

FILED

JUL 2 - 2009

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF TRINITY
BY: DONNA HANOVER, DEPUTY CLERK *DH*

**TRINITY COUNTY GRAND JURY
2008-2009**

**JUDICIAL COMMITTEE
FINAL REPORT**

TRINITY COUNTY DETENTION FACILITY

**This Report Was Approved
On June 1, 2009**

**2008-2009 TRINITY COUNTY GRAND JURY
JUDICIAL COMMITTEE
FINAL REPORT**

TRINITY COUNTY DETENTION FACILITY

PURPOSE:

The Trinity County Grand Jury is mandated by law to inquire into conditions and management of public prisons within the county, which includes the Trinity County Detention Facility (TCDF). Ref: California Penal Code 919 (b)

BACKGROUND:

The jail facility is defined by The Correction Standards Authority as a locked adult detention facility. It is classified as Type II Facility that holds inmates pending arraignment, during trial, and includes convicted persons sentenced for one year more or less. Maximum capacity of the facility is 53.

METHOD OF INVESTIGATION:

Five Grand Jury Members met with the Jail Commander for an interview and a tour of the facility on January 11, 2009.

Inspected areas were the communication center, booking room, detox room, medication distributing area, storage, dorms, laundry room, recreation yard, day room and kitchen.

FINDING # 1:

The exercise yard concertina-wire fence has been crushed at the top in one corner and is an escape risk.

RECOMMENDATION # 1:

The crushed wire needs to be repaired as soon as possible. An additional strand of razor wire should be installed which would make the top of the fencing virtually escape proof.

FINDING # 2:

Staffing shortages make it necessary for one officer, rather than a medical technician, which is required by law, to distribute medications to the inmates. The process of setting up and delivering certain medications takes up to eight hours per day. Trinity County is one of three jails in the state without a Medical Technician.

RECOMMENDATION # 2:

There should be a Medical Technician on staff when there is funding available as the current situation is a liability concern.

FINDING # 3:

All of the communication equipment, including the telephone system and Internet equipment, is in an old storeroom and overheats in the summer causing equipment shutdowns.

RECOMMENDATION # 3:

This is a public safety issue and needs to be fixed as soon as possible.

FINDING # 4:

The inmate uniforms are becoming worn, ripped and torn. There is no funding in the budget to replace them.

RECOMMENDATION # 4:

The Sheriff needs to look into outside community volunteers for repairs and or replacement of the uniforms.

FINDING # 5:

The Jail Commander reported that the air conditioning and heating system is not adequate. He said that the dorms located on the perimeter of the building suffer from overheating in the summer and excess cold in the winter.

RECOMMENDATION # 5:

The Sheriff should investigate further into this situation.

FINDING # 6:

The commercial laundry equipment is in poor condition, causing maintenance visits costing from \$400.00 to \$1,000.00 per visit to repair old machines. There are times when there is no washing machine available for the daily use requirement. The rules require that the purchase of any item over \$3,000 must be approved by the Board of Supervisors (BOS). This requirement has caused one to two months delay.

RECOMMENDATION # 6:

Repairing old worn out machines is an inefficient use of funds. The BOS need to expedite procedures for replacement of specific equipment.

FINDING # 7:

File storage is a problem. Old files are boxed and stored in an area that should be used for more productive purposes.

RECOMMENDATION # 7:

The Sheriff needs to investigate updated ways to store files, perhaps in a computerized system or other alternatives such as sharing technology resources with other adjoining counties.

CONCLUSION:

The TCDF has been severely impacted by budget problems. The facility is currently understaffed, with some officers off duty for various reasons. The Commander fills in for staff shortages in all areas of the jail making it difficult to fulfill his position's responsibilities. Available staffing allows for only one officer on duty for the twelve hour night shift, which is a security risk. It is often necessary to fill in with untrained deputies. The lack of trained deputies and correctional officers is a great concern for public safety. Under the circumstances, the staff of the TCDF is to be commended for their dedicated service.

RESPONSES REQUIRED:

| <u>Entity</u> | <u>Finding</u> | <u>Recommendation</u> | <u>Respond in</u> |
|------------------------|----------------|-----------------------|-------------------|
| Trinity County Sheriff | 1,2,3,4,5,6,7 | 1,2,3,4,5,6,7 | 60 Days |
| Board of Supervisors | 1,2,3,4,5,6,7 | 1,2,3,4,5,6,7 | 90 Days |
| CAO | 1,2,3,4,5,6,7 | 1,2,3,4,5,6,7 | 60 Days |



OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF

Trinity County

P.O. Box 1228, Weaverville, Ca. 96093, (530)623-2611

LORRAC CRAIG, Sheriff

RECEIVED

SEP - 9 2009

TRINITY COUNTY
SUPERIOR COURT

Date: September 4, 2009

To: James P. Woodward
Presiding Judge, Trinity County Superior Court

From: Lorrac Craig *L.C.*
Sheriff, Trinity County

Re: Response to Grand Jury Report
"Trinity County Detention Facility"

Finding #1:
Concertina wire around exercise yard damaged

Response #1:
General Services is aware of the issue. Efforts were made to repair the damage resulting in injury to the worker. Fence will be fixed. As to adding an additional layer of concertina, that will be done when funding allows.

