



County of Orange

County Executive Office

September 1, 2015

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, "Annual Inquiry on Jails and Juvenile Detention Facilities"

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, OC Sheriff-Coroner, and Probation.

If you have any questions, please contact Jessica O'Hare of the County Executive Office at 714-834-7250.

Sincerely,

Frank Kim
County Executive Officer

Enclosure

cc: FY 2014-15 Orange County Grand Jury Foreman
Mark Denny, Chief Operating Officer, County Executive Office
Jessica O'Hare, Assistant to the COO, County Executive Office
Steve Sentman, Probation Department



Responses to Findings and Recommendations
2014-15 Grand Jury Report:

“Annual Inquiry on Jails and Juvenile Detention Facilities”

SUMMARY RESPONSE STATEMENT:

On June 22, 2015, the Grand Jury released a report entitled: “Annual Inquiry on Jails and Juvenile Detention Facilities.” This report directed responses to findings and recommendations to the Orange County Board of Supervisors and Probation Department, which are included below.

FINDINGS AND RESPONSES:

F.5. The condition and management of the Orange County Juvenile Detention facilities are acceptable and in overall compliance with state and local standards.

Response: Agrees with the finding.

F.6. The need for a gymnasium at Juvenile Hall/Youth Leadership Academy will be met, now that a State grant via Senate Bill 81 has been received to fund this project.

Response: Agrees with the finding.

F.7. Some deputy juvenile correctional officers do not wear uniforms, providing an overall appearance that is less than professional and making it difficult to differentiate deputy juvenile correctional officers from other staff.

Response: Disagrees partially with the finding.

Professionalism is not defined solely by a uniform. The immediate supervisor and manager are responsible to monitor their staff and ensure they are aware of, and comply with, acceptable and appropriate standards of dress and appearance as

specified in policy, procedure, directives and guidelines. All institutional staff must wear identification cards in plain sight.

F.8. The reduction in population at the various Juvenile facilities provides opportunities to conduct maintenance, repairs, and upgrades.

Response: Agrees with the finding.

F.9. Two of the Juvenile facilities have inadequate video surveillance systems. The Joplin Youth Center and the Youth Guidance Center have no video surveillance systems.

Response: Agrees with the finding.

RECOMMENDATIONS AND RESPONSES:

R4. The new facility at Juvenile Hall should serve multiple purposes, including a gymnasium, capability for vocational training, and a visitation center. (F.6.)

Response: The recommendation has not been implemented but will be implemented in the future.

Probation will be collaborating with external partners including, but not limited to the Board of Supervisors, the Juvenile Court, the Health Care Agency and the Department of Education to ensure the new facility will be used as a visiting center, exercise facility and training area that will assist youth in transitioning back into the community. After selection of an architect, the project will enter the schematic design phase which will address these items with the State Public Works Board. Project completion of the new facility is estimated to be within three years.

R5. Deputy juvenile correctional officers working with juveniles should be required to dress uniformly in order to look more professional and to be more easily identifiable. (F.7.)

Response: The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted.

Currently, all institutional staff must wear identification cards in plain sight to allow for ease of identification.

A uniform or uniform dress code is a negotiated item that requires formal discussions with the collective bargaining organization of the labor force. The memorandum of understanding regarding working conditions is renegotiated at

periodic intervals. The County is supportive of discussing this in future negotiations and analyzing cost and any other components necessary for implementation.

R6. During periods of population reduction, the OCPD should conduct maintenance projects as done by the OCSD. (F.8.)

Response: The recommendation has been implemented.

It has been, and will continue to be a standard practice that youth are moved from units requiring maintenance into a vacant unit so that necessary facility maintenance can be accomplished with minimal impact on facility operations.

R7. Upgrade the video surveillance system in all of the juvenile facilities by installing modern equipment and increase retention capacity to one year. (F.9.)

Response: *The response has been bifurcated to address individual juvenile facilities.*

**Part A: Juvenile Hall and Youth Leadership Academy (YLA)
The recommendation has not been implemented but will be implemented in the future.**

There is an ongoing project with OC Public Works to upgrade the surveillance equipment and archiving capacity for Juvenile Hall and the Youth Leadership Academy (YLA). The project is comprised of two phases. Phase I includes the infrastructure required for the video surveillance system upgrade and is estimated to be completed by the end of 2016. The schedule for Phase II, which includes installation of the equipment and related software, will be developed at the beginning of FY 2016-17. The overall project is estimated to be completed by fall 2017. Retention policies are consistent with mandated legal requirements.

**Part B: Youth Guidance Center (YGC) and Joplin Youth Center
The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not reasonable.**

Due to the nature of the facilities and types of offenders housed there, there are no current plans to install surveillance equipment at the Youth Guidance Center (YGC) or the Joplin Youth Center. YGC and Joplin are camp style minimum security facilities and as a result the type of offenders housed there are low risk as compared to those housed at Juvenile Hall and YLA. The supervision style utilized at the camps requires that the staff circulate throughout the living space, amongst the minors, decreasing the need for cameras. Although at this time there has not been a

specific need that justified the expenditure and extra staffing required to install and monitor cameras, the needs will continue to be reviewed and analyzed going forward.