

Jails and Law Enforcement Facilities

SUMMARY

The Humboldt County Civil Grand Jury (HCCGJ) is required by law to visit and report each year on the condition and management of all correctional and holding facilities in Humboldt County. This report is a summary of those visits, and subsequent findings and recommendations. The HCCGJ visited 19 County and State facilities that either process or hold suspected or convicted law-breaking individuals. For each facility, the HCCGJ performed a series of inspections and asked questions that allowed us to assess the condition of the facilities and their compliance to State law and/or standards.

A number of the facilities visited by the HCCGJ offer programs and/or provide public services that merit special recognition. The Humboldt County Correctional Facility supports a number of certificate programs that provide training for inmates leading to employment opportunities upon release. The Sheriff's Work Alternative Program gives qualified inmates the opportunity to live at home and reduce their sentences by performing work that serves the wider community. The Eureka City Police Department, in partnership with the Department of Health and Human Services, created a program that provides vital assistance to the homeless population. The inmates of two state-run conservation camps offer invaluable assistance for fire suppression and other emergencies, as well as performing conservation and community service projects. The Arcata, Eureka and Fortuna Police Departments, and the Sheriff's Office, have volunteer programs that provide additional safety and security to County residents and businesses. These agencies also have K-9 units that offer presentations in schools, as well as providing important services in suspect apprehension and "sniffing-out" drugs and explosives.

In some facilities, the HCCGJ also encountered issues that warrant recommendations. However, it is important to acknowledge that, with very few exceptions, the shortcomings we identify in this report result from limited resources as well as a critical need for long-term planning related to facility upkeep, maintenance and, in some cases, replacement or expansion.

In the Discussion section below, the HCCGJ will offer greater detail on the issues that we believe require action to address deficiencies in operations. These include a number of concerns at the Humboldt County Correctional Facility; the Sheriff-Coroner/Public Administrator Office; Sheriff's Substations in Garberville, McKinleyville and Willow Creek; and the Eureka Police Station.

When taking a broader view of the County as a whole, two significant concerns emerge: first, facility issues that create safety challenges for both personnel and inmates and; second, a lack of holding cells in eastern Humboldt County to house suspected lawbreakers in the event of an emergency situation that prevents transport to the Humboldt County Correctional Facility.

Overall, the HCCGJ was impressed with the dedication and professionalism of the County's law enforcement personnel. They deserve special commendation given the realities of tight (and sometimes insufficient) budgets, understaffing, and the need for physical improvements to the vast majority of aging law enforcement facilities.

BACKGROUND

Penal Code § 919(b) states that the HCCGJ “shall inquire into the condition and management of the public prisons within the county.” To meet the requirements of this code, the HCCGJ annually makes visits to inspect various facilities within the county and evaluate their operations. Some of the facilities are managed by agencies outside Humboldt County but have direct ties to law enforcement agencies within the County.

METHODOLOGY

HCCGJ members made scheduled visits to the various law enforcement facilities in the County between September 2016 and February 2017. Reports of the visits were brought back to the HCCGJ for discussion and, when necessary, follow-up questions were asked of appropriate personnel and administrators. Additional visits also were scheduled as needed.

In assessing the condition and compliance of each facility visited, the HCCGJ considered a number of factors, as appropriate for the specific facility. These included issues such as compliance with State standards; sufficient and appropriately-trained staff; facility resources, maintenance and security; and inmate treatment and services.

Facilities inspected:

Humboldt County Sheriff's Office	
Correctional Facility 901 5. St., Eureka, CA 95501	McKinleyville Substation 1608 Pickett Road, McKinleyville, CA 95519
Coroner's Office 3012 I Street, Eureka, CA 95501	Office of Emergency Services 826 4. Street, Eureka, CA 95501
Evidence Storage 826 4. Street, Eureka, CA 95501	Sheriff's Work Alternative Program (SWAP) Wood Yard 2300 Myrtle Avenue, Eureka, CA 95501
Garberville Substation 648 Locust Street, Garberville, CA 95542	Sheriff's Work Alternative Program (SWAP) Farm 3561 Boeing Avenue, Fortuna, CA 95540
Main Office 826 4th Street, Eureka, CA 95501	Willow Creek Substation 39043 Highway 299, Willow Creek, CA 95573
City Police Departments	
Arcata City Police Department 736 F Street, Arcata, CA 95521	Hoopa Valley Tribal Police Department 12637 CA-96, Hoopa, CA 95546
Eureka City Police Department 604 C Street, Eureka, CA 95501	Rio Dell City Police Department 675 Wildwood Avenue, Rio Dell, CA 95562
Fortuna City Police Department 621 11. Street, Fortuna, CA 95540	