Finding #2:
Medication passes being done by Correctional Staff

Response #2:
Ideally, medication setup and distribution would be done by medical staff and not by correctional staff. There are four med passes a day between 0600 and 2100 hours. This would require hiring four additional medical technicians to accomplish the task. Current medication philosophy of medical staff has significantly reduced staff time in setup and distribution of medications. The detention facility continues to meet state medical standards which helps limit liability concerns.

Finding #3:
Overheating of communications equipment room

Response #3:
Although not a perfect fix, the addition of fans to the room precluded any communications shutdowns related to an overheated room. As funds become available, efforts will be made to provide a more permanent solution such as air conditioning.

Finding #4:

Inmate clothing is worn out.

Response #4:

Funding has been established to adequately maintain inmate clothing.

Finding #5:

Facility heating/cooling system is not adequate.

Response #5:

General Services has replaced worn out motors in the system which seems to have helped the cooling issues. When winter comes we will be able to evaluate the effectiveness as it relates to heating.

Finding #6:

Laundry equipment appears to be worn out.

Response #6:

The commercial washer has been replaced and this problem no longer exists.

Finding #7:

File storage is a problem.

Response #7:

The stated storage problem has been alleviated with the purchase of additional file cabinets and eliminating the use of boxes. Unfortunately, the judicial and medical systems have not transitioned over to a totally paperless system. Consequently, physical storage of this paperwork will continue to be a challenge.

The continuing decline of the of the County's financial resources makes meeting the needs of the Trinity County Detention Facility an ongoing challenge for its staff and the Administration. Because of these circumstances, it should be noted that the staff has continued to maintain its high operational standards thereby minimizing the County's exposure to litigation.




TRINITY COUNTY
Office of the County Administrator
DERO B. FORSLUND
County Administrative Officer
P.O. BOX 1613, WEAVERVILLE, CALIFORNIA 96093-1613
PHONE (530) 623-1382 FAX (530) 623-8365

RECEIVED

SEP 21 2009

**TRINITY COUNTY
SUPERIOR COURT**

TO: The Honorable James Woodward,
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court

FROM: Dero B. Forslund, CAO 

SUBJECT: Response to Recommendations of 2008-09
Grand Jury Judicial Committee Final Report
Re Trinity County Detention Facility

DATE:

The Grand Jury Grand Jury Judicial Committee has requested a written response to their final report on the Trinity County Detention Facility. In my capacity as County Administrative Officer, my response is as follows:

Finding #1: The exercise yard concertina-wire fence has been crushed at the top in one corner and is an escape risk

Response: Agree in part the concertina-wire fence has been crushed.

Recommendation #1: The crushed wire needs to be repaired as soon as possible. An additional strand of razor wire should be installed which would make the top of the fencing virtually escape proof

Response: Crushed fence will be repaired as soon as possible. Additional strand of wire will be installed as funding allows.

Finding #2: Staffing shortages make it necessary for one officer, rather than a medical technician, which is required by law, to distribute medications to the inmates. The process of setting up and delivering certain medications takes up to eight hours per day. Trinity County is one of three jails in the state without a Medical Technician.

Response: We disagree with the finding.

Recommendation #2: There should be a Medical Technician on staff when there is funding available as the current situation is a liability concern.

Response: We agree with the recommendation with the understanding that current methods meet State Medical Standards and are required by budget constraints

Finding #3: All of the communication equipment, including the telephone system and Internet equipment, is in an old storeroom and overheats in the summer causing equipment shutdowns.

Response: We agree

Recommendation #3: This is a public safety issue and needs to be fixed as soon as possible

Response: Recommendation will be implemented as soon as possible.

Finding #4: The inmate uniforms are becoming worn, ripped and torn. There is no funding in the budget to replace them.

Response: We disagree, funding has been made available.

Recommendation #4: The Sheriff needs to look into outside community volunteers for repairs and or replacement of the uniforms.

Response: The recommendation will not be implemented. Funding within the Sheriff budget has been made available.

Finding #5: The Jail Commander reported that the air conditioning and heating system is not adequate. He said that the dorms located on the perimeter of the building suffer from overheating in the summer and excess cold in the winter.

