detainees is approximately \$61.00/day per inmate and \$71.50/day for ICE detainees. The Yuba County Sheriff's Department is currently under contract with the federal government to house ICE detainees awaiting federal action and is reimbursed \$71.58/day per detainee, plus incidental costs associated with additional guard and medical staffing needs.

Grand Jury members asked the Sheriff what effect Assembly Bill 109, which mandates the transfer of some prisoners from State prisons to the local jurisdictions, would have on the jail operations. The Sheriff stated that the State legislature has allocated \$1 million, reimbursable to Yuba County, for the administration of the prisoner transfer program for the period of October 1st, 2011, through June 30th, 2012.

On September 27th, 2011, Grand Jury members returned to the jail, to perform a more in-depth view of the kitchen/food services and the laundry area. There are three full time cooks and a supervising Food Services Manager on staff, with 15 inmates assigned to work in the kitchen and food services area at a time. Inmates assigned to this area are given safety training and are instructed in food safety and sanitation practices prior to engaging in any activities in the kitchen. The kitchen operates between 3:30 am and 7:00 pm daily. The Food Services Manager told the Grand Jury members that approximately 37,000 meals per month are served from the jail kitchen. Meals are approved by a dietitian and special dietary needs are accommodated, as necessary. A six-week jail menu was provided to Grand Jury members for review. All activities in the kitchen and loading dock area are monitored by a closed-circuit surveillance system, which is monitored from the Food Service Manager's office. Grand Jury members noted that supervision and monitoring of all inmate activities in the kitchen and supply delivery area were a high priority for Department personnel, and that equipment used in the preparation and distribution of meals was accounted for with a significant degree of precision and detail.

The laundry facility was clean, well ventilated and appeared to operate very efficiently. Jury members were told that four inmates at a time are assigned to work in the laundry room. They work eight hour shifts, with a break every four hours. The laundry facility has the capacity to run 24 hours a day, seven days a week; but the female inmates assigned to laundry duty typically only work three days per week. Inmates assigned to laundry duties are locked in the room during operations and are monitored via a closed-circuit camera system. There is a restroom in the laundry room and drinking water is provided for the workers. A communications device is available in case of an emergency. All chemicals used are concentrated and added to the wash with the push of a button. No inmates touch any chemicals. Jail staff indicated that the laundry provides services to Yuba Sutter Mental Health and receives annual compensation for the services.

Upon review of the aforementioned State and Federal reports, it is noted that the Yuba County Jail meets or exceeds all current State and Federal standards for such facilities.

FINDINGS

- F1. The Yuba County Grand Jury finds the Yuba County Jail staff to be well trained and attentive to the needs of the inmates.
- F2. The Yuba County Grand jury finds the Yuba County Jail offers a wide variety of meals, with provisions for religious and dietary requirements.
- F3. The Yuba County Grand Jury finds the laundry area to be efficient and clean.
- F4. The Yuba County Grand Jury finds that the laundry is a revenue producer based on services it provides to Yuba/Sutter Mental Health.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- R1. The Yuba County Grand Jury recommends that the Yuba County Sheriff commend Jail staff for their dedication and hard work.
- R2. The Yuba County Grand Jury recommends the Yuba County Board of Supervisors commend the Sheriff and the Sheriff's Department staff for their excellent work.

REQUEST FOR RESPONSES

Pursuant to Penal code section 933.05, the grand jury requests responses as follows:

From the following individuals:

- Yuba County Sheriff, R1

From the following governing bodies:

- Yuba County Board of Supervisors, R2

The governing bodies indicated above should be aware that the comment or response of the governing body must be conducted subject to the notice, agenda and open meeting requirements of the Brown Act.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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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. |
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Yuba County Grand Jury 2011-2012