Other Facilities	
Juvenile Hall 2002 Harrison Avenue, Eureka, CA 95501	Northern California Regional Ctr. - New Horizons 2002 Harrison Avenue, Eureka, CA 95501
State of California Facilities Located in Humboldt County	
Eel River Conservation Camp #31 3850 Redwood Drive, Redway, CA 95560	High Rock Conservation Camp #32 23322 Avenue of the Giants, Weott, CA 95571

All facilities listed were toured, although not all are discussed in this report.

DISCUSSION

In our analysis we have focused on the factors identified in the Methodology section as they relate to the sites visited with the intent of identifying any shortcomings and/or strengths. We have defined a “shortcoming” as an observed finding that requires immediate action or attention in the near future. A “strength” is an observation that deserves to be identified as a “Best Practice.”

Humboldt County Correctional Facility

Overview

- **Capacity:** The Humboldt County Correctional Facility (HCCF) has a maximum capacity of 417 male and female inmates (377 was the average in 2016). The inmates are housed in segregated units, predominantly dormitories and individual cells for those who cannot follow procedures, become a threat to themselves or others, require protective custody, or have special medical needs.
- **Condition of the facility:** The facility was constructed in 1994-1995 as a jail, not as a correctional facility. The name was changed after the passage of AB 109 in 2011 which mandated that counties house certain persons who previously had been housed in State Correctional Facilities. Overall, the facility appeared clean. Because it originally was built as a jail for short-term incarceration, no outdoor recreation area is available for inmates being held for long periods of time.
- **Intake:** Inmates are given a medical clearance by a nurse as they enter the facility. However, mental health personnel are not involved in the intake process. New arrests are screened to ensure that medical attention is not needed at the time of booking. If medical assistance is needed at intake, they are transported to the hospital by the arresting agency.
- **Meals/Nutrition:** The kitchen area appeared to be clean with no knives or chemicals visible. It is supervised by HCCF staff. We were told that the inmates working in the kitchen were being trained by Humboldt State University (HSU) staff with the intention of preparing them for employment upon release.
- **Personal appearance:** The inmates we saw were neat and well-groomed. Showers are available. Clothing (orange jumpsuits) appeared to fit reasonably well and were clean.
- **Health:** A medical nurse is available 24/7 and mental health personnel are available 7 days a week from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. There are no mental health personnel available

on-site from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 a.m. Interviews were conducted with four medical/mental health personnel. Given the large number of inmates with mental health issues (60-80 at any given time and approximately 80% of all inmates with drug-related crimes) the prevailing staff opinion included strong advocacy for at least one mental health provider to be available onsite 24/7, as well as additional facilities for mental health patients, and a discharge plan with follow-through to help reduce relapse. The lack of space in state mental hospitals is resulting in severely mentally ill persons, including those who are “incompetent to stand trial,” being housed in the County Correctional Facility, which is not equipped to treat them. Completion of the planned addition to the existing facility may alleviate this situation.

- **Inmate Grievances:** A form is available for inmates to file grievances. It is a three-part process, after which the inmate can take the grievance to court if they are dissatisfied. Several mental/medical health personnel indicated that the form does not provide enough space for the inmates to adequately express the nature of their concerns.
- **Programs:** Exercise locations are available for both men and women. Religious services are available. HSU offers a number of programs to provide job skills including the kitchen program; and College of the Redwoods offers a GED program and college-level courses. Sheriff’s Work Alternative Program (SWAP) and CalTrans programs also are available.
- **Staffing and procedures:** There are approximately 15 officers per shift; some units have one officer for 70+ inmates. New staff members receive 12 weeks of training before starting work, then all staff receive 24 hours of additional training yearly. Correctional deputies and staff are expected to know rules and procedures which are given to inmates in booking. They have bilingual staff (Spanish and English) and court interpreters can be used for American Sign Language (ASL) and other languages as needed. Staff felt that the inmates understood procedures and were rewarded for positive behavior — there are incentives to follow the rules.
- **New facilities:** As discussed in some detail in the 2015-2016 Humboldt County Civil Grand Jury report, in 2015 the County was awarded \$20 million from SB 863 which was allocated to build the Humboldt Community Corrections Reentry Resource Center. When built, this facility will address some of the most pressing needs of the HCCF, including re-entry programs, minimum security beds to free up higher level security beds for those previously sentenced to State prison, and a number of mental health programs. A third story has been proposed that would house approximately 30 mental health inmates, including those who have been deemed incapable of standing trial.

