

RESPONSE TO GRAND JURY REPORT

Report Title: Jails and Law enforcement facilities

Report Date: 06/27/2017

Response by: W. Honsal, Sheriff, County of Humboldt

FINDINGS

1. The Sheriff agrees with findings F1-F12, F14-19.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Require further analysis: R1-R3, R6, R8, R10, R14, R17, R18
2. Recommendations has been implemented: R5, R11, R13, R16
3. Recommendations has been partially implemented: R7, R9
4. Recommendations has not been implemented, but will be implemented in the future: R4, R15

Date: _____

Signed: _____

Number of pages attached: _____

RESPONSE TO GRAND JURY REPORT – FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS SUMMARY STATEMENT

Recommendations

R1. The Humboldt County Civil Grand Jury recommends that the Humboldt County Correctional Facility review and revamp its procedures related to the treatment of inmates who are, or are suspected to be, mentally ill to ensure that they receive timely and appropriate care.

Further Analysis is required.

The Humboldt County Sheriffs office is in the process of reviewing our policies and practices with DHHS Mental Health to ensure the persons who are in the care and custody of the Sheriff are receiving the best mental health care possible. Additionally we regularly attend the Mental Health E/R SubCommittee meetings hosted by the Humboldt/Del Norte Medical society which discusses MH issues in the community to include the hospitals, correctional facility, law enforcement in the field and county mental health. The Sheriff's office recognizes that the HCCF has a growing population of inmates that need these essential services. Due to the fact that the State Hospitals are impacted by the great need in the state, the Correctional facility needs to expand existing services. We have also began using a Jail Based Competency Program out of Sacramento in addition to the Department of State Hospitals in an effort to get those individuals deemed incompetent to stand trial to a competency program sooner. The Sheriff's Office is working closely with DHHS Mental Health to be proactive on this growing need.

R2. The Humboldt County Civil Grand Jury recommends that a minimum of one mental health staff member be available 24/7 at the Humboldt County Correctional Facility.

Further Analysis is required.

At this time there is no identified funding source available to provide this service of 24/7 mental health clinician coverage. This is something the Humboldt County Sheriff's Office would welcome as there would be a great benefit to have MH staff available at all times in the correctional facility. With new Title 15 requirements that anyone placed in a safety cell be assessed by MH within 12 hours of placement having MH staff 24/7 would reduce the burden from Semper Virens staff having to come to the facility after hours to meet this statute. This would require an analysis of available funding whether it between through DHSS or the Sheriff's Office to determine the staff cost to increase MH staff to 24/7.

R3. The Humboldt County Civil Grand Jury recommends a review of the pay scale and other incentives of County law enforcement personnel to ensure fair compensation to correctional deputies at the Humboldt County Correctional Facility.

Further Analysis is required.

The Sheriff's Office recognizes that the Correctional Staff are underpaid for the highly important position they hold in the county. The County is in active negotiations with the Correctional Deputies association.

R4. The Humboldt County Civil Grand Jury recommends that all camera equipment at the Humboldt County Correctional Facility be upgraded to include recording capability.

The recommendation has yet been implemented, but will be implanted in the future.

The HCCF has just completed a \$203,711.57 upgrade to its PLC Security System. The security system is over 20 years old and was in need of upgrading. By doing so will allow the facilities security system to run more efficiently. Each year HCCF budgets approx. \$15,000 For continued upgrades, and camera replacements. This year we are focusing on doubling the amount of recording capabilities. Starting to upgrade our current outdated system will also enable us to have a smoother transition when we are connecting to the new SB 863 Re-Entry Facility. The Sheriff's office is also exploring the use of Body Worn Camera's in the facility.

R5. The Humboldt County Civil Grand Jury recommends that the County identify another licensed pathologist who can fill in at the Humboldt County Coroner's Office if the individual currently under contract becomes unavailable.

The recommendation has been implemented

The Humboldt County Coroner has identified several licensed pathologists that could fill in if necessary. The issue is that they are located outside of Humboldt County and would add additional expense for travel time and lodging. We continue to look for another local pathologist but have not been able to locate one at this time. The recommendation has been implemented knowing that it will add additional costs if and when we use these other pathologists.

R6. The Humboldt County Civil Grand Jury recommends that necessary maintenance and upgrades be performed to address structural inadequacies at the Humboldt County Coroner's Office, including aging infrastructure, asbestos, insufficient space, and a poorly-functioning ventilation system.

Further analysis is required.

The Humboldt County Coroner's Office facilities are inadequate for our current needs. The building is antiquated and in need of constant maintenance. The limited space creates a constant problem for storage of Coroner supplies and decedents belongings. We have no secure parking for our vehicles. Due to the limited amount of space available, restructuring or remodeling our current facility is not a viable option. As always, cost incurred obtaining a new facility remains an issue. This recommendation requires further study and analysis in order to come up with a solution.

R7. The Humboldt County Civil Grand Jury recommends that the outdated equipment at the Humboldt County Coroner's Office, including its backup power system, be replaced immediately.

The recommendation has been partially implemented.

Autopsy equipment and supplies have recently been purchased to replace outdated equipment. The backup power system has received recent maintenance and is currently working as intended. The fact that the coroner's office infrastructure is antiquated causes a consistent challenge with the agency.

R8. The Humboldt County Civil Grand Jury recommends that an X-ray machine be purchased and installed at the Humboldt County Coroner's Office.

Further analysis is required.

