

COUNTY OF BUTTE

DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT AND SOCIAL SERVICES



CATHI GRAMS

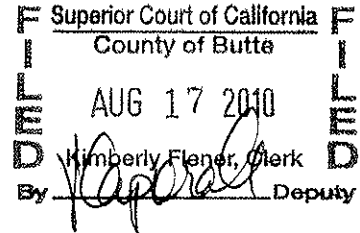
Director and Public Guardian/Public Administrator

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August 16, 2010

Honorable Steven J. Howell, Presiding Judge
Butte County Superior Court
One Court Street
Oroville, CA 95965



Re: Department of Employment and Social Services (DESS) Director Response to the 2009-2010 Grand Jury Final Report

Honorable Judge Howell:

Penal Code Section 933 and 933.05 provides that the governing body of the public agency shall comment to the presiding judge of the superior court on the findings and recommendations pertaining to matters under the control of the governing body. The Board of Supervisors, as the governing body of the County of Butte, will provide its response to the 2009-2010 Grand Jury Report by the statutory deadline. The Grand Jury, though, has asked that I provide a direct response to the Presiding Judge. While all legal requirements for a response to the Grand Jury Report have been met by the County of Butte with the Board of Supervisors response, in the spirit of cooperation, I am providing this direct response to the Grand Jury Report on Butte County Juvenile Hall as requested.

BUTTE COUNTY JUVENILE HALL

Grand Jury 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.

The respondent neither agrees nor disagrees with the finding. DESS is not involved with the operation of the Juvenile Hall and has no basis to form an opinion on 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 neither agrees nor disagrees with the finding. DESS is not involved with the operation of the Juvenile Hall and has no basis to form an opinion on this finding.

F3. The Boys and Girls Club gives 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 release from JH.

The respondent neither agrees nor disagrees with the finding. DESS is not involved with the operation of the Juvenile Hall and has no basis to form an opinion on this finding.

F4. Juveniles are repeatedly released back into the same environment and problems that they faced before their stay in JH. The Grand Jury is concerned about the home environment that a number of Juveniles face after their release from JH.

The respondent neither agrees nor disagrees with the finding. DESS (Children Services Division) has no legal jurisdiction over juveniles in JH and has no basis to form an opinion on this finding. Juveniles placed in JH have been adjudicated by the juvenile court under WIC 602. "The Welfare and Institutions Code section that permits the criminal prosecution of a child suspected of committing a misdemeanor or felony. If the charges are sustained, the child may be declared a ward of the court under the probation Department or California youth Authority supervision".

Grand Jury Recommendations

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

The respondent neither agrees nor disagrees with the recommendation. DESS is not involved with the operation of the Juvenile Hall and has no basis to form an opinion on this recommendation.

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

The respondent neither agrees nor disagrees with the recommendation. DESS is not involved with the operation of the Juvenile Hall and has no basis to form an opinion on this recommendation.

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.

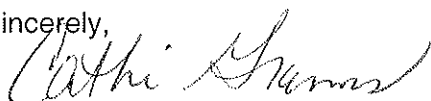
The respondent neither agrees nor disagrees with the recommendation. DESS is not involved with the operation of the Juvenile Hall and has no basis to form an opinion on this recommendation.

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 respondent neither agrees nor disagrees with the recommendation. DESS is not involved in providing services to juveniles in JH, has no legal jurisdiction over the juveniles in JH and is not involved with the operation of the Juvenile Hall and has no basis to form an opinion on this recommendation.

This concludes the response from the Employment and Social Services Director.

Sincerely,



Cathi Grams, Director

Butte County Department of Employment and Social Services