



PLACER COUNTY GRAND JURY

Placer County Juvenile Detention Facility

Annual Inspection



Placer County Juvenile Detention Facility

Annual Inspection

Summary

The 2016-2017 Placer County Grand Jury conducted its annual inspection of the Placer County Juvenile Detention Facility (JDF) on September 21, 2016. The facility is located at 11260 B Avenue, Auburn and includes a courtroom used for family court, juvenile dependency and juvenile offender hearings.

On the date of inspection, the JDF was clean and well maintained. The staff is knowledgeable about pertinent legal requirements and dedicated to reducing the rate of recidivism. The staff states the focus of the facility is rehabilitation and prevention rather than punishment. They are working with the Placer County Office of Education (PCOE) in providing job-seeking skills and/or educational programs which can lead to a high school diploma.

The JDF continues the Positive Behavioral Intervention Support (PBIS)¹ program. This program allows detainees to earn privileges and/or small rewards through a merit system based on good behavior and following the rules of the JDF.

The Grand Jury commends the staff for providing continuing educational opportunities.

Background

California Penal Code Section 919(b) mandates all grand juries annually inspect all jails and holding facilities. As part of the inspections, the Placer County Grand Jury also includes the JDF, a detention facility for juveniles. The JDF is operated by the Placer County Probation Department in accordance with California Code of Regulations, Title 15, Section 5; Welfare and Institutions Code Section 210; and Juvenile Court law.

¹ Positive Behavior Intervention Support is a program developed by the University of Oregon with support from the University of North Carolina “to establish the social culture and behavioral supports needed for a school to be an effective learning environment for all detainees.”

Methodology

The Grand Jury

- conducted an on-site inspection of the JDF facilities led by the JDF Superintendent and the Assistant Superintendent ;
- developed and used a JDF Inspection checklist to track observations made during the course of the inspection;
- reviewed the Placer County Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention Commission annual inspection report dated June 6, 2016.

Facts

During the inspection the Grand Jury was informed of or observed the following:

- The JDF has a maximum capacity of 78 juveniles, including maximum security housing for up to 18 high-risk juveniles. The average daily number of detainees is 22.
- Housing wings are shared by males and females. Separate cells are designed to prevent line-of-sight vision. On-site staff supervise the inmates around the clock.
- The average stay for detainees is 18 days but varies from days to weeks. However, several detainees have been at the facility for a longer period of time.
- JDF staff is trained in the principles of Trauma Informed Care.²
- The educational level of all minors is assessed upon admission. They attend classes offered by the facility including a provision for independent study.
- Instructional staff consists of two accredited special education teachers and one non-accredited teacher (aide).
- School supplies are available.
- General Education Development (GED) preparation is available, and some detainees are able to earn high school or college credits during their stay.

² According to the Trauma Informed Care Project (<http://www.traumainformedcareproject.org/index.php>) “Trauma Informed Care is an organizational structure and treatment framework that involves understanding, recognizing and responding to the effects of all types of trauma. Trauma Informed Care also emphasizes physical, psychological and emotional safety for both consumers and providers, and helps survivors rebuild a sense of control and empowerment.”

- Students taking Advanced Placement classes in high school cannot continue advanced studies unless books and assignments are made available by their regular school.
- The JDF has a concrete sports court, accessible daily, with a small opening in the roof for sunlight and air. Detainees in the general population also have periodic access to a small garden area and grass field.
- There are on-site anger management classes as well as mental health, drug and alcohol counseling, and a journal-writing program which repeat on a regular basis. Staff brings in outside materials to supplement detainees' job skills programs.
- The JDF has implemented social awareness programs and a merit plan, Positive Behavior Intervention Support (PBIS), which allows detainees to earn additional privileges for good behavior and following rules.
- With fewer detainees in JDF, unused space in the facility is now used for storage and as classrooms.
- The staff-to-detainees ratios meet California State requirements.
- Some staff members are multilingual. In addition, a language-translation phone line is available as needed. Some signs are in both English and Spanish.
- The staff includes a diverse mix of gender, race and ethnicity.
- All health and fire inspections are current.
- The South Placer Jail kitchen provides and delivers food service to the JDF. Special dietary requirements for medical conditions, allergies, or religious beliefs are accommodated. The JDF kitchen (reheating) area was clean.
- Meals are served in the dayroom or individual cells.
- The cafeteria is utilized for weekend visitations by family members and others with significant relationships to eligible detainees.
- A nurse is on duty from 7am to 7pm, seven days a week. Medical assessments and monitoring of health are provided. Medical staff secures and administers medications. On-call medical staff is available for after-hours needs.
- A doctor visits the facility two days per week.
- Religious programs are provided on a voluntary basis.
- Interior of buildings were clean and well maintained.

Findings

The Grand Jury found:

- F1. The JDF is clean, well maintained, and well staffed with trained personnel.
- F2. Detainees in the JDF are treated respectfully with the focus on education and rehabilitation rather than punishment.
- F3. School programs comply with State Education Code requirements.

Conclusion

The Grand Jury commends Placer County for its efforts in addressing juvenile delinquency and helping to reduce the rate of recidivism. As a result of their efforts, the Placer County Juvenile Detention Facility now has significantly fewer detainees than the facility was designed to accommodate.

Continuing educational opportunities and job-seeking skills are provided to the detainees.

The Grand Jury also commends the staff and management of the JDF for their positive attitudes and interactions with detainees.

Recommendations

The Grand Jury makes no recommendations as a result of this investigation.

Request for Responses:

<u>Recommendations Requiring Response</u>	<u>Response Due Date</u>
---	--------------------------

No Responses Required

--

--

Copies Sent to:

Mr. Marshall Hopper
Chief Probation Officer
Placer County Probation Department
2929 Richardson Drive, Suite B
Auburn, CA 95603

Mr. Jeffery Cann
Superintendent, Placer County Juvenile
Detention Center
11260 B Avenue
Auburn, CA 95603

Placer County Board of Supervisors
175 Fulweiler Avenue
Auburn, CA 95603