

**TRINITY COUNTY GRAND JURY
2004-2005**

**JUDICIAL COMMITTEE
FINAL REPORT**

TRINITY COUNTY DETENTION FACILITY

**This Report was Approved
May 20, 2005**

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PURPOSE:

Penal code section 919(b) mandates that the Grand Jury will annually inquire into the conditions and management of all public prisons within the county.

BACKGROUND:

The California State Board of Corrections classifies the Trinity County Detention Facility (Jail) as a Type 11 facility. This facility is used to detain persons who are awaiting or undergoing trial proceedings. These include convicted persons sentenced to serve time up to one year and minimum security state parolees in custody due to parole violations. The maximum capacity of the jail is 53. In an emergency the inmate population can be as high as 63, however, the California State Board of Corrections will not stand behind the county if a grievance is filed for over crowding if the population exceeds 53. On occasion, Trinity County has exceeded the maximum.

METHOD OF INVESTIGATION:

Prior to the close of the 2004-2005 Grand Jury, there were 160 complaints assigned to the Judicial Committee. Seventeen (17) of these were against the court system and will not be addressed by this report, as this is not in our jurisdiction. Letters were written to the complainants explaining this. The remaining complaints were addressed by interviews with inmates, the sheriff and his staff. Most of these complaints were against the Sheriffs Department staff and department procedures. Many of these complaints were clarified and settled by interviews with the sheriff and the inmates. Many others were complaints filed by the same inmates that were repeat complaints previously filed and against jail policy.

Of all the complaints received there were four (4) that were of more concern and needed to be addressed by further investigation. These were in regard to mail sent and received by the inmates; inmate medications; inmate telephone usage and cleanliness of the inmate section of the facility.

FINDING 1:

There were several complaints regarding the mail system. These complaints were investigated and found to be caused by budget cuts and lack of trained personnel, sheriff patrol officers were assigned to jail duty and did not have proper training regarding mail policy.

RECOMMENDATION 1:

If officers from other sections are assigned to jail duty, they must be properly instructed and trained in the mail policy, set out in the procedure manual, prior to their first duty date, with emphasis on confidential mail.

FINDING 2:

After interviews with the sheriff and other jail personnel, it was found that most of the complaints regarding medication are because county policy dictates the use of generic medication rather than brand names, whenever possible. Other complaints were from inmates stating they were not allowed to have over-the-counter remedies in their possession. After interviewing the sheriff, it was learned that policy states no inmate can have medications on their person or in their possession.

RECOMMENDATION 2:

In the information sheet given to all inmates regarding policy and regulations, it should be noted that all medications will be generic (unless otherwise prescribed by their doctor) according to county policy and that medications are only ordered as needed. There is never more than a few days supply on hand at any time. Staff should check all medications on Wednesday for doctor approval and reorder, and orders placed for the medications at that time, to assure that no inmate runs out of his medications over the week-end.

FINDING 3:

It was learned that a new telephone system had been replaced and located in the dorm. This system was more reasonable, cost wise, to the inmates. However, the phone was dismantled by the inmates, rendering it unusable. There is always a telephone available in the hall for the inmates to use by filing a request for it and having a time assigned to them.

RECOMMENDATION 3:

No recommendation. It was felt by the committee that there is a telephone available for use to call the inmates attorney and probation officer, when needed. Due to the fact the inmates were responsible for the destruction of the telephone in their dorm, we found this to be a satisfactory solution.

FINDING 4:

After interviewing the sheriff, we learned the inmates are responsible for the cleaning of their general living spaces. They are provided with a cart of cleaning supplies and are expected to clean their showers, bathroom, etc.

RECOMMENDATION 4.:

No recommendation. The inmates are responsible for the cleanliness of their section of the facility.

FINDING 5:

There were several things noted in the physical plant that should be brought to the attention of General Services for repair. One is the window in the entry door leading to the exercise yard. This is a double paned window with wire between the panes. The outside glass pane is cracked. The showers are in need of repair and new shower curtains are also needed.

RECOMMENDATION 5:

The Jail commander should place a work order for each of these findings to General Services and follow up to see that the repairs are completed.

CONCLUSION:

The kitchen was one area where no complaints were received, but an inspection was done by the Grand Jury and found it to be in excellent condition. The staff should be commended for the cleanliness, efficiency and excellent food preparation.

Considering the cuts in the budget for the Sheriffs Department, it was found that Sheriff Craig and his staff are doing a satisfactory job working within the budget and using personnel from all areas of the department to staff where needed, and should be commended for their efforts.

<u>ENTITY</u>	<u>FINDING</u>	<u>RECOMMENDATION</u>	<u>RESPOND IN</u>
Trinity County Sheriffs Department	1,2,3,4,5	1,2,5	60 days
Trinity County Board of Supervisors	1,2,3,4,5	1,2,5	90 days