Shortcomings

- There is a need for 24/7 mental health staffing, additional mental health facilities and a discharge plan with follow-through to help address the rate of relapse.
- The inmate grievance form provides a limited amount of space for inmates to describe the nature of their grievance.
- There was an indoor recreation area with a basketball hoop and one piece of equipment. It was clean except for a torn cover over an upper pipe. No outdoor inmate facilities are available.

- They are having difficulty filling mental health nurse positions along with keeping correctional deputies, many of whom transfer to the Sheriff's Office and other law enforcement agencies. Correctional deputies earn less than the County pays sheriff deputies which makes it difficult to recruit and retain new staff who are qualified.
- Not all cameras record (some are for viewing only). HCCF does not have the \$240,000 needed to purchase more recording equipment and additional cameras for the staff.

Strengths

After completing food service training and other types of instruction, such as working with lawn tools, art training, and computer tablets, inmates are given a certificate upon release. We heard a number of success stories of inmates leaving and getting jobs or starting businesses of their own. Numerous opportunities were described related to the educational, motivational and cultural benefits of HCCF inmate programs.

Coroner's Office

Overview

- **Jurisdiction:** The Coroner's Office is under the jurisdiction of the Humboldt County Sheriff. The Sheriff assumes responsibility for the overall management and staffing of, and accountability for, the facility, but is not active in its day-to-day operations.
- **Staffing:** The Chief Deputy Coroner, a Sheriff's Lieutenant, is also the County Public Administrator, a responsibility which consumes approximately 60-80% of his time. Humboldt is one of 48 California counties with this arrangement. The Chief Deputy Coroner supervises a staff that includes four additional Deputy Coroners and a Business Manager. The Deputy Coroners' schedules are arranged such that the office has 24-hour coverage, 365 days per year. However, two Deputy Sheriff Coroner investigators also are on call to the Sheriff's Office if the need arises. (Currently, two other coroner investigators are not certified sheriff's deputies.)
- In 2016, 121 autopsies were performed, 97 non-forensic and 24 forensic. Autopsies for non-forensic deceased are contracted to a local licensed pathologist, but there is no local backup available. The County has no resident forensic pathologist and these cases currently are contracted to the California Forensic Medical Group, which provides a specialist from the Bay Area.
- **Responsibilities:** The Chief Deputy Coroner manages the day-to-day operation of the Coroner's Office and, in the role of County Public Administrator, handles probate for the estates of individuals who die without wills or trusts. According to the Chief Deputy Coroner, the Office handled approximately 400 deaths in 2016 and in that year broke a record for the number of suicides it investigated. Documents and records are kept electronically, with paper backups required for 15 years, except for autopsy reports where paper backups are required "forever."
- **Equipment and Facilities:** The Coroner's Office is located in what was the old General Hospital operating room and includes much of its antiquated equipment. The proximity with Sempervirens Psychiatric Health Facility exposes the Coroner's Office to disturbances in the parking lot created by mental health clients.

Shortcomings

- Backup is needed for the local licensed pathologist.
- The facility is inefficient, antiquated and cramped; it has ceiling leaks, exposed pipes, and is non-ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) compliant.
- The ventilation system does not function well which creates an unhealthy environment for staff and visitors. Doors often are left open to allow for some circulation.
- The backup power system is unreliable, highlighted by the failure of a recent test.
- In terms of critical facility upgrades, Coroner's Office staff noted that: "Funds are not available. Humboldt County operates on crises management."
- Much of the equipment is outdated and, in some cases, needed items are provided by the employees. Necessary equipment upgrades include, but are not limited to, improved lighting, an adjustable autopsy table, and various surgical instruments.
- The office does not have an X-ray machine, so remains must be transported to other facilities when such services are required.

