

2011-2012 GRAND JURY

JUR-2011-2012-002

REPORT

Trinity County Detention
Facility: Disaster Pending!

CAO

RESPONSE



TRINITY COUNTY

Office of the County Administrator

WENDY G. TYLER

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AUG 6 - 2012
TRINITY COUNTY
SUPERIOR COURT

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

FROM: *WGT* Wendy G. Tyler, County Administrative Officer

CC: Clerk of the Board
Foreperson, Grand Jury

SUBJECT: Response to Recommendations of 2011-12
Grand Jury Judicial Committee Final Report
JUR 2011/12-002 – Detention Facility

DATE: August 6, 2012

The Grand Jury Judicial Committee has requested a written response to their final report number JUR 2011/12-002. In my capacity as County Administrative Officer my response is as follows:

Finding #1: *The 8/15/11 response to the 2010-2011 Grand Jury Report stated, "The video system is failing and plans are underway to have it replaced in the coming weeks". Although new security cameras have been purchased (some time ago), to date they have not been installed. At the time of the tour only one of the old cameras appeared to be working.*

Response: I agree.

Recommendation #1: *It is imperative for the safety of the staff and inmates that the monitoring system be functional. It is the top priority for replacement. Complete the installation immediately.*

Response: Implementation is currently underway with an anticipated completion date of September 1, 2012.

Finding #2: *The mandates of California Bill AB109 are overloading a Jail facility that is not designed for long term housing. Due to the overcrowding the Law Enforcement Officers*

are having to make a determination as to whether to arrest, or just cite an individual because "There is no room at the Inn".

Response: I agree in part with this finding. The Jail was not designed to house inmates' long term. The provisions of AB109 have resulted in the sentencing of less than 4 inmates thus far. Additionally, AB109 provides that all inmates now receive 1/2 time credit instead of 1/3 credit for time served in custody and new amendments allow the sheriff to release inmates early by cutting an additional 25 days from their sentence from 5 days to 30 days to address overcrowding. A great deal of the overcrowding in the Jail is a result of delays in the Court system, and lack of a fully implemented pre-trial release program.

Recommendation 2a: *Look for housing for long term inmates in surrounding counties.*

Response: This recommendation requires further analysis. Housing expenses are a general fund obligation. The fiscal impact of this would need to be fully analyzed to determine what the most cost effective options are. County Administration will work with the Sheriff on this analysis, and report back to the Grand Jury by the end of fiscal year 12/13.

Recommendation 2b: *Pay the State Prison bed fee of \$137.00 per day, or CalFire bed fee of \$45.00 per day to house these inmates until funding for a new facility is acquired.*

Response: This recommendation also requires further analysis. As stated above, housing expenses are a general fund obligation. While on its face the CalFire bed fee seems inexpensive, it should be noted that the County retains the liability for any inmate placed with CalFire. So, should an inmate be injured on an assignment, the County General Fund would bear those costs. County administration will work with the Sheriff on this analysis, and report back to the Grand Jury by the end of fiscal year 12/13.

Finding 3: *There are a number of maintenance and repairs that need attention.*

Response: I agree with this finding.

Recommendation 3: *In conjunction with County General Services staff, use jail trustees to perform required maintenance. For example, but not limited to, holes in the walls, weed control and security cameras.*

Response: Will be implemented as manpower and financial resources allow.

Finding 4: *Female staffing continues to be inadequate. Gender specific positions can be advertised for a detention facility.*

Response: I agree with this finding.

Recommendation 4: *Advertise and fill the position that is gender specific.*

Response: Will be implemented to the extent that the Board of Supervisors authorizes the recruitment and upon closing of the recruitment a qualified candidate is selected and completes the pre-hiring screening processes.

Finding 5: *There is a mixing of inmates that are pre-trial, trustee, and felony offenders.*

Response: I agree with this finding.

Recommendation 5: *Find alternative means to separate the classes of inmates: such as monitoring devices, work release programs, housing elsewhere.*

Response: Has been partially implemented. Electronic monitoring is already being done. General Services has already developed a work release program and is implementing it as time and resources allow. As indicated in response to findings 2a and 2b alternative housing requires further analysis.

Finding 6: *Lack of supervisorial personnel and funding has been the catch all excuse for many years. With the County's limited resources, management must prioritize both staffing and funding needs.*

Response: I disagree with this finding in part. Lack of personnel and funding is not an excuse. It is a reality in Trinity County. There have been continual on-going recruitments for law enforcement personnel. Often times we are unable to get qualified candidates out of the applicant pool. As to funding, in a County with stagnant revenues and rising costs, there will always be more need than there is funding. The Board of Supervisors has consistently funded public safety at a higher level than any other County service. Additionally, substantial funds have been expended in the past two fiscal years on maintenance, repairs, and equipment replacement at the jail.

Recommendation 6a: *To minimize the County's liability issues, management must prioritize resources for maintenance and repairs.*

Response: Has been implemented to the degree fiscally possible. Regular maintenance and repairs are performed by General Service's staff. Contractors are brought in on an as needed basis to speed up repair and maintenance services.

Recommendation 6b: *A strategic plan for funding a new facility should be developed and implemented immediately.*

Response: Will be implemented during fiscal year 12/13.