

Following is the Office of the Sheriff's response to Grand Jury Report No. 0706 dated May 9, 2007, "Report on the Inspection of Detention Facilities in Contra Costa County" Report by the 2006-2007 Contra Costa Grand Jury.

FINDINGS

Finding No. 1:

Facilities inspected by the Grand Jury included:

- a. County Detention Facilities – Martinez, West County (Richmond), and Marsh Creek (Clayton).
- b. Superior Court Temporary Holding Facilities – Martinez, Pittsburg, Richmond, and Walnut Creek.
- c. Probation Department – Juvenile Hall (Martinez), Chris Adams Center (Martinez), and the Orin Allen Youth Rehabilitation Facility (The Byron Boy's Ranch).
- d. City Jails – Antioch, El Cerrito, Hercules, Kensington, Lafayette, Martinez, Pinole, Pittsburg, Pleasant Hill, San Ramon, and Walnut Creek.

Response: AGREE

Finding No. 2:

Grand Jury inspections of the above-mentioned facilities were conducted in accordance with California Corrections Standards Authority guidelines. California Corrections Standards Authority regulations are contained in Title 15 and Title 24, California Code of Regulations.

Response: AGREE

Finding No. 3:

County detention facility inspections (Martinez, West County, and Marsh Creek) included a review of common incident reports, grievance procedures, inmate requests for information, medical care practices, telephone and visiting procedures, and adherence to "72-hour requirement" for court hearings. Performance in all areas was found to be satisfactory. Site visits also included selected interviews with detainees to identify any areas of concern. None were identified.

Response: AGREE

Finding No. 4:

A review was made of the Inmate Welfare Fund-Canteen Program for the County Detention Facilities. The administration of the fund and program are consistent with the goals and objectives set forth by the oversight board. The operation of the fund includes appropriate and effective management controls and practices.

Response: AGREE

Finding No. 5:

A review of the circumstances surrounding, and subsequent internal investigation of, two "Deaths in Custody" at the Martinez Detention Facility in 2006 led to the conclusion that procedures followed by detention staff were consistent with CSA standards.

Response: AGREE

Finding No. 6:

The Office of the Sheriff ("Sheriff") plans to remodel the women's holding area within the intake section in the Martinez Detention Facility to improve security.

Response: AGREE

Finding No. 7:

Modifications are underway in the Martinez Detention Facility to secure all movable housing unit furniture to the floor or to adjacent stationary objects to reduce vandalism and to discourage its use as weapons. To date, four of six housing modules have been so modified.

Response: AGREE

Finding No. 8:

The West County Detention Facility has experienced plumbing problems in several detainee housing unit showers. These problems were reported to the County General Services Department more than six months ago and corrections have not been made.

Response: AGREE

Finding No. 9:

The West County Detention Facility's security cameras offer only fixed views. Staff members are unable to modify their fields of view to focus on selected areas or individuals of interest outside of the cameras' current fixed views.

Response: AGREE

Finding No. 10:

The floor covering immediately adjacent to the jail cell area in the Richmond Superior Court Holding facility was found to be in need of replacement. Repair or refinishing does not appear to be a viable option.

Response: AGREE

RECOMMENDATIONS

The 2006-2007 Contra Costa Grand Jury recommends the following to the Contra Costa County Sheriff-Coroner and to the Board of Supervisors:

Recommendation No. 1:

The Sheriff should implement the plan to remodel the women's holding area within the intake section of the Martinez Detention Facility.

Response:

The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future. We have obtained preliminary drawings and a cost estimate of \$15,229.00. We anticipate moving forward in August 2007, provided funding is available within the budget as required.

Recommendation No. 2:

The Sheriff should complete the project to secure all movable furniture to the floor or to adjacent stationary objects in the Martinez Detention Facility housing units to avoid vandalism and to discourage its use as weapons.

Response:

This Recommendation has been implemented. The project is funded. Furniture will be purchased in July and installed upon arrival.

Recommendation No. 3:

The Sheriff should insist that the General Services Department promptly repair the shower plumbing problems in the affected West County Detention Facility housing units.

Response:

The Recommendation will be implemented. The Sheriff's Office and General Services Department personnel are working together to resolve this matter. All showers are currently operational.

Recommendation No. 4:

The Sheriff should replace the West County Detention Facility's current fixed-view security cameras with new units that will allow staff members to modify their fields of view as required.

Response:

The Recommendation requires further analysis. Camera replacement must include the addition of monitoring stations. The initial estimate for the monitoring system upgrade is \$50,000, and we are in the process of requesting additional estimates. Following receipt of all cost estimates, a cost versus benefit analysis will be considered, and a recommendation to proceed will be contingent on available funding.

Recommendation No. 5:

The Sheriff should follow-up with the General Services Department to accomplish the replacement of the floor covering immediately adjacent to the jail cells in the Richmond Superior Court Holding Facility.

Response:

This has been implemented. The flooring was professionally cleaned and refinished and is scheduled to be replaced by General Services Department in July 2007.