Strengths

- Having a separate physical office certified for autopsies is an important rationale for maintaining this particular facility. Most county coroners in the State do not have this benefit. It saves the considerable expense of using local hospital facilities or transporting remains to localities out-of-county.
- Outdoor ramp access has been improved significantly, which was a recommendation in a previous Grand Jury report.
- As a result of Measure Z funds, two additional Deputy Coroners have been hired.
- The Office has received new fingerprint equipment that proves very helpful in the identification process.
- In spite of the rundown condition of the facility, the Office staff approaches its work professionally and with a competent demeanor, displaying a positive attitude under trying conditions.

Garberville Sheriff Substation

Overview

This facility is approximately 70-years old and has three holding cells which can be used in emergency situations. The Substation is staffed 24/7 by a minimum of two Sheriff deputies per shift, none of whom live in Garberville.

Shortcomings

- The building is non-ADA compliant. There is no wheelchair access through its main entrance and the restroom facilities are non-compliant. (See Grand Jury reports 2001-2002, 2002-2003, 2003-2004, 2015-2016.) We have been informed that this is being addressed by the County's new ADA Compliance Manager, but it needs to be given priority as it could affect the safety of the community.
- There is no external phone for use by the public in the event of emergencies when no one is available in the Substation. (See Grand Jury reports 2005-2006, 2015-2016.)
- There are no directional signs to the Substation on Redwood Drive, the main road in Garberville. (See Grand Jury Reports 2010-2011, 2011-2012, 2015-2016.)
- Currently, all computer communications in the Substation run through one router. Should this router fail, all internet communications with other law enforcement agencies would be lost.

Strengths

- The Substation is now fully staffed, operating 24/7, and is better able to support southern Humboldt County communities, including Shelter Cove, Alder Point and Briceland, among others. This is in large part due to Measure Z funding.
- They have a backup generator and a communication system that is connected with Arcata, Rio Dell, and Fortuna.

Sheriff's Work Alternative Program (SWAP)

Overview

The Humboldt County Sheriff's Work Alternative Program (SWAP) provides an alternative to incarceration for eligible inmates who have a sentence of 180 days or less. Qualified inmates may choose to participate in the Wood or Farm operations instead of serving time in jail. They are released to their homes and come in to work on weekday mornings. Each day at SWAP takes one day off the sentence. Both operations provide community services as well as teaching skills that can prove valuable once the sentence is served.

- The SWAP Wood Yard is located in Eureka and produces about 1,000 cords of wood per year, much of which goes to senior citizens through a voucher program. Also, cords of wood often are donated to local nonprofit organizations for fundraisers. At the time of our visit, about 170 people worked at the yard. The primary work season runs from August through November, after which they stockpile for the next season.
- The SWAP Farm is located on 84 acres of airport property adjacent to the Rohnerville Airport, made available for an agreed-upon amount of airport landscaping hours per year. The farm raises crops, vegetables and livestock. When we visited, there was a new baby calf and two others were on the way. They also maintain an impressive number of pigs of various ages. Animal and vegetable products feed inmates at the Correctional Facility as well as generating funds to subsidize the operation. During 2016, workers installed bird deterrents which protect the plants at the farm, as well as reducing airport hazards.

Shortcomings

- The SWAP Wood Yard is adjacent to Juvenile Hall and, as part of the current construction of its new facility, dirt is being dumped on the Wood Yard site which temporarily will render approximately 50% of the site unusable for cordwood operations. This will significantly reduce the amount of cordwood the Yard is able to produce.
- During the tour of the SWAP Farm, a worker operating a chainsaw was not wearing protective headgear or goggles, a violation of OSHA requirements. Grand Jury members were told that the headgear and goggles caused the operators to sweat, which created discomfort and eye irritation.

