




TRINITY COUNTY

Board of Supervisors

P.O. BOX 1613, WEAVERVILLE, CALIFORNIA 96093
PHONE (530) 623-1217 FAX (530) 623-8365

TO: The Honorable Elizabeth Johnson
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court

FROM: Trinity County Board of Supervisors 

CC: Wendy G. Tyler, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

SUBJECT: Response to Recommendations of 2013/2014
Grand Jury Judicial Committee Final Report
Re: JUR 2013-2014-006 Trinity County Adult Detention Facility.

DATE: *September 23, 2014*

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

Finding #1: TCJ has a new multi-camera/screen inmate monitoring system, but insufficient staff to use it.

Response: Disagree; currently the Correctional Facility has 17 full-time employees on staff. This fills all allocated Jail Correctional staff on the books. Many positions have multiple combined duties, monitoring cameras is one of those. All cameras have 24/7, 365 day recording capability to monitor housing units and any occurrence's.

Finding #2: Insufficient staff—both male and female—exists for operating the jail as well as the DC.

Response: Disagree in part; currently the jail is fully staffed with 17 full-time employees. I agree there is a need for more female staff members; targeted recruitment for women has been unsuccessful. All recruitment efforts are open to women applicants.

Finding #3: A new 911 computer system is being installed, but the air conditioning is inadequate not only to support this new system, but also the jail itself. The jail atmosphere is humid and cool.

JUDY PFLUEGER
DISTRICT 1

JUDY MORRIS
DISTRICT 2

KARL FISHER
DISTRICT 3

DEBRA CHAPMAN
DISTRICT 4

JOHN FENLEY
DISTRICT 5

Response: Agree; the old HVAC system was not working properly. A new air conditioning system was installed May 29, 2014 at a cost of \$44,673.

Finding #4: The inmate intercom system does not work.

Response: Agree in part; the inmate intercom is antiquated and in need of constant repairs. The General Services Department has kept it functional and operational by finding replacement parts.

Finding #5: The time inmates wait for sentencing is long; years in some cases.

Response: Agree; the BOS, CAO nor Sheriff has any control or jurisdiction over trials or sentencing. This is the jurisdiction of the District Attorney, Judges and Courts.

Finding #6: Salary and benefits for CO's is insufficient for retention.

Response: Disagree; the County is well aware of the issues in pay and scale classifications and compensation of our employees. In good faith the County has made an agreement with members of the Deputy Sheriff's Association to fund a classification and compensation study. While pay scale may be lower than offered in other areas, the county does provide a substantial benefit package to all employees.

Finding #7: CO's do not have access to necessary protective equipment, e.g. bulletproof vests.

Response: Agree; staff safety is always a concern. Grant funding for upgrading and purchasing new safety equipment will be applied for in September 2014.

Finding #8: Food is prepared and distributed in a medical area in which blood samples are drawn.

Response: Agree; blood draws are now being performed in another area of building away from staff refrigeration and food prep area.

Finding #9: No bathroom and sink is available in the exercise yard. Inmates go to the bathroom on the ground.

Response: Agree; a restroom is available to inmates inside the building at their request to staff. The sink in the yard was vandalized and has not been replaced.

Recommendations: Recommendations R1 through R9 correspond to each finding above. The TCS must address each finding in a report to the BOS and the CAO. The report must contain the required fix, the associated cost, and a schedule for completion. The report must provide guidance to the necessary action agent: CAO, BOS, and/or TCSCJ. This report must make clear to all recipients the associated risks of non-response to the required fixes. If insufficient budget exists to deliver necessary repairs and upgrades, then the BOS must develop

Judge Johnson
JUR 2013-2014-006
September 23, 2014

a plan to demonstrate how community safety will be maintained in light of serious shortfalls in police staffing. This plan must address:

1. Upgrades to TCJ staffing and salaries for sufficient male/female balance and personnel retention.
2. Repairs to the existing TCJ.
3. CO Health and Safety
4. Inmate sentence processing.

Response: Will not be implemented. The Correctional Facility is old and in need of replacement. This fact has been noted and responded to in many previous Grand Jury Reports. The Sheriff and staff applied for Jail Construction Funding last year and were denied. They will apply again this year in another round of funding and will continue to look for grants and funding in an ever decreasing pool of revenue. The Sheriff's staff and General Services Department should be commended for the work they do on a limited budget to keep staff and inmates safe.



TRINITY COUNTY

Office of the County Administrator


WENDY G. TYLER

County Administrative Officer

P.O. BOX 1613, WEAVERVILLE, CALIFORNIA 96093-1613

PHONE (530) 623-1382 FAX (530) 623-8365

TO: The Honorable Elizabeth Johnson,
Judge of the Superior Court

FROM:  Wendy G. Tyler, County Administrative Officer

CC: Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

SUBJECT: Response to Recommendations of 2013-14
Grand Jury Judicial Committee Final Report
JUR 2013-2014-006 Trinity County Adult Detention Facility

DATE: August 24, 2014

The Grand Jury Judicial Committee has requested a written response to their final report referenced above. In my capacity as County Administrative Officer my response is as follows:

Finding # 1: *TCJ has a new multi-camera/screen inmate monitoring system, but insufficient staff to use it.*

Response: I disagree with this finding. The jail is currently staffed with 17 full-time employees (FTE's). Most positions have some form of multi-tasking in them. To have staff solely dedicated to monitoring cameras would not be a fiscally prudent use of taxpayer monies.

Finding 2: *Insufficient staff-both male and female—exists for operating the jail and the DC.*

Response: I disagree in part with this finding. Again, the jail is fully staffed with 17 full-time employees. It is agreed that more female officers are needed at the jail. We have targeted recruiting in an attempt to gain female officers however few applications were received in the process.

