

RESPONSE TO GRAND JURY REPORT

Report Title: Jails and Facilities

Report Date: 06/20/2018

Response by: Board of Supervisors, County of Humboldt

FINDINGS

1. The Board agrees with findings F2, F6, F7.
2. The Board disagrees wholly or partially with findings F3, F5.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Recommendations have been implemented: R1
2. Recommendations has not been implemented, but will be implemented in the future:
3. Require further analysis:
4. Will not be implemented: R2, R5, R7

Date: _____

Signed: _____

Number of pages attached: _____

RESPONSE TO GRAND JURY REPORT – FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS SUMMARY STATEMENT

Findings

F3. If the Humboldt County Correctional Facility staffing level was adequate, the need for mandatory overtime would be eliminated.

Response: Partially disagree

While full staffing levels would drastically reduce the amount of mandatory overtime needed, there is no doubt that circumstances could arise such as medical leaves, injuries and vacations that could put such a strain on staff as to mandate overtime.

F5. Mental Health staffing levels at the Humboldt County Correctional Facility are inadequate and there is insufficient discharge planning to provide inmates access to mental health services upon release from the facility.

Response: Disagree

Mental Health staffing levels fluctuate throughout the year due to staff turnover, vacation, medical leaves, and other unexpected life events, and as of the time of the writing of this response staffing levels are adequate. However, recruiting mental health clinicians is difficult. Currently there are staff in place who are responsible for discharge planning.

Recommendations

R1. The Humboldt County Civil Grand Jury recommends the Humboldt County Sheriff and the Board of Supervisors raise entry level salaries for deputies working in the Humboldt County Correctional Facility to achieve competitiveness with other counties of similar size. This change should be in place by December 25, 2018.

Response: This recommendation has already been implemented.

R2. The Humboldt County Civil Grand Jury recommends the Board of Supervisors develop a contract for mental health services within the Humboldt County Correctional Facility similar to the contract for medical services with the California Forensic Medical Group (CFMG). This change should be in place by December 25, 2018.

Response: This recommendation will not be implemented.

Mental Health staffing levels fluctuate throughout the year due to staff turnover, vacation, medical leaves, and other unexpected life events, and as of the time of the writing of this response staffing levels are adequate. However, recruiting mental health clinicians is difficult and staff at the correctional facility and Department of Health & Human Services are constantly assessing the need to contract for medical services. It should be noted,

however, that even if the county contracts with an entity like CFMG it does not guarantee that it could secure staff; that entity would face recruiting challenges as well.

R5. The Humboldt County Civil Grand Jury recommends the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors approve the budget adjustment requested by the Humboldt County Sheriff's Office for an x-ray machine for the Humboldt County Coroner's Office. This approval should be made by October 15, 2018.

Response: This recommendation will be not be implemented.

The Coroner's Office maintains a five-year plan for fixed asset purchases, and the x-ray machine is slated for the FY 2019-20 budget.

R7. The Humboldt County Civil Grand Jury recommends the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors include in a budget adjustment the funds to address any concerns found by the Humboldt County Public Works Department's inspection report of the Humboldt County Sheriff's Garberville Substation. This adjustment should be made by October 15, 2018.

Response: This recommendation will be partially implemented.

The county is addressing concerns for the Garberville Substation on several fronts. Improvements and repairs are being addressed and decisions for fund allocation will be guided by the Facility Master Plan planning process. The county's plan is to create a Garberville campus, which would house several county departments and programs, including a substation. While that campus is being developed the substation will be moved to a temporary facility. In addition, the county has already allocated funds to address specific items that are part of the county's Americans with Disabilities Act Consent Decree with the Department of Justice.