Strengths

- Participating inmates can live at home, be with their families, and retain employment, which alleviates pressure in the jail and is a cost-saving measure for the County.
- SWAP provides excellent service to the community overall and, in terms of wood, for senior citizens, in particular.
- The people who run the SWAP program are extremely well-trained, dedicated and enthusiastic about the work they do and the services they provide.

Arcata City Police Department

Overview

- The Arcata Police Department (APD) is located adjacent to City Hall with the entrance on 7th Street. A phone, with appropriate signage, is located immediately outside the station door so that those requiring ADA access can request assistance.
- The facility has one holding cell which is seldom used and, when used, it is for no more than one or two hours prior to transport to the Humboldt County Correctional Facility.
- During the past year, they acquired ten body cameras which currently are in use by APD officers.
- The 2015-2016 HCCGJ report noted the lack of a restroom in proximity to the dispatch area which presented a practical problem when only one dispatcher was working. At the time of our tour, this had been remedied with a restroom now located next to the dispatch center.

Strengths

- At the time of the tour, we were informed that the APD was fully staffed for the first time in a number of years. Also, three positions were added through Measure Z funding, one working with Arcata High School and two as Juvenile Diversion Officers.
- The APD maintains an ongoing and very positive relationship with the Humboldt State University Police Department.

- The APD continues to provide bicycle patrols for public events on the Arcata Plaza.
- The facility houses a K-9 unit, which is a valuable asset in terms of suspect apprehension, and locating drugs and explosives.
- APD is the only police station that has an antidote for opiate over-dosing immediately available.
- The APD has a Citizen Volunteer Patrol Program (CVPP) through which citizen volunteers provide thousands of hours of service per year, including neighborhood patrols to protect the security of Arcata's residents and businesses.

Eureka City Police Department

Overview

- The Eureka Police Department (EPD) is located in downtown Eureka across from the Humboldt Bay Fire headquarters. The facility occupies nearly a half block with secure parking using a B Street entrance off of Sixth Street. It consists of two floors and has no holding cells.
- The EPD still has a paper filing system, with records dating back as far as 1985, which encompasses a large part of the physical space in the building. They currently are in the process of converting these files to digital.
- At the time of our tour, the computer-aided dispatch system in use was not compatible with other County departments, however we were informed that this is being addressed.
- The Department handles between 80,000 to 100,000 calls per year, and they handle approximately 15,000 cases each year.
- Currently, the California State Department of Justice (DOJ) provides a forensic evidence investigator to the EPD. This individual offers services to all County police departments and, since the position exists outside of the local law-enforcement chain-of command, brings an unbiased perspective to local investigations. However, the DOJ may discontinue this service due to budgetary cutbacks.

Shortcomings

- There is one entrance in and out of the parking area, with block walls surrounding the perimeter. In the event of a disaster or purposeful blockage of this singular entrance, EPD vehicles would find it impossible to leave the headquarters.
- The loss of the DOJ forensic evidence investigator would be a blow to the EPD, as well as to other law enforcement agencies in the County.

Strengths

- The Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and the EPD have created the Mobile Intervention and Services Team (MIST), partially funded through Measure Z, which works with homeless people who need help securing services such as mental health.

- The EPD has a very active volunteer program—the uniformed Eureka Volunteer Patrol—which provides a number of valuable services related to residential security, traffic control at major events, crime scene security and neighborhood watch.
- The facility houses a K-9 unit, which is a valuable asset in terms of suspect apprehension, and locating drugs and explosives.

Juvenile Hall

Overview

- Currently a new facility is being constructed on lease-leaseback involving State bonds.
- An adequate outdoor recreation area is available.
- The cafeteria also serves for visitation and recreation, somewhat like a multipurpose room.
- There were private meeting rooms in the treatment center, and visiting rooms for the detention center.
- One-third of the budget comes from the general fund of the County, and the rest of the money comes from State and Federal grants under Title 4E. Measure Z provided five additional probation officers.
- There were thirteen detainees during this visit, 12-18 years old. The average occupancy is nine to twelve detainees per day.
- Fire drills are performed monthly.

Strengths

- Juvenile Hall provides good educational opportunities. The Humboldt County Office of Education provides teachers and dedicated volunteers offer assistance. Juveniles can earn credits that are applied to their high school graduation requirements.
- Personnel use positive motivation through a point system to reward appropriate behavior. The points can be used to purchase small items.

