



County of Orange

California

Thomas G. Mauk
County Executive Officer

AUG 15 2011

August 9, 2011

Honorable Thomas J. Borris
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court of California
700 Civic Center Drive West
Santa Ana, CA 92701

Subject: Orange County Sheriff's Department Inmate Re-Entry Unit

Dear Judge Borris:

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 Social Services Agency, the Probation Department, the Orange County Public Information Office, the County Executive Officer and the Orange County Board of Supervisors. If you have any questions, please contact Michelle Zink at (714) 834-7487 in the County Executive Office who will either assist you or direct you to the appropriate individual.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Thomas G. Mauk".

Thomas G. Mauk
County Executive Officer

Enclosure

cc: 2011-12 Orange County Grand Jury

County Executive Office
333 W. Santa Ana Blvd.
Third Floor
Santa Ana, California
92701-4062

Tel: (714) 834-6200
Fax: (714) 834-3018
Web: www.ocgov.com

2010-2011 Grand Jury Report
Orange County Sheriff's Department Inmate Re-Entry Unit
Probation Department/Social Services Agency/Orange County Public Information
Office/County Executive Officer/Board of Supervisors
Responses to Findings and Recommendations

Responses to Findings F.4 and F.6

F.4 Resources (housing and employment) are barriers to successful completion of the Inmate Re-Entry Program.

Response: Agrees with the finding

F.6 Greater public awareness of Orange County Sheriff's Department Inmate Re-Entry Program would provide a realistic view of recidivism.

Response: Agrees with the finding

Responses to Recommendation R.1 and R.2

R.1 Continue to seek funding to support the Re-Entry Program.

Response: The recommendation has been implemented.

The Orange County Board of Supervisors approved on June 21, 2011 an application by the Sheriff's Department for a \$750,000 grant under the Second Chance Act Adult Offender Re-Entry Program from the U.S. Department of Justice. The Sheriff's Department is requesting the maximum award allowed under the program. The Board also approved in May 2011 an agreement for post custody re-entry services and will continue to support the on-going efforts of the Sheriff's Department and other County departments to seek grant funding to provide financial support for programs aimed at reducing recidivism. One example is a grant application that would allow the Sheriff's Department to work with the Orange County Workforce Investment Board to provide employment services to clients referred from law enforcement agencies and community partners with the goal of enhancing the success of their employment search. Reductions in tax revenues associated with the economic downturn have made it necessary for the County to primarily utilize grant funding and other partnerships to support these types of services.

R.2 Increase public awareness of the value of programs responsible for recidivism reduction.

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

Orange County Probation Department will promote the existence and value of various programs aimed at recidivism reduction, including collaboration with the Orange County Sheriff's Inmate Re-Entry Unit. Efforts will include an update to the information on the Department website, and highlighting involvement in projects such as this in the Department's Business Plan. The updated website will occur within the next 90 days, and the next Business Plan is scheduled for release in 2012. Additionally, the Probation Department will discuss the possibility of a joint press release with the OC Sheriff's Department to further promote the program.

Orange County Social Services Agency (SSA) Children and Family Services (CFS) Division meets quarterly with the Orange County Sheriff's Department to discuss resources and collaborative efforts. SSA will make available to staff and clients any information the Sheriff's Department provides on the Inmate Re-Entry Program.

The Community/Media Relations Unit of the County Executive Office has already issued a press release on the 2011 Achievement Award given by the National Association of Counties (NACo) to the Orange County Probation Department for its Center for Opportunity, Reentry and Education or CORE Program, which has as its primary goal "to reduce the risk factors proven to be linked with increased likelihood of recidivism." The program was judged to be "Best in Category" among all of the entries received in the Criminal Justice and Public Safety category.

CEO Community/Media Relations will add information to the County website by September 1, 2011 to provide a direct link to the OC Re-Entry Partnerships website and associated resources. CEO Community/Media Relations will also produce at least one newsletter article on the County's Re-Entry programs which will be distributed to over 17,000 individuals by November 1, 2011.

CEO Community/Media Relations will work closely with the Sheriff's Department, Probation Department and OC Re-Entry Partnerships (OCREP) to seek additional opportunities to educate the public about the availability and effectiveness of programs targeted at recidivism reduction. OCREP is developing plans to increase community awareness of re-entry programs, which will include a town hall type forum in August 2011 for community leaders, stakeholders and the public. OCREP's plans may also include working with a local public television station that has expressed an interest in programming on re-entry programs, as well as the use of social media and attendance at events and conferences to disseminate information about re-entry programs.