



BUTTE COUNTY PROBATION DEPARTMENT



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August 20, 2012

Honorable Stephen E. Benson, Presiding Judge
Butte County superior Court
1 Court Street
Oroville, Ca. 95965



Honorable Judge Benson:

The following is in response to the Grand Jury Final report, dated 2011-2012, pages 42, 43, and 44 under the heading Butte County juvenile hall (BCJH) as required by penal code section 933, 933.05.

FINDINGS

F8: The lack of adequate perimeter fencing on the south side of Juvenile Hall creates a security risk.

This respondent disagrees with this finding. Security exterior fencing in juvenile institutions throughout the states does not include a double row of fencing. Single row is standard

F9: The lack of fencing and a remotely operated security gate in the detainee intake/reception area compromises security.

This respondent agrees with this finding.

F10: Inoperable security cameras on the exterior of the facility compromise staff ability to monitor the exercise area.

This respondent disagrees with this finding. The single camera is operable and functional, and its purpose is only to monitor the exit door, not the entire recreation field. Additional cameras are necessary to monitor the exercise field, and proposals have been finalized to increase security camera and recording throughout the facility.

F11: The application of bright, clean paint throughout the interior of the Juvenile Hall creates an appearance that overcomes the basic institutional nature of the facility.

This respondent agrees with this finding.

F12: The enthusiasm and dedication of the staff has a positive effect on Juvenile Hall detainees.

This respondent agrees with this finding.

RECOMMENDATIONS

R5: Seek funding for and install appropriate security fencing on the south side of the Juvenile Hall facility.

The recommendation will not be implemented. An additional exterior fence surrounding the current formidable, climb-resistant razor-wired fence could still not prevent, for example, contraband thrown over it. Normal security fencing in local juvenile institutions is a single fence. Prior to using the outdoor exercise field, a check of the fence and field is performed by custodial staff. During activities in this area, staff are always present and can direct offenders back into the building if suspicious activity outside the fence is observed.

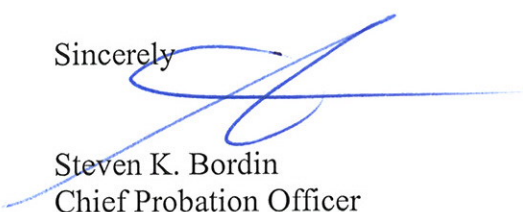
R6: Seek funding for and install security fencing and a remotely operated security gate to the detainee reception area.

The recommendation has been partially implemented. A security gate for the staff parking lot, which lot leads to the intake area roll-up gate, was submitted in the 2011-2012 budget but was unfunded due to limited funding and other pressing needs. Funding sources will be explored so that a gate and fence might be able to be constructed in the future.

R7: Repair and maintain the security cameras mounted on the exterior of the Juvenile Hall facility.

This recommendation has been implemented and will continue to be implemented whenever repairs are necessary. The cameras on the exterior of the building and the camera in the exercise area field rarely fail, and it has been probably two years since one was replaced or repaired. When repairs are necessary, repairs have been made without undue delay.

Sincerely



Steven K. Bordin
Chief Probation Officer

Cc: Bill Connelly
Larry Wahl
Maureen Kirk
Steve Lambert
Kim Yamaguchi