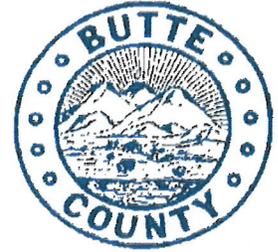




BUTTE COUNTY PROBATION DEPARTMENT



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July 26, 2010

Honorable, Stephen J. Howell, Presiding Judge
Butte County Superior Court
1 Court Street
Oroville, CA 95965



Honorable Judge Howell:

The following is in response to the Grand Jury Final Report, dated 2009-2010, pages 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, and 184 under the heading of "BUTTE COUNTY JUVENILE HALL" as required by Penal Code Section 933, 933.05.

FINDINGS

F1. Due to budget constraints, only three of the six pods are currently being used to house juveniles. When JH is reaching its population capacity and new arrivals are expected, juveniles are released early or temporarily released to their families.

This respondent agrees with this finding.

F2. Table Mountain School operates for the benefit of juveniles who are mainstreamed back into the public school system or are able to achieve their GED or graduate.

The respondent agrees with this finding.

F3. The Boys and Girls Club give juveniles a place to go to socialize in a productive way, develop life skills, listen to music, and play games. A juvenile must reside in JH for a minimum of 20 days before he/she can participate. Juveniles are encouraged to attend a Boys and Girls Club within their community after their released from the JH..

This respondent agrees with this finding. [However, juveniles committed by the court to serve a set number of days have no waiting period.]

F4. Juveniles are repeatedly released back into the same environment and problems that they faced before their stay in the JH.

This respondent agrees with this finding.

RECOMMENDATIONS

R1. Aggressively explore ways to finance and operate the unused pods.

The recommendation has been implemented. Staffing is the greatest expense involved in the operation and opening of an additional Pod within the Juvenile Hall. The Chief Probation Officer continues to seek alternative funding sources to open additional Pods. The most recent attempt was to possibly house a specialized program component in one of the pods. Additional contracts with both State and Federal agencies have been pursued. As a result of current economic factors many counties are also looking to off set the cost of operations in similar ways. At this time there are few alternatives and those available have not proven to be cost effective. The Department will continue to seek alternative ways to fund additional pods.

R2. Table Mountain School is essential and must continue too operate in JH.

The respondent continues to have a good working relationship with the Butte County Office of Education, and Superintendent of Schools. The Superintendent continues to provide an essential service in meeting educational requirements.

R3. The Boys and Girls Club offers a new direction for the juveniles to pursue and should continue to operate in JH. The Grand Jury recommends lowering the amount of days the juvenile is withheld from participating in this program from 20 days to eight days.

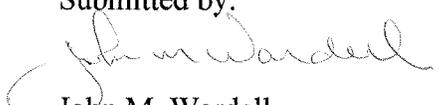
The respondent maintains a good working relationship with the Boys and Girls Club of the NorthValley and where appropriate Juvenile Hall staff will allow minors to participate in Boys and Girls Club programming at the earliest possible time.

R4. The Grand Jury understands that JH administration is confined by state regulations, the court system, and continuing budget cuts, but recommends the JH administration and probation department focus on ways to address the individual needs of juveniles within Butte County.

The care and custody of minors under the control of the Butte County Probation Department continue to be of the highest priority.

This concludes Probation Department's response to the Grand Jury findings and recommendations for fiscal year 2009-2010.

Submitted by:


John M. Wardell
Chief Probation Officer

Cc: Butte County Board of Supervisors