



County of Orange

California

Michael B. Giancola  
County Executive Officer

August 13, 2013

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

Subject: Response to Grand Jury Report, "*Detention Facilities Report: (Part II Juvenile) 'How Do We Know If We Are Taking Care of Our At-Risk Juveniles?'*"

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 Orange County Probation Department and the Board of Supervisors. If you have any questions, please contact Margaret Cady of the County Executive Office at 714-834-3646.

Sincerely,

Michael B. Giancola  
County Executive Officer

Enclosure

cc: Orange County Grand Jury Foreman  
Frank Kim, Chief Financial Officer  
Mark Denny, Chief Operating Officer  
Steven Sentman, Chief Probation Officer, Probation Department  
Margaret Cady, County Executive Office/Budget

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## COUNTY OF ORANGE

### Responses to Findings and Recommendations

#### 2012-13 Grand Jury Report entitled "How Do We Know If We Are Taking Care of Our At-Risk Juveniles?"

##### Introductory Comments

On May 23, 2013, the Grand Jury released a report entitled: *Detention Facilities Report: (Part II Juvenile) "How Do We Know If We Are Taking Care of Our At-Risk Juveniles?"* This report directed responses to Findings and Recommendations from the Orange County Probation Department, the Orange County Superintendent of Schools/Department of Education and the Orange County Board of Supervisors. The Orange County Superintendent of Schools/Department of Education will respond separately. The responses to findings and recommendations herein represent a combined response from the Orange County Probation Department and the Board of Supervisors.

##### County Combined Response to Grand Jury Findings

F1. Juvenile Hall units M and O have very old windows. Also, the old toilet stalls in these units do not provide privacy.

**Response:** *Agrees with the finding.*

F2. Juvenile Hall and the other juvenile residential facilities have programs and activities to reduce recidivism. Most are not data-driven except Thinking for a Change, A.R.T. and some drug programs. The length of stay in these facilities, in most cases, is about 30 days; therefore, success rates are not documented by the Probation Department. The Research Department has dropped from 14 researchers to approximately 4.

**Response:** *Agrees with the finding.*

F3. All the budgets in the juvenile detention facilities have high variances in the food and "other" categories. These variances reflect poor financial accountability.

**Response:** *Disagrees partially with the finding.*

While Probation agrees there are variances in some areas of the budget, the variances reflect the encumbering of contract amounts and the recording of expenditures at a lower unit level than budgeted rather than poor financial accountability.



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- F6. The incident between a male and female detainee at Juvenile Hall in February, 2012, was investigated immediately by the Orange County Probation Department with oversight from the Office of Independent Review. Some of the juvenile correctional officers that were implicated were experienced officers.

**Response:** *Agrees with the finding.*

- F7. Orange County spends \$349,677 on a lease facility which is unoccupied.

**Response:** *Agrees with the finding.*

#### County Combined Response to Grand Jury Recommendations

- R1. Probation Department management will budget for replacement windows and toilet stalls in Units O and M at Juvenile Hall. The toilet stalls, in particular, require an inordinate amount of repair. Replacement is needed to provide privacy without compromising security. (F1)

**Response:** *The recommendation has been implemented.*

The FY 12-13 budget included funding for replacement of the windows, which has already been completed. In FY 13-14, funding is available for replacement of the security doors, which includes new windows in the doors. This project is currently in the Design Phase. The FY 13-14 budget includes funding for work to address privacy concerns including replacement of partitions for the toilet stalls.

- R2. The Orange County Probation Department will approach the University of California, Irvine Criminology and Sociology Departments to create a data base to track programs and activities used in the detention centers; then decide if they reduce recidivism. (F2)

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

The Probation Department is in the process of hiring three Research Analysts who will be able to meet this need. The candidates are currently undergoing background checks, and will be in place in the very near future.



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- R3. Administration of the detention facilities will adhere to their budget or explain the variances in detail. (F3)

**Response:** *The recommendation has been implemented.*

For FY 13-14, expenditures have been budgeted at a lower unit level, which will help reduce or eliminate variances. Related to encumbrances, the department has cancelled encumbrances that are no longer required and will continue to do so in a timely manner. Additional clean-up will be conducted throughout the year, as needed, to ensure the budget and expenditures are aligned.

- R6. The Orange County Probation Department will require experienced juvenile correctional officers to attend professional development seminars on the importance of monitoring themselves, juveniles, and new juvenile correctional officers while on duty. Refresher classes should be available at a minimum of every two years. (F6)

**Response:** *The recommendation has been implemented.*

Probation has a well-established training division and a number of relevant training classes are already offered. The Department will ensure that experienced juvenile correctional officers attend this training and refresher courses in the future.

- R7. The Board of Supervisors must take action to either utilize the Los Pinos property or eliminate or minimize the expense of this vacant facility. (F7)

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

Probation is currently working with OC Public Works, County Counsel and the County Executive Office to bring a recommendation for funding to the Board of Supervisors in the FY 13-14 First Quarter Budget Report (QBR), which will be presented to the Board in November 2013. The Board's approval of funding in the First QBR will provide the necessary resources for completion of work in order to fully terminate the agreement between the County and U.S. Forest Service, which will eliminate future costs associated with maintenance of the facility.