Juvenile Hall Report



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JUVENILE HALL REPORT

SUMMARY

There are three juvenile detention facilities in Marysville, which are managed by the Yuba County Probation Department. These facilities are the Yuba-Sutter Juvenile Hall, the Maxine Singer Youth Guidance Center and the Yuba-Sutter Juvenile Hall Secure Housing Unit. These facilities are used to house troubled youths under the age of 18 from Yuba and Sutter Counties, as well as from six other northern California counties. Members of the Grand Jury found these facilities to be generally well maintained and provide many supportive programs. It was found, however, the video surveillance system in Juvenile Hall continues to be inadequate, as noted in previous Grand Jury reports. Also, there is damaged insulation within the indoor recreation area of the Maxine Singer Youth Guidance Center. Two thirds of the funding for the facilities is provided by Yuba and Sutter Counties and the remainder is provided from negotiated contracts with other counties.

GLOSSARY

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| Juvenile Hall | Yuba-Sutter Juvenile Hall |
| SHU | Yuba-Sutter Juvenile Hall Secure Housing Unit |
| Camp Singer | Maxine Singer Youth Guidance Center |

BACKGROUND

Under a joint agreement between Yuba and Sutter counties, the Yuba-Sutter Juvenile Hall and the Camp Singer were established in 1976 and 1996 respectively. The Yuba County Probation Department is the responsible administrative agency.

California Penal Code section §919(b) mandates that the Grand Jury annually inspect all prisons and jails located within the county which it serves. Due to the bi-county arrangement, the facilities are inspected by both Yuba and Sutter County Grand Juries. The State of California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation also inspects these facilities.

APPROACH

Members of the Grand Jury met with senior staff and toured Juvenile Hall, the SHU and Camp Singer on three separate occasions. During one of the tours, lunch was shared in the dining room with wards and staff.

DISCUSSION

There are three juvenile detention facilities located in Marysville: Juvenile Hall, the SHU, and Camp Singer.

Members of the Grand Jury were given tours of the three facilities. The tours included the intake and visiting areas, the general housing units, SHU, kitchen, dining hall, indoor and outdoor recreational areas, Camp Singer and classrooms.

Juvenile Hall is a 45-bed detention facility for less-violent offenders under the age of 18. This facility consists of three wings: a common area, visiting room and classrooms, plus an outdoor recreation area. The juveniles are housed according to gender and only intermingle during school hours and meal times. Juveniles held in this facility are awaiting court proceeding. The average stay in Juvenile Hall is three weeks to three months. Visitation is limited to two hours per week in order to minimize the possibility of negative outside influences.

Juvenile Hall includes a separate 15-bed Secure Housing Unit (SHU) for the segregation of more serious and violent offenders. The SHU is a single building with its own enclosed outdoor recreation area, classroom, shower and bathrooms. The SHU was not in use at the time of the Grand Jury's tours.

Camp Singer is a minimum security facility with a maximum capacity of 48 male and 12 female offenders. The juveniles housed here are selected by their case judge for rehabilitation, rather than just incarceration. The main objectives of Camp Singer are community protection and the redirection of negative or delinquent behavior. In Camp Singer, the juveniles are segregated by gender, but unlike Juvenile Hall, there are no cells. Juveniles are housed in a dormitory-style setting, with individual sleeping cubicles. Camp Singer includes its own classrooms and indoor/outdoor recreational areas. The kitchen, shared between Camp Singer and Juvenile Hall, provides three hot meals each day for both wards and staff.

Both Juvenile Hall and Camp Singer run on a points system. Points are awarded by staff and teachers. As the minors earn more points, they attain a higher status (C, B, A, Super A). With the higher status come rewards, which can include; later bedtime, different recreational activities and special visits with immediate family, who may bring outside food.

Within two days of arrival, each juvenile is given a complete medical and physical examination. The average detention time for a juvenile at Camp Singer is 7-12 months. A tattoo removal program, funded by public and private donations, is available. There are higher expectations of conduct at Camp Singer than at Juvenile Hall or the SHU.