



COUNTY OF SOLANO

PROBATION DEPARTMENT

Isabelle Voit
Chief Probation Officer

William Fenton
Chief Deputy Probation Officer

July 1, 2011

Honorable D. Scott Daniels
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court
Solano Superior Court
600 Union Ave.
Fairfield, CA 94533

Dear Judge Daniels:

Enclosed please find the Chief Probation Officer response to the 2010-2011 Grand Jury Report Entitled: Solano County Juvenile Detention Facility Complex, dated June 23, 2011.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Isabelle J. Voit".

Isabelle J. Voit
Chief Probation Officer
Solano County

cc: Grand Jury
Birgitta Corsello, County Administrator
Robert Lawton, Principal Management Analyst
Hon. Robert Fracchia, Presiding Juvenile Court Judge

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Solano County Juvenile Detention Facility Complex
Issued June 23, 2011

Chief Probation Officer response to the Grand Jury Report:

Finding 1 – Wards must be transported from 740 Beck Avenue, Fairfield, to other locations for court hearings and other court proceedings.

Probation's Response to Finding 1 – Probation agrees with this finding.

Recommendation 1 – Solano County should discuss with the Court potential solutions to the transportation issues. Possible solutions could be to develop a hearing room at 740 Beck Avenue and/or develop a video monitoring/communication site.

Probation's Response to Recommendation 1 – This matter is not under the control of the Probation Department.

Finding 2 – The complex's population is below allowable levels, but there is a waiting list for placement of wards in New Foundations.

Probation's Response to Finding 2 – Probation disagrees partially with this finding. The complex's population is below allowable levels; however, the population at New Foundations fluctuates throughout the year depending on Court actions. At times, the NF population is below capacity and on rare occasions there is a waiting list.

Recommendation 2 – Develop a plan that allows the optimum utilization of space and personnel to avoid delays of placing wards into programs.

Probation's Response to Recommendation 2 – This recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted at this time.

Comments

There are clarifications needed to information in two sections of the report:

INTRODUCTION

C. Challenge Unit

The Challenge Unit is not intended to operate like New Foundations. It is intended to operate as an additional detention pod and currently is opened as needed for overflow detention.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

A. Ward Processing Procedure

The Juvenile Detention Facility (JDF) capacity of 118 includes the Challenge Unit which is not a separate program, but rather an additional detention pod as indicated above. The male to female ratio at JDF is generally 90 to 10 although it can fluctuate.

Recidivism based on detention in the facility is not tracked. Recidivism is tracked related to being on probation. That rate is approximately 21%. Ward files at JDF are destroyed once the ward reaches the age of 19. The files at JDF are specific to detention in the facility and are not "criminal files."