Eel River Conservation Camp #31 and High Rock Conservation Camp #32

Overview

The Eel River and High Rock Conservation Camps are run by the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR). Both are minimum security facilities. The CDCR manages 44 facilities throughout California, 43 for adults and one for juveniles. Their primary mission is inmate rehabilitation by providing a trained work force for fire suppression and other emergencies such as floods and earthquakes. In addition, inmates engage in conservation projects on public lands and provide labor on local community service projects. In both facilities, it costs \$80 a day for the first 30 days to house an inmate, and then \$10 a day after that. There are certain physical requirements that have to be met in order to be eligible for the program, including restrictions on medications.

Eel River Conservation Camp #31

- The property and buildings are owned by Cal Fire, which shares the site with the Conservation Camp.
- As of April 18, 2016, there were 98 inmates. The facility can hold 130.
- The site was originally designed as a state penitentiary, which then was relocated to Crescent City; however, the camp has the underground infrastructure intended for the penitentiary, including the sewer system and concrete slabs.
- Although the facility is old, it is well maintained, and consists of an administration building, kitchen and cafeteria, two separate housing buildings, a recreational building (which includes television rooms, a library and pool table), a small sanctuary and music room, and a hobby shop with woodworking equipment.
- 70% of the inmates are released into society.
- There is a large greenhouse which feeds the camp and also provides food to other camps.
- In addition to their work with Cal Fire, inmates provide a number of community service activities which include producing firewood for senior centers, providing services for school districts and state parks, cleaning up homeless camps, and working on County roads.

High Rock Conservation Camp #32

- The property and buildings are owned by California State Parks, which shares the site with the Conservation Camp.
- The Camp includes a woodshop and garden which are very impressive.
- Exercise and recreational facilities are available, including a track that circles the camp where inmates can jog, and a large television room with a pool table and small library.
- Camp inmates mill and cure redwood lumber and assemble it into tables, benches, signs, jewelry boxes, etc., which have earned a reputation for quality and excellence.
- The camp provides a number of community service projects, including grounds maintenance for schools, fairgrounds, and cemeteries; and providing fundraising services for agencies such as Miranda Pet Rescue and CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates).

Strengths of Conservation Camps #31 and #32

- The Camps create a huge financial relief to the state through firefighting; it's a win-win situation.
- They offer impressive rehabilitation programs that help train inmates and prepare them for jobs.

- During the off-season, they engage in community service projects, including parks, schools, roadside cleanup, airports, nonprofits, etc.
- Inmates learn how to work together as a team, a skill that is needed if one is to succeed in society.

Other Facilities Visited

The following provides a brief summary of observations and, in some cases, concerns related to other sites that were toured.

Sheriff's Main Office:

This Office is located on the ground floor of the Humboldt County Courthouse at 826 4th St. in Eureka. The overall staffing and management of the Office seems appropriate, and there is an adequate area for the public to interface with office personnel. We did note a number of issues, some of them related to the age and maintenance problems that are common in many County facilities, such as limited space and a poor ventilation system. Although a fire evacuation plan is posted in the main office hallway, the layout of the offices raises concerns regarding the swift evacuation of all personnel in the event of an emergency. The Sheriff's Office also oversees the Sheriff's Citizens on Patrol, a volunteer organization that provides valuable safety and security functions for County residents and businesses. In addition, the Office has a K-9 unit, which is a valuable asset in terms of suspect apprehension, and locating drugs and explosives.

McKinleyville Substation:

This station, located at 1608 Pickett Road just off of Central Avenue, is operated through a lease agreement with the McKinleyville Community Services District (MCSD). They currently are replacing their fleet with 4-wheel drive vehicles which will improve their coverage and efficiency. Also, additional personnel have been added through Measure Z funding. The Substation is not completely fenced and, on the south side of the facility, there are windows that are exposed to the general public that are not bulletproof. The facility also lacks any security cameras, adding to the unsafe condition of the facility. Station personnel advised that lack of air-conditioning leads to personnel discomfort and fatigue, as well as potentially compromising temperature-sensitive equipment. There are no directional signs to the substation on Central Avenue.