Currently Deputy Coroner's are required to transport decedents to Mad River Hospital during the hours of 10:00 PM and 6:00 AM to obtain X-Ray services. This adds overtime expense and disruption to the sleep cycle of the on call Deputy Coroner. We agree that adding X-Ray capabilities to our office would reduce overtime costs and improve the working conditions of our Deputy Coroners. The recommendation requires further analysis as to the estimated cost and how to pay for the system, which we are currently doing.

R9. The Humboldt County Civil Grand Jury recommends that the Humboldt County Sheriff's Office address the issues raised in this and previous reports regarding the Garberville Substation including: bringing it into compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, installing an external emergency phone for public use, and installing directional signage on Redwood Drive.

Recommendations have been partially implemented.

The Sheriff's Office and County Officials are aware of the compliance requirements for The Americans with Disabilities Act. The County and the Sheriff's Office intend to implement the Grand Jury recommendations for ADA compliancy. The Sheriff's office and the CAO are actively looking at new facilities in the Garberville area because the substation would be too costly to repair the ADA requirements.

The Sheriff's Office recognizes the need for an external emergency phone at the Garberville Sheriff's Station. The recommendation has not been implemented, but the Sheriff's Office Intends to implement the recommendation in the future. Research for completing the project is currently underway. When there is a new facility identified, an external phone should be a part of the project.

The recommendation regarding directional signage on Redwood drive has been addressed with Humboldt County Public Works, and will be implemented in the near future.

R10. The Humboldt County Civil Grand Jury recommends that the Humboldt County Sheriff's Office install a second router at the Garberville Substation to provide a dual system approach to guaranteeing internet communications with other law enforcement agencies.

Further analysis is required.

The Sheriff's Office is working with the County Information technology department to determine the best way to ensure a redundant communication system is in place at the Garberville Substation.

R11. The Humboldt County Civil Grand Jury recommends that the Humboldt County Sheriff's Office ensure that all workers in its SWAP yards wear appropriate safety gear as required by OSHA.

Recommendation has been implemented

Recently the Sheriff SWAP program has already revised and implemented several Safety Video, Safety Acknowledgment Forms, and Daily Safety Briefings which inmates sign once the office has completed the safety briefing. We have posted all appropriate Workman's Comp Notices and OSHA paperwork. The Sheriff SWAP Officers are issuing the following safety equipment: Helmets, Gloves, and Chain Saw Chaps to inmates who are sawyers. Appropriate Safety Clothing and equipment are continually being purchased and monitored by SWAP officers.

R13. The Humboldt County Civil Grand Jury recommends that the Humboldt County Sheriff's Office post additional fire evacuation plans in appropriate places throughout its Main Office.

Recommendation has been implemented.

The Sheriffs' office has posted the recommended evacuation routes for the main office in several prominent locations throughout the facility.

R14. The Humboldt County Civil Grand Jury recommends that the Humboldt County Sheriff's Office undertake negotiations with the owner of the McKinleyville Substation building to install air-conditioning in the facility.

Further Analysis is required.

The McKinleyville station is owned by the McKinleyville Community Services district. We are in communication with the Community Services district to upgrade several things within the facility to be in compliance with ADA, to expand the facility to accommodate a growing staff, and to ensure that the environment they work in is comfortable.

R15. The Humboldt County Civil Grand Jury recommends that the Humboldt County Sheriff's Office install directional signage on Central Avenue for the McKinleyville Substation.

The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future.

Various funding sources are available for such a project. The most appropriate source needs to be identified. Secondly, a location for the signage needs to be determined. Thirdly, this recommendation will require the participation of County Public Works and MCSD as the Sheriff's Office does not have the means or authority to install such signage on its own. There is also a possibility, as this recommendation moves forward, that other agencies or groups may be identified who have a vested interest in such a project and will require their participation and/or authorization.

R16. The Humboldt County Civil Grand Jury recommends that the Humboldt County Sheriff's Office procure a backup generator, fire extinguishers and rescue equipment for the Willow Creek Substation.

The recommendation has already been implemented.

The Trinity River Division now has on site a backup generator, fire extinguishers and comprehensive water rescue kits at the station and in patrol vehicles. Other plans are in motion to dedicate specific specialized rescue equipment such as ATV's, personal watercrafts and boats to the eastern areas of the county. Currently, we only have so many of these resources available and they must be kept in a centralized location for the overall safety of all the communities within Humboldt County.

R17. The Humboldt County Civil Grand Jury recommends that County and city governments engage in a planning process to address issues of safety as well as the short and long term maintenance needs of its law enforcement facilities.

Requires further analysis

The Humboldt County Sheriff's Office recognizes the need to initiate a planning process to address safety and maintenance needs of its County facilities. The CAO and the Sheriff's office are looking at ways to improve infrastructure, repair needed ADA repairs and create a safe environment.

R18. The Humboldt County Civil Grand Jury recommends a collaborative approach between the Sheriff's Office and the Hoopa Valley Tribal Council to identify and develop adequate holding facilities for eastern Humboldt County in the event that the County Correctional Facility becomes inaccessible.

Requires further analysis.

The implementation of an off-site (temporary or emergency) holding facility would be a huge undertaking. Many state and federal rules and regulations would need to be met to have such a facility certified. The facility would have to be in compliance with Title 15 and Title 24. Appropriate location(s) would need to be determined along with funding sources and permits. Even a preexisting facility would require extensive retrofitting to meet just the requirements set by the Board of Corrections alone. There are several alternative routes from the eastern areas of the county to the coast. The HCSO also has the option of working with Trinity and Siskiyou Counties to help temporarily house inmates on an emergency basis. Only in the most severe and extreme situations would we be completely cutoff.