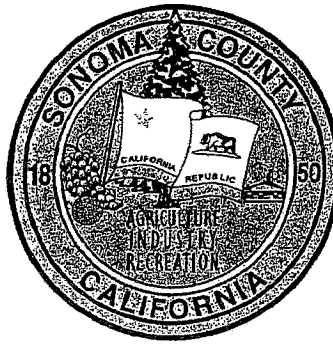


SEP 28 2010

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September 28, 2010

The Honorable Gary Nadler, Presiding Judge
Sonoma County Superior Court
600 Administration Drive
Santa Rosa, California

RE: Response to the 2009-2010 Sonoma County Grand Jury Report

Dear Honorable Judge Nadler:

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the 2009-2010 Grand Jury Report. The following is the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors' response to recommendation R4 in the Report titled "Pornography Filters and the First Amendment and R1 in the Report titled "Detention Facilities Review."

Pornography Filters and the First Amendment (Page 1)

R4- Work with the Board of Supervisors to appropriate proper funding for a reorganization of the computers on the main aisle at the Central Library. (Requested response)

The recommendation will not be implemented as it is not reasonable

The Board of Supervisors agrees with the Grand Jury's and Library Commissions' concern that no patron should be forced to view objectionable material while using the library. The Library is a Joint Powers Authority (JPA) and is governed by a seven member Library Commission. The Commission provides policy direction over the staffing, budget, operations, and development of the library system. Under the terms of the JPA, The Board of Supervisors is responsible for final approval of the library budget. The Board will look to the library to submit a budget that provides for the appropriate placement of computers that will meet the needs of the patrons and library staff.

Detention Facilities Review (Page 28)

R1 - Inmates with mental health issues are the most rapidly increasing population in the Sonoma County detention facilities and many would be better served by expanded county mental health facilities and services. The issue of mental health inmates was addressed at length in the 2003-2004 Grand Jury report and little has been done to correct the problem. In the absence of state or federal programs, long term support should be extended to programs that would allow the transference and treatment of mentally ill inmates to alternative facilities. (Required Response)

Response: Recommendation R1 has been implemented.

The Department of Health Services' Mental Health/AODS Division (MHD) provides mental health services in Sonoma County detention facilities for inmates with mild and moderate mental health issues and inmates diagnosed with serious mental illness. The data cited by the Grand Jury reflects all inmates with mental health issues who have received a service(s) from the MHD. A closer review of the data indicates that inmates diagnosed with mental health issues make up approximately 23% of the total population with 16% having mild to moderate mental health issues (anxiety and mild depression) and 7% having diagnosis of serious mental illness (e.g., psychotic disorders and severe depression).

READ AND CONSIDERED
APPROVED

DATE

9/29/10

BY

The data on inmates with serious mental illness has ranged from 5.8% to 7.7% of the mental health issues in inmates over the past 5 years, falling well below the range reported nationally for the general population of 10 to 15%. The increased numbers cited in the Grand Jury report are related to those inmates with mild to moderate mental health issues who may need some support related to sleep problems, and mild anxiety and depression.

During the last five years with funding from Prop 63 (Mental Health Services Act) and the County General Fund, the MHD has implemented additional mental health services targeted for inmates with mental health issues. A position was added in 2005, the Jail Mental Health Discharge Planner, to provide case management services to inmates with mental health issues linking them to services as they are released and in many cases to help move up their release dates with an appropriate program referral. Linkage includes housing, health care, mental health and substance abuse treatment programs, income supports and benefits, and emergency shelter resources. Major risk factors for these individuals include: unemployment, poverty, addiction problems and homelessness.

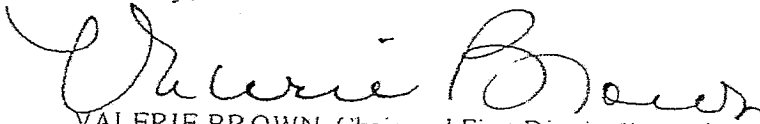
Since 1983, the MHD has provided services at Main Adult Detention Facility and North County Detention Facility on a 24/7 basis with a focus on suicide prevention and providing treatment to mentally ill inmates with mild to moderate and serious mental health issues.

The following is a summary of additional mental health services provided by the MHD, including services that have been implemented since the issuance of the 2003-2004 Grand Jury Report:

- **Forensic Assertive Community Team (FACT) Project** – provides evidenced-based comprehensive outpatient services for in-custody mentally ill offenders. Provides services for 50 individuals, at any given time, coming directly from the jail through a Mental Health Court (implemented in 2006).
- **Mental Health Discharge Planner** – LCSW Bi-cultural Spanish speaker who provides services at the Main Adult Detention Facility to inmates with mild to moderate mental health issues and with serious mental illness (implemented in 2005).
- **Conditional Release Program** – provides community-based outpatient services to conditionally released offenders under supervision of the courts (State Dept MH funding).
- **Penal Code 1370 Program** – provides mental health services (including court ordered psychiatric medications) to inmates deemed to be incompetent to stand trial to restore them to competency. The PC 1370 Program includes early screening and assessment of individuals with minor charges who might benefit from a mental health program, diversion to the hospital or a crisis residential program, and early coordination of intervention services at the jail for individuals with both misdemeanors and felonies who are also deemed as PC 1370s (implemented in 2007).
- **PATHS Program** – provides ongoing intervention classes on stress and anger management to inmates housed in the Mental Health module at the Main Adult Detention Facility. The program covers Prevention, Art & Anger Management, Thinking Cognitively, Health Issues, and Stress Reduction (implemented in July 2008).

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the Grand Jury recommendations on these two important issues.

Sincerely,


VALERIE BROWN, Chair and First District Supervisor

cc: Members, Sonoma County Board of Supervisors
Veronica A. Ferguson, Sonoma County Administrator
Janice Atkinson, Sonoma County Clerk, Recorder, Assessor
Rita Scardaci, M.P.H. Director, Dept. of Health Services
William Cogbill, Sheriff
Michael Kennedy, Director, Dept. of Health Services, Mental Health Division
Members, Library Commission
Sandra Cooper, Library Director