Finding 3: *A new 911 computer system is being installed, but the air conditioning system is inadequate not only to support this new system, but also jail staff itself. The jail atmosphere is humid and cool.*

Response: I agree with this finding in part. At the time of the inspection the ac system was not performing well. A new air conditioning system for the jail and dispatch area was completed on May 29, 2014.

Finding 4: *The inmate intercom system does not work.*

Response: I agree with this finding in part. The inmate intercom system is outdated, and at times does not function. The General Services Department works diligently to find replacement parts and keep the system working.

Finding 5: *The time inmates wait for sentencing is long; years in some case.*

Response: I agree with this finding, however the length an inmate awaits sentencing is not within the jurisdiction and control of the Sheriff, CAO or Board of Supervisors.

Finding 6: *Salary and benefits for CO's is insufficient for retention.*

Response: I disagree with this finding in part. The County has recently agreed to fund a classification and compensation study for members of the Deputy Sheriff's Association, and will negotiate implementation of the study when completed. This Association includes the correctional officer classifications. The County provides a very generous benefit package for employees.

Finding 7: *CO's do not have access to necessary protective equipment, e.g. bulletproof vests.*

Response: I agree with this finding. The Sheriff has identified grants funds to purchase equipment needed for jail staff.

Finding 8: *Food is prepared and distributed in a medical area in which blood samples are drawn.*

Response: I agree with this finding. This issue has been resolved by performing blood draws in another area of the facility, rather than where the staff refrigerator is located.

Finding 9: *No bathroom and sink are available in the exercise yard. Inmates go to the bathroom on the ground.*

Response: I agree with this finding. At one time there was a sink in the exercise yard, however it was vandalized by inmate and there are no resources available to repair it at this time. Inmates may request to use a restroom just inside the building from the yard but many choose to not make that request and instead urinate on the ground.

Recommendations: The report references "Recommendations R1 through R9" however no such recommendations are found in this report. As has been noted previously by the County, the Jail is outdated, and we continue to work diligently to obtain grants funds to construct a new facility. In the meantime, General Services in cooperation with the Sheriff and jail staff, work to keep the Jail operational, through the judicious use of the limited funding available.



TRINITY COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

101 Memorial Drive, P.O. Box 1228
Weaverville, CA 96093
(530) 623-2611

BRUCE HANEY, Sheriff/Coroner
KEN LANGSTON, Undersheriff

August 19, 2014

Judge Elizabeth Johnson, Presiding Judge
Trinity County Superior Court
P.O. Box 1258
11 Court Street
Weaverville, Ca. 96093

RECEIVED

AUG 20 2014

Trinity County
Board of Supervisors
By: _____

Dear Judge Johnson,

The following is a response to the Trinity County Grand Jury Report, JUR-2013-2014-006
Trinity County Adult Detention Facility.

Finding 1

TCJ has a new multi-camera/screen inmate monitoring system, but insufficient staff to use it.

Response

The TCJ is currently staffed with 17 fulltime employees (FTE's). The 17 FTE's are all the allocated positions approved by the Board of Supervisors. This is a vast improvement from the 11 FTE's that were in place when I took office in 2011. Retaining these employees continues to be a challenge because of our current pay scale and working conditions compared to other counties in the northern part of California.

Though the multi-camera system may not be monitored at all times it does record the various housing units 24/7 and any incidents that may occur within the facility. We estimate that to have someone monitor the cameras 24/7/365 we would need 4 additional FTE's in the jail.

Finding 2

Insufficient staff-both male and female—exists for operating the jail and the DC.

Response

The TCSO has filled all FTE's allocated by the Board of Supervisors.

Finding 3

A new 911 computer system is being installed, but the air conditioning system is inadequate not only to support this new system, but also jail staff itself. The jail atmosphere is humid and cool.

Response

The installation of a new air conditioning system for the jail and DC was completed on May 29, 2014. The cost of the system was \$44,673.

Finding 4

The inmate intercom system does not work.

Response

The inmate intercom is operational but is in constant need of various repairs. The system is old and outdated and finding parts to make necessary repairs has been challenging. The county General Services Department is to be commended for keeping the system operational.

Finding 5

The time inmates wait for sentencing is long; years in some case.

Response

The population of pretrial/presentenced inmates continues to be a problem. Currently approximately 90% of the jail population falls into this category. Trials and sentencing is a function of the courts and Finding 5 should be addressed by the Judges, District Attorney and the Public Defender's Office.

Finding 6

Salary and benefits for CO's is insufficient for retention.

Response

It is my understanding that the county will be conducting a classification and compensation study to address these issues.

Finding 7

CO's do not have access to necessary protective equipment, e.g. bulletproof vests.

Response

In September 2014 grant funds will become available to address jail staff equipment needs.

Finding 8

Food is prepared and distributed in a medical area in which blood samples are drawn.

Response

This issue has been resolved by moving all blood draws out of the room where the staff refrigerator is located.

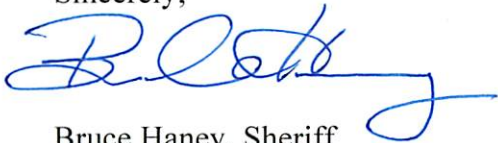
Finding 9

No bathroom and sink are available in the exercise yard. Inmates go to the bathroom on the ground.

Response

There was a sink in the exercise yard but inmates pulled it from the wall destroying much of the plumbing. Inmates may use a restroom just inside the building from the yard but must request to do so from staff. Many choose to not make that request and urinate on the ground.

Sincerely,



Bruce Haney, Sheriff
P.O. Box 1228
10 Memorial Drive
Weaverville, Ca. 96093
(530) 623-3740

Cc: Wendy Tyler, Trinity County Administrative Officer