



County of Orange  
C a l i f o r n i a

**Michael B. Giancola**  
County Executive Officer

July 22, 2014

Honorable Glenda Sanders  
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court of California  
700 Civic Center Drive West  
Santa Ana, CA 92701

**Subject: Response to Grand Jury Report, "Juvenile Offenders and  
Recidivism: Orange County Solutions"**

Dear Judge Sanders:

Per your request, and in accordance with Penal Code 933, please find the County of Orange response to the subject report as approved by the Board of Supervisors. The respondents are the Orange County Board of Supervisors and the Probation Department.

If you have any questions, please contact Mike Kerr of the County Executive Office at 714-834-7086.

Sincerely,

Michael B. Giancola  
County Executive Officer

Enclosure

cc: FT 2013-14 Orange County Grand Jury Foreman  
Mark Denny, Chief Operating Officer, County Executive Office  
Mark Refowitz, Director, Orange County Health Care Agency  
Mike Kerr, Assistant to the COO, County Executive Office

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Responses to Findings and Recommendations  
2013-2014 Orange County Grand Jury Report  
*"Juvenile Offenders and Recidivism: Orange County Solutions"*

**Introductory Comments**

On May 28, 2014, the Grand Jury released a report entitled: *"Juvenile Offenders and Recidivism: Orange County Solutions."* This report directed responses to Findings and Recommendations from the Orange County Probation Department and the Orange County Board of Supervisors. The responses to findings and recommendations herein represent a combined response from the Orange County Probation Department and the Orange County Board of Supervisors.

**Responses to Findings:**

**F.1. Many juveniles are detained in treatment centers for 30 to 60 days, yet many probation staffers believe that additional days of treatment and classes will result in a lower recidivism rate.**

Probation's Response: Agree

**F.2. By treating juveniles for more days, there are greater "upfront" costs to the County.**

Probation's Response: Agree

**F.3. The use of evidence-based practices (what treatment modalities work) results in lower recidivism rates since the focus has shifted from detention and punishment to rehabilitation and re-entry into the community.**

Probation's Response: Agree

**F.4. Budget constraints have reduced the County's research department. The Probation Department is handicapped by this reduction in staff since they are unable to determine the true cost impact of their programs and recidivism rates due to the lack of research personnel to collect and analyze data.**

Probation's Response: Agree

Board of Supervisors' Response: Agree

**F.5. The Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI) is an innovative approach utilized by Orange County for a number of years**

Probation's Response: Agree

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**F.6. The decline in the number of juvenile detainees has resulted in unused capacity in several juvenile facilities, resulting in the closure of one facility and consolidation in the remaining four facilities.**

**Modest unused capacity is a good thing.**

Probation's Response: Agree

**F.7. As of 2010, juvenile court cases in Orange County are in line proportionately with other like-sized counties of populations over 500,000.**

Probation's Response: Agree

**F.8. The recently established collaborative teams of the Community Day School, Santa Ana Unified School District, Orange County Probation Department, and various community services, are working as a cohesive team within the budget limitations of this pilot program.**

Probation's Response: Agree

**F.9. The Probation Department and Santa Ana Unified School District staffs are dedicated to behavioral modification treatments. Additional staff and programs are needed to provide psychological therapies for many juveniles.**

Probation's Response: Agree

**F.10. To date, the pilot program of Community Day School is not academically accredited.**

Probation's Response: Agree

**F.11. OCPD indicated their intention to replicate the Community Day School to other areas of Orange County, upon successful completion of the pilot program.**

Probation's Response: Agree

**Responses to Recommendations:**

**R.1. The Orange County Probation Department and the Board of Supervisors should re-constitute a research department to collect and analyze the cost effectiveness of their programs, and further monitor their juvenile recidivism rates. (F.3., F.4., F.6.)**

Board of Supervisors and Probation Department Response: Agree. The recommendation is not able to be implemented because it is not feasible based on current budget constraints.

**R.2. The Santa Ana Unified School District, the Superintendent of Schools, and the Orange County Probation Department should continue to seek academic accreditation for the Community Day School. (F.10.)**

Agree. The Orange County Probation Department has no authority to seek accreditation for the Community Day School.

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**R.3. The Orange County Probation Department and the Board of Supervisors should budget for evening meals/snacks, transportation home after evening programs, and additional trained behavior modification specialists. (F.9.)**

Board of Supervisors and Probation Department Response: Agree, this is an important need for the program. Grant funds and donations will be solicited to meet the transportation and evening meals/snack needs. The Probation Department is currently pursuing viable options with community partners

**R.4. After successful evaluation of the Community Day School pilot program, the Orange County Probation Department and the Superintendent of Schools should pursue replicating this model to other areas in Orange County. (F.11.)**

Agree. Should the Community Day School pilot program prove to be effective, the Orange County Probation Department will pursue expansion of the program to other schools.