

SONOMA COUNTY

PROBATION DEPARTMENT

David M. Koch
Chief Probation Officer



August 25, 2016

The Honorable Raima Ballinger
Presiding Superior Court Judge
Hall of Justice
600 Administration Drive
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

*reviewed: 9.7.16
Raima Ballinger*

FILED
SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF SONOMA

SEP - 9 2016

BY *RJ*
Deputy Clerk

RE: Response to Sonoma County Civil Grand Jury Report

Dear Judge Ballinger:

I am in receipt of the aforementioned report and have reviewed the narrative as well as Recommendation R2 contained in the Detention Facilities Inspection section of the report. Pursuant to Penal Code Section 933.05, the Probation Department's response to this recommendation (accompanied by supporting data in spreadsheet format) is attached. The Department offers a host of family-oriented rehabilitation programs, for boys and girls in Juvenile Hall and boys housed at the Probation Camp, and will explore additional options. With respect to vocational opportunities for girls in Juvenile Hall, Department staff will evaluate and determine the appropriate type of vocational training and career exploration courses to be offered at Juvenile Hall, and whether implementation is viable.

I appreciate the work of the Civil Grand Jury and their conscientious review of Probation Department juvenile custodial facilities. Should you or the Civil Grand Jury have any questions regarding this response do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "David M. Koch".

David M. Koch
Chief Probation Officer

C: Charlotte Addington, Foreperson
Sonoma County Civil Grand Jury

☐ **Adult Probation Services**
600 Administration Dr. 104J
Santa Rosa, CA 95403
(707) 565-2149
FAX (707) 565-2503

☐ **Juvenile Probation Services**
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☐ **Juvenile Hall**
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☐ **Supervised Adult Crews**
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☐ **Probation Camp**
7400 Steve Olson Lane
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Response to Grand Jury Report Form

Report Title: Detention Facilities Inspection Report, Sonoma County Civil Grand Jury Report

Report Date: June 27, 2016

Response by: David Koch

Title: Chief Probation Officer

Agency/Department Name: Sonoma County Probation Department

FINDINGS:

I (we) agree with the findings numbered: _____

I (we) disagree wholly or partially with the findings numbered: F2

(Attach a statement specifying any portions of the findings that are disputed with an explanation of the reasons.)

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: R2

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.)

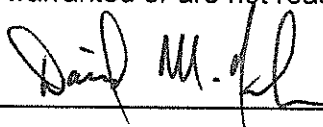
Recommendations numbered: _____

will not be implemented because they are not warranted or are not reasonable.

(Attach an explanation.)

Date: August 25, 2016

Signed: _____



Number of pages attached: 3

Response to Sonoma County Civil Grand Jury Final Report dated June 27, 2016 (page 2)

A brief operational description of the Sonoma County Probation Department's Juvenile Hall is found on page 44 of the above-referenced report. That description rightfully points out the variety of services afforded boys and girls housed at Juvenile Hall. These include education, cultural and spiritual activities, and a host of pro-social activities available to all residents. Additionally, the Department offers numerous treatment and behavioral change programming – much of which meets the threshold of best practices or evidence-based programming. A sample of these offerings include Adolescent Treatment Program (a cognitive behavioral substance abuse program), Aggression Replacement Training (ART), restorative justice services, trauma counseling, Girls Circle and Boys Council, Interactive Journaling, the Positive Parenting Program (Triple P) and Functional Family Therapy (FFT). These are augmented by TAPP/Diversity (Teen Assault Prevention Project and Cultural Diversity training), My Strength and Health Relationships – all delivered by Verity staff.

Sonoma County's Juvenile Hall is one of the few in the State of California (and nationally) to host a Boys and Girls Club within a secure facility. Beyond pro-social activities youth have access to resume building, interviewing and job skills classes as well as the Money Matters curriculum, an evidence-based program.

All Juvenile Hall staff are trained in Motivational Interviewing (MI) and Core Correctional Practices (CCP); both practices support behavioral change in delinquent youth and are considered professional best practices in probation.

Attached is a spreadsheet depicting the average monthly population of Juvenile Hall during fiscal year 2015-16. As you will note the census has remained low during this time, averaging 48 boys and 14 girls. This represents a mix of pre-adjudicated youth (awaiting a hearing in Juvenile Court) and adjudicated youth (those serving a court-imposed sentence). Youth serving time (sentences of 90+ days) represent approximately one-third of the total daily population.

The Probation Camp is a custodial and programming alternative for adjudicated delinquent boys who have committed serious felony offenses. Typically, youth referred to Camp are serving a sentence of 180-365 days. The Camp does offer educational as well as vocational programming; this is based on the longer length of stay and numbers sufficient to warrant operation of the facility. Additionally, the age of most boys in Camp is 17-18; therefore, focus on vocational programming serves the purpose of preparing them for independent living with employment. A very low census of adjudicated delinquent girls in Juvenile Hall ultimately led to the closure of the Sierra Youth Center (the Department's camp program for adolescent girls). These numbers have remained consistently low since Sierra was closed in 2013, due to the lower level of sophistication in their offenses. The decision to supervise young women in the community – taking advantage of “wraparound” services and out-of-home placements – offers a less intrusive and more constructive approach consistent with recognized best practices in Juvenile Probation. Moreover, the age of most girls in Juvenile Hall and indeed on Probation supervision is younger (15-17) which augers for emphasizing completion of high school rather than participation in vocational training.

That said, the Department welcomes the opportunity to explore viable and relevant vocational training programs for girls in Juvenile Hall. This will include continuation of the "Money Matters" and other character and leadership courses offered through the Boys and Girls Club. Further, the Department plans to add "Tackling the Tough Skills" and a Work Readiness Certificate program offered by Social Advocates for Youth (SAY) and the Sonoma County Office of Education (SCOE), respectively.

With shorter terms of detention, it may be most productive to offer informational sessions to the detained youth in preparation for various training opportunities through the Santa Rosa Junior College and North Bay Labor Exchange, following release from detention.

PARTIALLY AGREE WITH FINDINGS (F2) and WILL EXPLORE FEASABILITY OF RECOMMENDATIONS (R2)

In conclusion, the Department offers a host of family-oriented rehabilitation programs, for boys and girls in Juvenile Hall, and boys housed at the Probation Camp, and will explore additional options. With respect to vocational opportunities for girls in Juvenile Hall, Department staff will evaluate and determine the appropriate type of vocational training and career exploration courses to be offered at Juvenile Hall, and whether implementation is viable.

FY 2015-2016 SONOMA COUNTY JUVENILE HALL POPULATION & SUBSET OF SERVING TIME (90+ DAYS) YOUTH

	7/1/2015	8/1/2015	9/1/2015	10/1/2015	11/1/2015	12/1/2015	1/1/2016	2/1/2016	3/1/2016	4/1/2016	5/1/2016	6/1/2016	AVG
TOTAL POPULATION	67	66	51	57	68	61	58	63	60	67	56	62	62
BOYS	53	48	40	44	52	45	45	53	51	55	43	43	48
GIRLS	14	18	11	13	16	16	13	10	9	12	13	19	14
SERVING TIME (90+)													
BOYS	19	20	16	14	14	11	18	19	19	15	15	17	16
GIRLS	7	9	6	4	4	5	3	2	3	3	5	5	5