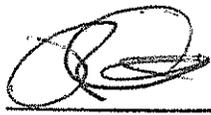


**FILED**

AUG 20 2013

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA,  
COUNTY OF SONOMA

BY KTW DEPUTY CLERK

Approved:   
Superior Court Judge

Date: AUG 20 2013

**RESPONSE TO GRAND JURY REPORT FORM**

**Report Title:** Sonoma County Detention Facilities Inspection

**Report Date:** Final Report 2012-2013

**Response by:** Steve Freitas **Title:** Sheriff-Coroner

**FINDINGS**

- I (we) agree with the findings numbered: F-1, F-5
- I (we) disagree wholly or partially with the findings numbered: F-2, F-3, F-4  
(Attach a statement specifying any portions of the findings that are disputed; include an explanation of the reasons therefor.)

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

- Recommendations numbered \_\_\_\_\_ have been implemented.  
(Attach a summary describing the implemented actions.)
- Recommendations numbered \_\_\_\_\_ have not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future.  
(Attach a timeframe for the implementation.)
- Recommendations numbered \_\_\_\_\_ require further analysis.  
(Attach an explanation and the scope and parameters of an analysis or study, and a timeframe for the matter to be prepared for discussion by the officer or director of the agency or department being investigated or reviewed, including the governing body of the public agency when applicable. This timeframe shall not exceed six months from the date of publication of the grand jury report.)
- Recommendations numbered R-1, R-2, R-3, R-4 will not be implemented because they are not warranted or are not reasonable.  
(Attach an explanation.)

Date: 8/15/13 Signed: 

Number of pages attached 4

SONOMA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE  
RESPONSE TO THE 2012-2013 GRAND JURY REPORT

**Sonoma County Detention Facilities Inspection**

The Sonoma County Sheriff's Detention Division operates two separate detention facilities with a total population capacity of 1,479 inmates. All new arrests are taken to the Main Adult Detention Facility (MADF), which will book approximately 15,600 inmates in FY 12-13 and approximately 1,490 self-surrender commitments will be booked at the North County Detention Facility (NCDF).

The Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) is the State regulatory agency that provides primary oversight and regulatory standards for all local detention facilities in California. Every two years the BSCC conducts an audit of our detention facilities to ensure compliance with Title 15 Regulations and Minimum Standards for Adult Detention Facilities. Sonoma County has routinely been found in full compliance with all regulatory standards during these audits. We not only recognize the value of this regulatory agency toward meeting compliance goals, but also as a on-going resource for policy and decision making information. We are committed to maintaining our close working relationship with the BSCC to include regular involvement of our managers on the BSCC biennial regulations revision committees.

In addition to the BSCC audit, every two years our detention facilities are audited for compliance of regulations set forth by the California Medical Association-Institute for Medical Quality (IMQ). We have been diligent and successful in maintaining the accreditation of our health care services. Both BSCC and IMQ provide a great resource to the Sheriff's Office and the County. We welcome every opportunity to showcase our operations and discuss operational practices that go beyond the regulatory standards. Continued accreditation by these two regulatory agencies also assures the Sheriff's Office that the delivery of services meets and, in a lot of cases, exceeds the regulatory standards of the industry.

Every year the Sonoma County Department of Health Services (DHS) completes an environmental health inspection of the MADF and NCDF. Additionally, DHS completes a nutritional evaluation of the meals provided to inmates to ensure compliance with Title 15. No citations have been issued and only minor issues have been found in the environmental health inspections. These issues were all addressed promptly. The Sheriff's Office welcomes such inspections and audits as mentioned above and has benefited from the recommendations made by these independent agencies.

The Sheriff's Office also values the oversight provided by the Grand Jury and their role in inspecting the MADF and NCDF. This response will only address the findings and recommendations of the Final Report 2012-2013. In doing so the Sheriff's Office would like to provide clarification in one particular area of the report. The report refers to personnel overseeing inmates as "guards" rather than their actual job title of correctional deputy. Correctional deputies must have strong ethics, be of good moral character, and be professional in all their dealings with inmates, other staff, and the public. Correctional deputies are highly trained and skilled in the field of corrections. The use of the word "guard" could be viewed to imply something less than what is described above. We believe this was not the intent of the Grand Jury when preparing this report.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

*R-1 A plan to address necessary changes to housing, recreation, programs, and visitation for adult detention facilities as a result of Realignment be developed and implemented.*

RESPONSE: The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted.

Title 15 provides State mandated regulatory jail standards for all local jails in California. Title 15 requires all County inmates to have a minimum of 3 hours per week out of their cells. The Sonoma County Sheriff's Office fully complies with this mandated State requirement.

