



## PLACER COUNTY GRAND JURY

# Placer County Juvenile Detention Facility Annual Inspection

June 23, 2016



# Placer County Juvenile Detention Facility

## Annual Inspection

### Summary

The 2015-2016 Placer County Grand Jury conducted its annual inspection of the Placer County Juvenile Detention Facility (JDF) on October 21, 2015, led by Facility Superintendent Jeff Cann and Facility Assistant Superintendent Joe Netemeyer. 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 appeared to be clean and well-maintained. The Grand jury feels 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 educational programs that can lead to a high school diploma. One detainee had graduated from high school and was receiving additional instruction in job interview skills, resume writing, foreign languages and general life skills.

The JDF continues the Positive Behavioral Intervention Support (PBIS)<sup>1</sup> program which has been favorably received by the detainees. 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 concludes that the staff and management of the JDF are to be commended for providing continuing educational opportunities, including job seeking skills, for the long term detainees.

### Background

Pursuant to Sec. 919(b) of the California Penal Code, the Placer County Grand Jury is mandated to annually inspect all jails and holding facilities in Placer County. As part of the inspections, the Grand Jury also includes the JDF, a detention facility for juveniles eighteen (18) years of age and younger. 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.

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<sup>1</sup> Positive Behavior Intervention Support is a program developed by the University of Oregon with support from 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.”

According to staff, security has been upgraded with additional video cameras.

The 2014-2015 Grand Jury recommended changes to the grass outdoor recreational area. That area has been reconfigured to provide better security with fewer staff, enabling detainees more time outside. The grass area has been reseeded.

## Investigation Methods

The Grand Jury conducted an on-site inspection of the JDF facilities led by the JDF Superintendent and the Assistant Superintendent. The Grand Jury also interviewed the on-site JDF nurse. The Grand Jury utilized an internal JDF Inspection checklist to track observations made during the course of the inspection.

## Facts

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

- The JDF has a maximum capacity of 78 juveniles, 18 of whom can be housed in Maximum Security. The average daily number of detainees is 22. Both male and female juveniles are housed in the JDF.
- Housing wings are shared by males and females with separation ensured by separate male and female cells designed to prevent line of sight vision with 24/7 on-site supervision by staff.
- The average stay for detainees is 18 days but varies from days to weeks. However, several detainees had been at the facility for a period of months. One detainee has been held in maximum security for three (3) years and is expected to remain several more months.
- The JDF staff is trained in the principles of Trauma Informed Care.<sup>2</sup>
- All minors attend school within the facility unless they have graduated. There is a provision for independent study.
- Instructional staff consists of two accredited special education teachers and one non-accredited teacher (aide).

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<sup>2</sup> 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.”

- 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.
- 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.
- There are on-site anger management classes; mental health, drug and alcohol counseling; and a journal writing program that repeat on a regular basis. Staff brings in outside materials to supplement detainees' job skills programs.
- The JDF has social awareness programs and has implemented a merit plan, Positive Behavior Intervention Support (PBIS), which allows detainees to earn additional privileges for good behavior and following rules.
- Because the JDF has excess capacity, it has converted one housing unit into classroom and storage space.
- The staff to detainees ratios meet California State requirements of 1 to 10 during the day and 1 to 30 during sleeping hours.
- Some staff members are multi-lingual. In addition, a language translation phone line is available as needed and 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.
- Food service is provided by the South Placer Jail kitchen and delivered 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, not the cafeteria.
- 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. Medications are secured and administered by medical staff.
- A doctor visits 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 to be clean, well maintained, and well staffed with trained personnel.
- F2. Detainees in the JDF are treated with respect with a focus on education and rehabilitation rather than punishment.
- F3. School programs appear to comply with state education code requirements.

## **Conclusion**

The Grand Jury concludes that the staff and management of the JDF are to be commended for their positive attitudes when dealing with detainees as well as providing continuing educational opportunities, including job seeking skills, for the long term detainees.

## **Recommendations**

The Grand Jury recommends that:

- R1. The staff continue to manage and operate the Placer County Juvenile Detention Facility in the same positive manner.

**Request for Responses:**

	<u>Recommendations Requiring Response</u>	<u>Response Due Date</u>
<b>No Responses Required</b>	--	--

**Copies sent to:**

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