



CONTRA COSTA COUNTY OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF
DAVID O. LIVINGSTON
SHERIFF - CORONER

June 21, 2018

Mario Gutierrez, Foreperson
2017-2018 Contra Costa County Civil Grand Jury
725 Court Street
P.O. Box 431
Martinez, CA 94553

VIA EMAIL AND US MAIL

Dear Mr. Gutierrez:

I received your letter dated June 12, 2018 requesting the Office of the Sheriff to respond to two of the findings and one of the recommendations in the Grand Jury Report No. 1809, "Community Reentry from Jail," by the 2017 - 2018 Contra Costa Grand Jury.

As requested, please find the attached responses for F2, F7, and R9.

Should there be any remaining issues not addressed by my responses, please feel free to contact Undersheriff Michael Casten at 925-335-1512 or mcast@so.cccounty.us.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

DAVID O. LIVINGSTON
Sheriff - Coroner

DOL:sl

Enclosure

Grand Jury Report No. 1809 "Community Reentry from Jail"

CCCSO Response

Findings:

F2. Resource and Job Fairs are held at WCDF only and not at the other detention facilities, providing an opportunity for more outreach to current and former inmates.

Response: The Office of the Sheriff agrees with this finding.

In the summer of 2017, the Office of the Sheriff and the Office of Education met to outline a plan of action for the implementation of ongoing Resource and Job Fairs to be held at the West County Detention Facility and the Marsh Creek Detention Facility. The Martinez Detention Facility is not capable of accommodating such fairs due to the lack of programming space.

As noted in the Grand Jury Report, a Resource Fair was held at WCDF on September 21, 2017. Subsequently, a Job Fair was held at WCDF on April 18, 2018. A Resource Fair is scheduled to take place at MCDF in August 2018.

F7. WCDF has Sign/Engraving Shop and Frame Shop training programs for women. MCDF has a Carpentry Shop training program for men. No certificate of completion, which would provide documentation to prospective employers, is currently provided for these programs.

Response: The Office of the Sheriff agrees with this finding.

(Please see R9 below.)

Recommendation:

R9. The Office of the Sheriff in coordination with the CCCOE should consider providing a "Certificate of Completion" to inmates in the vocational programs at WCDF and MCDF, as documentation to assist prospective employers in their skills evaluation of former inmates.

Response: The Office of the Sheriff agrees with this recommendation.

This recommendation has been addressed. Starting July 1, 2018 inmate students will have the opportunity to earn certificates of completion in the WCDF Frame Shop and the WCDF Engraving Sign Shop.

The Office of the Sheriff, in conjunction with the Office of Education, is currently reviewing course materials to expand the Wood Shop program at MCDF to include curriculum that meets industry standards for workforce readiness, and math for the trades. The newly expanded curriculum will enable inmate students the opportunity to earn a basic technology certification. The implementation of a certificated Wood Shop program is set for September 2018.

The challenge to providing certificates of completion for the incarcerated population is that the average length of stay within the Sheriff's Detention Facilities is twenty-two (22) days. This causes the incarcerated person to be released from custody prior to having an opportunity to complete the course requirements. The certificates that Sheriff's Office will be providing to the incarcerated population will show the number of hours completed in the vocational program, not necessarily a certificate of completing the program.

Finally, it serves to note, inmate students at WCDF who are enrolled in the Computer Applications course are currently eligible to earn a certificate of completion in Microsoft Office. Inmate students who are enrolled in the Keyboarding class and those who are enrolled in the Computer Applications class are eligible to earn college credits through an articulation agreement between CCCOE and the Contra Costa College District.