

MAIN ADULT DETENTION FACILITY

The Sonoma County Grand Jury conducted its mandated, annual investigation of the Main Adult Detention Facility on September 24, 2010. The primary focus of our investigation was to address the mental health issues raised in prior Grand Jury reports. We concentrated on what steps had been taken to expand mental health facilities and services provided in Sonoma County detention facilities.

The other focus of our investigation was to examine the general physical condition and program management of the facility, as they existed during our visit. We found there have been numerous responses to the concerns raised in prior Grand Jury reports.

The Main Adult Detention Facility is well-run, impeccably clean, well-lighted and entirely satisfactory. We commend Captain Randall Walker, his officers and staff on the physical condition of the facility and the on-going implementation of inmate programs, which result in humane incarceration and also promote successful returns to the community. The Criminal Justice Master Plan-Phase One to reduce jail admissions was implemented, as was Phase Two to implement early case resolution.

The Grand Jury also did its mandated annual investigation of the North County Detention Facility on September 24, 2010. Our investigation was shortened because of a general lockdown.

DISCUSSION

There have been substantial efforts directed at improving the physical accommodations and staff training to better meet the needs of individuals with mental health issues. The following changes were made and will be on-going.

1. Yard and dayroom dividers are being installed. The dividers allow five, high-security inmates out for recreation simultaneously without increasing staff. Out-of-cell activity is a key factor in getting the mentally ill offenders in custody to cooperate and participate in their treatment plans.
2. A new additional sub-dayroom is being installed allowing more out-of-cell activity.
3. The County Mental Health Department has conducted a two-hour training course for all correctional deputies.
4. Deputies assigned to mental health units have received a sixteen-hour course in crisis intervention.
5. All correctional deputies and mental health deputies receive a two-hour course in Post Traumatic Stress Disorder.
6. All correctional officers took a four-hour course on how mental illness affects families given by National Alliance for the Mentally Ill.

7. All correctional deputies receive a two-hour course on the recognition and treatment of drug and alcohol withdrawal.
8. All correctional deputies receive a two-hour course on the recognition and treatment of eating disorders.
9. Implementation of AB 568 program, which permits court-ordered medication of persons in custody, has been in effect since 2008.
10. Additionally, other existing programs are continuing such as anger management, self-esteem, drug and alcohol rehabilitation, job skills, stress reduction and many more which are well attended by inmates.
11. Contract and partner organization programs are continuing such as those provided by the Sonoma County Office of Education and Sonoma State University.
12. Programs are offered by Alcoholic Anonymous, AL-Anon, Humane Society of Sonoma County and numerous faith-oriented and rehabilitation organizations.
13. Jail industries and animal-assisted-therapy were on-going and well attended, as were law library and inmate services such as haircuts.

FINDINGS

- F1. Issues from prior Grand Jury reports concerning expanding mental health services were met.
- F2. Due to budget constraints, physical facilities cannot be expanded at this time.
- F3. All existing programs are being administered well.

RECOMMENDATIONS

A future Grand Jury should conduct a detailed investigation of the North County Adult Facility.