The MADF was built in 1991 for a very different jail population than what exists today. The MADF is a direct supervision facility and every attempt is made to provide the maximum out of cell time for inmates that can safely be accomplished. The MADF has experienced an increase in the number of mental health inmates, gang affiliated inmates, administrative segregation inmates, protective custody inmates, more acutely ill inmates, and inmates with a much greater level of inmate sophistication since 1991. This growth, coupled with Realignment has increased the challenges. In order to manage the above inmate populations safely, the Sheriff's Office has few options due to the types of physical housing configurations we have at our disposal. Subsequently, in order to run a safe and secure facility, more inmates are receiving less out of cell time than they have in the past.

The Sheriff's Office carefully evaluates our classification plan on a continual basis to determine if we can safely change how we separate inmates from each other, so as to increase the amount of time inmates are out of their cells. We have made significant building modifications to the Mental Health and F module day rooms and expanded the yards in the Mental Health and R modules. These building improvements have significantly increased the availability of out of cell time and yard time. Additionally, the Sheriff's Office in cooperation with County Facilities Development & Management in the very near future will be making further building modifications to the C and R modules. These building improvements will increase the out of cell time for inmates housed in those areas.

Inmate visiting at the MADF complies with and, in many cases, exceeds Title 15 standards. The inmate visiting for the MADF provides inmates with the ability to stay connected with friends and family during their incarceration at a level that, in many cases, is above what is required.

The Community Corrections Partnership (CCP) funded \$138,000 to increase inmate programming at the MADF and NCDF as follows:

Fully funded by AB109:

Moral Recognition Therapy (MRT)

Anger Management

Women's Circle

Life Skills

Partial funded by AB109:

Parenting

Job Skills

Creative Conflict Resolution Workshops

The CCP funded an additional full time (FTE) drug and alcohol counselor for the Starting Point Program that allows for a greater number of inmates to be included in this Program. Inmate programs have already been greatly expanded since realignment and will be continually evaluated for their effectiveness.

Before Realignment the Sheriff's Office had a robust amount of inmate programming classes available to inmates. Currently, there are 40 different programming opportunities (150 individual classes per week) inmates can participate in. All inmates, including Re-aligned inmates may participate in any of these classes depending on their level of classification. These classes strive to help reduce recidivism rates and make it easier for inmates to successfully transition back to the community.

***R-2 Clothing size choices be made available for female inmates at the MADF to lessen the likelihood of falls and injury.***

RESPONSE: The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted.

Female clothing is purchased and distributed to inmates in eight (8) different sizes. The length of the pants legs are different depending of the size of the clothing. Female inmates are not permitted to walk around housing areas with their pants legs dragging beneath their feet. Female inmates are required to always wear their clothing in an appropriate and safe manner. There may be rare occurrences when a female inmate wears their clothing in less than an acceptable manner, but when this is observed by correctional staff it is addressed with the inmate.

***R-3 Additional guard coverage be provided to allow inmates at the MADF to have more frequent time out of their cells.***

RESPONSE: The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted.

The addition of more correctional deputies would not provide more out of cell time for inmates. The MADF was built in 1991 for a very different jail population than what exists today. The MADF is a direct supervision facility and every attempt is made to provide the maximum out of cell time for inmates that can safely be accomplished. The MADF has experienced an increase in the number of mental health inmates, gang affiliated inmates, administrative segregation inmates, protective custody inmates, more acutely ill inmates, and inmates with a much greater level of inmate sophistication since 1991. This growth, coupled with realignment has increased the challenges. In order to manage the above inmate populations safely, the Sheriff's Office has few options due to the types of physical housing configurations we have at our disposal. Subsequently, in order to run a safe and secure facility, more inmates are receiving less out of cell time than they have in the past.

The Sheriff's Office carefully evaluates our classification plan on a continual basis to determine if we can safely change how we separate inmates from each other, so as to increase the amount of time inmates are out of their cells. We have made significant building modifications to the Mental Health and F module day rooms and expanded the yards in the Mental Health and R modules. These building improvements have significantly increased the availability of out of cell time and yard time. Additionally, the Sheriff's Office in cooperation with County Facilities Development & Management in the very near future will be making further building modifications to the C and R modules. These building improvements will increase the out of cell time for inmates housed in those areas.

Title 15 requires all County inmates to have a minimum of 3 hours out of their cells per week. The Sheriff's Office fully complies with this mandated requirement.

***R-4 The logging of inmate grievances be computerized.***

RESPONSE: The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not reasonable at this time.

The Sheriff's Office has supported the purchase and implementation of a jail management system (JMS) that would also provide automation for the logging of inmate grievances. The County contracted with several consultants who estimated the cost of a JMS in 2009 to be approximately \$2.35 million dollars. As with any large agency there are always more unmet needs than available resources. The cost of funding this recommendation cannot be accomplished at this time due to other more urgent funding priorities.