Office of Emergency Services:

The County Office of Emergency Services (OES) is located in the basement of the Humboldt County Courthouse at 826 4th St. Its responsibilities include coordinating and participating in emergency planning, response, and recovery. The OES is overseen by the County Sheriff and works in collaboration with local, state, and federal partners. Although there were a number of concerns noted regarding a backup pump, generator and antenna for radio communications, the Sheriff has a Mobile Command Center off-site in the event the OES became unusable.

Willow Creek Substation:

This substation, located at 39043 Highway 299, is relatively new, having opened November 2, 2016. At the time of our tour, the facility was clean and well-organized. As of April 2017, there were 10-12 assigned officers who are rotated to provide 24/7 coverage in the Substation. Four of the officers live locally. Although the current equipment is new, considerable additional equipment is needed including a generator, fire extinguishers and rescue equipment. We were informed by Substation personnel that, given the location and the area it services, the Substation requires at least one ATV to provide off-road and rapid response capabilities, and a boat for water transport and rescues.

Fortuna City Police Department:

The facility, located at 621 11th Street, appeared clean and in good condition, and is ADA compliant. The facility has two holding cells. Currently, one is used as an armory and the other for storage. In the event of an emergency or natural disaster, one of them could be used as a holding cell if emptied of stored items. The dispatch center can be linked with Arcata and McKinleyville. They also service Ferndale for 911 calls. The Station shares the building with City Hall and they have insufficient space to address their needs. However, the City has purchased property on 12th Street for a new Station, the plans have been drawn, and the estimate to build is \$9 million. Fortuna also has a Citizen's on Patrol unit which provides a number of important security and crime-prevention related activities. In addition, the Station houses a K-9 unit, which is a valuable asset in terms of suspect apprehension and locating drugs and explosives.

Hoopa Valley Tribal Police Department:

Located on Highway 96, the Tribal Police Department employs four officers who are funded by the Tribe. Their dispatch system interfaces with the County Sheriff's Office, and they also handle dispatch for Orleans and Willow Creek. Currently, no holding facility is available and plans for a new facility are undefined.

Rio Dell City Police Department:

The Department is located at 675 Wildwood Avenue. When we visited, the officers were upbeat, energetic, and had a positive outlook. Not unlike many other County enforcement facilities, the building is quite dated with limited space, maintenance needs and other concerns, including ADA compliance and facility security.

Northern California Regional Center - New Horizons:

The 2015-2016 HCCGJ report offered some in-depth information regarding the New Horizons juvenile rehabilitation program and its impressive results in reducing recidivism rates. The facility is located adjacent to the Humboldt County Juvenile Hall and was built in 1998. Although intended for rehabilitation, the building still maintains an institutional character. Individual rooms have a bed, chair and desk, and juveniles are allowed to put up artwork. The average stay is 4-6 months, with many of the rooms leased for juveniles from out-of-county. DHHS is under contract to provide mental health and other program services, and on-site nurses are available. Security appeared to be tight and well-managed, with a central control area and cameras. During our tour, the staff seemed committed to its goals of instilling self-discipline and pride in the residents.

Additional Concerns:**Safety**

Overall, the County's law enforcement facilities have safety issues. These include, in many cases, the facility's age and maintenance needs, absence of security cameras and, in all cases, lack of bulletproof glass, especially where the glass is easily accessible to the public.

Holding Facilities

Law enforcement facilities in eastern Humboldt County do not have holding cells. In the event of an emergency situation that did not allow transport to the Humboldt County Correctional Facility, there would be no secured space to house suspected lawbreakers.