Response: We agree that equipment is in need of repair.

Recommendation #5: The Sheriff should investigate further into this situation.

Response: Has been implemented in part.

Finding #6: The commercial laundry equipment is in poor condition, causing maintenance visits costing from \$400.00 to \$1,000.00 per visit to repair old machines. There are

times when there is no washing machine available for the daily use requirement. The rules require that the purchase of any item over \$3,000 must be approved by the Board of Supervisors (BOS). This requirement has caused one to two months delay.

Response: We agree with the finding that equipment is in need of repair or replacement.

Recommendation #6: Repairing old worn out machines is an inefficient use of funds. The BOS need to expedite procedures for replacement of specific equipment.

Response: Equipment has been replaced within the County Purchasing Policy

Finding #7: File storage is a problem. Old files are boxed and stored in an area that should be used for more productive purposes

Response: We agree with the finding

Recommendation #7: The Sheriff needs to investigate updated ways to store files, perhaps in a computerized system or other alternatives such as sharing technology resources with other adjoining counties.

Response: The recommendation will be implemented at the local level. Sharing Technology with other adjoining Counties will be more costly than adding the functions locally.



TRINITY COUNTY

Board of Supervisors

P.O. BOX 1613, WEAVERVILLE, CALIFORNIA 96093

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RECEIVED

OCT 16 2009

TRINITY COUNTY
SUPERIOR COURT

TO: The Honorable James Woodward,
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court

FROM: Trinity County Board of Supervisors

SUBJECT: Response to Recommendations of 2008-09
Grand Jury Judicial Committee
Trinity County Detention Facility
Final Report

DATE: October 6, 2009

Wendy Reiss

The Grand Jury Judicial Committee has requested a written response to their final report on the Trinity County Detention Facility. The Board of Supervisors' response is as follows:

Finding #1:

The exercise yard concertina-wire fence has been crushed at the top in one corner and is an escape risk.

Response: Agree

Recommendation #1:

The crushed wire needs to be repaired as soon as possible. An additional strand of razor wire should be installed which would make the top of the fencing virtually escape proof.

Response: The crushed section will be repaired and an additional strand of wire will be added when monies are available.

Finding # 2:

Staffing shortages make it necessary for one officer, rather than a medical technician, which is required by law, to distribute medications to the inmates. The process of setting up and delivering certain medications takes up to eight hours per day. Trinity County is one of three jails in the state without a Medical Technician.

JUDY PFLUEGER
DISTRICT 1

JUDY MORRIS
DISTRICT 2

ROGER JAEGEL
DISTRICT 3

HOWARD FREEMAN
DISTRICT 4

WENDY REISS
DISTRICT 5

Response: State medical requirements are being met.

Recommendation # 2:

There should be a Medical Technician on staff when there is funding available as the current situation is a liability concern.

Response: Agree

Finding # 3:

All of the communication equipment, including the telephone system and Internet equipment, is in an old storeroom and overheats in the summer causing equipment shutdowns.

Response: Agree

Recommendation # 3:

This is a public safety issue and needs to be fixed as soon as possible.

Response: Will be implemented as soon as possible.

Finding # 4:

The inmate uniforms are becoming worn, ripped and torn. There is no funding in the budget to replace them.

Response: Disagree and there is funding in the Sheriff's budget.

Recommendation # 4:

The Sheriff needs to look into outside community volunteers for repairs and or replacement of the uniforms.

Response: Allowances have been made in the budget therefore will not be implemented.

Finding # 5:

The Jail Commander reported that the air conditioning and heating system is not adequate. He said that the dorms located on the perimeter of the building suffer from overheating in the summer and excess cold in the winter.

Response: Agree

Recommendation # 5:

The Sheriff should investigate further into this situation.

Response: Partically implemented.

Finding: # 6:

The commercial laundry equipment is in poor condition, causing maintenance visits costing from \$400.00 to \$1,000.00 per visit to repair old machines. There are times when there is no washing machine available for the daily use requirement. The rules require that the purchase of any item over \$3,000 must be approved by the Board of Supervisors (BOS). This requirement has caused one to two months delay.

Response: Equipment has been replaced.

Recommendation # 6:

Repairing old worn out machines is an inefficient use of funds. The BOS need to expedite procedures for replacement of specific equipment.

Response: Equipment replacement was authorized as soon as brought to Board's attention.

Finding # 7:

File storage is a problem. Old files are boxed and stored in an area that should be used for more productive purposes.

Response: Agree

Recommendation # 7:

The Sheriff needs to investigate updated ways to store files, perhaps in a computerized system or other alternatives such as sharing technology resources with other adjoining counties.

Response: Storage locally will be implemented as out of county costs would be greater.