

2012 – 2013 GRAND JURY FINAL REPORT

JUR-2012-2013-001
Trinity County Juvenile
Detention Facility:
*“The Application of an
Education plan and the
development
of a work ethic!”*

Board of Supervisors’ Response

County Administrative Officer’s
Response

County Sheriff’s Response



TRINITY COUNTY

TRINITY COUNTY GRAND JURY

P.O. Box 2308
Weaverville, CA 96093

Date: June 20, 2013

TO: Judge Elizabeth Johnson, Presiding Judge
Trinity County Superior Court

FROM: Pat Frost, Foreperson
Trinity County Grand Jury

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Pat Frost', is written over the 'FROM' line of the letterhead.

SUBJECT: Judicial Committee **JUR-2012-2013-001 Trinity County Juvenile Detention Facility: The Application of an Education plan and the development of a work ethic!**

Enclosed for your review is a copy of the subject report that was prepared by the Civil Grand Jury's Judicial Committee.

After you have completed your review, please initial and forward copies of the report to the appropriate parties indicated in the "Responses Required" section. For ease in correlating the Responses to the Findings, we are requesting that this cover Transmittal be attached to the Report when it is distributed and that all responses quote the Report number and Report title as shown above. Additionally we ask that respondents provide electronic copies of their responses to streamline the production of the 2012-13 Final Report.

Thank you for your timely review. If you have any questions, please contact me at 739-3160.

Enclosure: **JUR-2012-2013-001 Trinity County Juvenile Detention Facility: The Application of an Education plan and the development of a work ethic!**

TRINITY COUNTY GRAND JURY
2012-2013

Judicial Committee
Final Report

Trinity County Juvenile Detention Facility
**The Application of an Education plan and the
development of a work ethic!**
JUR-2012-2013-001

Approved June 20, 2013

Patrick Frost
Foreperson

Trinity County Grand Jury Report 2012-2013 Trinity County Juvenile Detention Facility

Summary

The Judicial Committee investigated the Trinity County Juvenile Detention Center. The Juvenile Center is located on several acres of land on the western side of the Weaverville Airport. The members of the Judicial Committee spent the majority of a morning taking a tour of the facility after a meeting with the staff.

The Center is about 12 years old, and provides a clean and pleasant environment for both inmates and staff. The Grand Jury has not received any complaints regarding the Juvenile Detention Facility.

Background

The Judicial Committee toured the facility on March 11, 2013. The Committee was greeted in the reception area, and shown to the conference room. The Committee was joined in the conference room by the Chief Probation Officer and two members of his staff.

The staff provided the committee with a very informative review of both the facility and the various programs conducted as part of the services provided to the inmates. The facility is licensed to house 28 inmates, both male and female. The inmates served are between the ages of 7 and 18 years. At the time of our visit there were two females and six males in the inmate population. The facility provides a secure location for juveniles being held pending court action and for the incarceration of juveniles as ordered by the Court.

Method of Investigation

1. A tour of the Juvenile Detention facility was provided after an orientation meeting with the Chief Probation Officer and two members of the staff, Tim Rogers and Chris Miller.
2. A review of the Detention Facility Reports from the 2010-2011 and the 2011-2012 Grand Jury Reports.

Discussion

The facility is located in a fairly modern and very user-friendly building. The building was designed from inception to be a juvenile detention facility and therefore is not a rehabilitated or remodeled building. This makes the building very useful with little or no wasted space.

The Juvenile Detention program has formed a Community Advisors group composed of all key individuals from other county and community programs to provide vital interfacing of the programs made available to inmates and their family/support system. Members of the Advisory Committee include Superior Court Judge Elizabeth Johnson, District Attorney Michael Harper, and educators from the Trinity County Office of Education.

The program also has a good working relationship with the Trinity Alps Unified School District. The coordination of the Center programs with the School District's programs results in a more coordinated plan for individual inmates and results in an increased graduation rate as well as improved performance on the California High School Proficiency Examination. The Center also is able to coordinate with the Trinity County Office of Education to provide special services to students via Individualized Education Programs commonly known as IEP.

Findings and Recommendations

Finding 1:

The leadership of the Center has formed a Community Advisory Committee in an effort to improve and coordinate the various services available to youth and their families. Participants in the monthly meetings include but are not limited to the District Attorney's office, Judge Elizabeth Johnson, as well as representatives from the Trinity Alps Unified School District, Trinity County Behavioral Health and the Human Resource Network.

Recommendation 1:

Continue with the expansion and solidification of the Community Advisory Committee.

Finding 2:

The Juvenile Detention Center is fortunate to be housed in a modern and efficient facility.

Recommendation 2:

In the not so distant future some maintenance procedures may be required for the first time as the building reaches "middle age." Assuming the building has a "life expectancy" of 50 years, the building is 25% of the way to obsolescence. Preventative maintenance in the near future may be a key to the continuation of such a nice facility

Finding 3:

The visiting committee was pleased to learn that the staff is actively pursuing grants and other alternative sources of funding to enhance the program offerings.

Recommendation 3:

Continue to investigate sources of alternative financial support. Maximize the use of underutilized bed space to house out of county inmates as a way to support some of the fixed costs of the facility

Responses Required

In accordance with the California Penal Code Section 933.05 a response is required as indicated below:

| Respondent | Findings/Recommendations | Due Date* |
|------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------|
| Board of Supervisors | 1, 2, 3 | 90 days |
| Trinity County CAO | 1, 2, 3 | 60 days |
| Trinity County Sheriff | 3 | 60 days |

*Number of days after filing date of this Grand Jury Report

The governing bodies indicated above should be aware that comment or response of the governing body must be conducted subject to the notice, agenda, and open meeting requirements of the Ralph M. Brown Act.