FINDINGS

- F1. The law enforcement personnel with whom we interacted on our tours or interviewed in our investigation projected a high degree of dedication to their work and to the well-being of those they serve.
- F2. Mentally ill inmates at the Humboldt County Correctional Facility require more comprehensive care, and procedures need revamping.
- F3. The Mental Health staff at the Humboldt County Correctional Facility is not available 24/7 which compromises the health of the inmates and safety within the facility.
- F4. The pay scale for Humboldt County Correctional Facility Correctional Deputies is lower than comparable law enforcement entities, which places the Facility at a disadvantage in retaining trained and qualified personnel.
- F5. Many Humboldt County Correctional Facility cameras do not have recording capability which compromises the overall safety of personnel and inmates within the facility.
- F6. The Humboldt County Coroner's Office contracts with one local licensed pathologist and has no backup if that individual is unavailable.
- F7. The Humboldt County Coroner's Office facility has significant structural inadequacies, including aging infrastructure, asbestos, insufficient space and a poorly-functioning ventilation system.
- F8. Much of the equipment in the Humboldt County Coroner's Office is outdated, worn out, and inadequate, including its backup power system.
- F9. The Humboldt County Coroner's Office does not have an X-ray machine, which delays the autopsy process and creates additional expense over the long term.
- F10. As referenced in a number of previous Humboldt County Civil Grand Jury reports, the Garberville Substation has a number of shortcomings which affect public access and safety including non-compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), no available external emergency phone for public use when no one is available in the Substation, and no directional signage to aid citizens in locating the station.

- F11. All computer communications in the Garberville Substation run through one router. Failure of this single router could result in a loss of internet communications with other law enforcement agencies.
- F12. At the SWAP Farm, workers are allowed to operate chainsaws without wearing safety goggles and headgear as required by OSHA.
- F13. The Eureka Police Department (EPD) has just one entrance/exit for department vehicles from its only parking lot. If it were blocked, vehicles would be unable to leave the parking lot.
- F14. The posting of one fire evacuation plan in the Sheriff's Main Office is insufficient to ensure the swift and safe removal of all personnel in the event of an emergency.
- F15. The McKinleyville Substation has no air-conditioning which causes staff discomfort and fatigue, as well as potentially compromising temperature-sensitive equipment.
- F16. There is no directional signage for the McKinleyville Substation to aid citizens in locating the facility.
- F17. The Willow Creek Substation lacks a backup generator, fire extinguishers and rescue equipment which compromise safety and effectiveness.
- F18. Safety issues at County law enforcement facilities, which include problems associated with age, maintenance, and lack of bulletproof glass, create safety challenges for both personnel and inmates.
- F19. The lack of holding cells in law enforcement facilities that serve eastern Humboldt County presents a significant challenge in the event of an emergency that makes the Humboldt County Correctional Facility inaccessible.

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. **(F2)**
- 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. **(F3)**
- 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. **(F4)**
- R4. The Humboldt County Civil Grand Jury recommends that all camera equipment at the Humboldt County Correctional Facility be upgraded to include recording capability. **(F5)**
- 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. **(F6)**
- 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. **(F7)**

- 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. **(F8)**
- R8. The Humboldt County Civil Grand Jury recommends that an X-ray machine be purchased and installed at the Humboldt County Coroner's Office. **(F9)**
- 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. **(F10)**
- 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. **(F11)**
- 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. **(F12)**
- R12. The Humboldt County Civil Grand Jury recommends that the Eureka Police Department provide additional entrance and exit capabilities for its parking lot. **(F13)**
- 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. **(F14)**
- 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. **(F15)**
- 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. **(F16)**
- 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. **(F17)**
- 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. **(F18)**
- 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. **(F19)**

REQUIRED RESPONSES

Pursuant to Penal code section 933.05, the Humboldt County Civil Grand Jury requires responses as follows:

- Humboldt County Sheriff's Office (**R1, R2, R3, R4, R5, R6, R7, R8, R9, R10, R11, R13, R14, R15, R16, R17, R18**)
- Humboldt County Board of Supervisors (**R3, R6, R9, R17, R18**)
- Eureka City Police Department (**R12, R17, R18**)
- Arcata City Police Department (**R17, R18**)
- Fortuna City Police Department (**R17, R18**)
- Rio Dell City Police Department (**R17, R18**)

INVITED RESPONSES

- Humboldt County Human Resources Department (**R3**)
- McKinleyville Community Services District (**R14**)
- Hoopa Valley Tribal Police Department (**R17, R18**)

Reports issued by the 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 Grand Jury.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

California Penal Code <http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/>

"Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 Public Law 101-336"

https://www.ada.gov/regs2010/titleII_2010/titleII_2010_withbold.htm. July 26, 1990

"OSHA Fact Sheet: Working Safely with Chain Saws"

https://www.osha.gov/OshDoc/data_Hurricane_Facts/chainsaws.pdf