

DIVISION OF ADULT OPERATIONS
CALIFORNIA MEDICAL FACILITY
P. O. BOX 2000
VACAVILLE, CA 95696-2000



MAY 28 2010

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

Dear Mr. Daniels:

The California Medical Facility (CMF) is in receipt of the 2009-2010 Solano County Grand Jury Report. The following is my response to the findings and recommendations of this report:

FINDING 1:- Budget cuts to staff and Education are detrimental to helping an inmate prepare for re-entry into society.

RECOMMENDATION 1: The Department of Corrections and Rehabilitations should restore those funds that were removed from the Educational Programs. All programs should continue to be taught by qualified professionals and supported by inmate tutors. The inmate tutors' acquired skills could be used for future employment upon release.

As part of the recently enacted state budget, the California legislature approved a \$1.2 billion reduction to the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR). As a result, CDCR has implemented a \$250 million reduction in adult rehabilitative programs, including academic, vocational, and substance abuse for inmates and parolees. These cuts represent over a third of last year's budget for Adult Programs, not including specific programs for parolees and female offenders.

FINDING 2:- Due to budget cuts, the Occupational Therapy Unit (OUT) is being cut back. When the patient inmate supplies his own materials, he can sell his work. By selling this work, the patient inmate is able to generate State sales tax, contribute to his restitution fund to pay back victims and deposit money into his prison account. The selling aspect of the program was terminated four years ago because the inmates were using state funded materials for inmate profit.

RECOMMENDATION 2: In light of the therapeutic benefits for the inmate, every effort should be made to preserve the OUT program. Previously inmate art was sold to the public at CMF. The restitution of the sales program of inmate art could defray the cost of the program (supplies).

There were three separate programs for inmates at CMF allowing inmates to enjoy the benefit of handicrafts such as art, painting, leather work and pottery making.

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The first was the inmate Hobby Program. Inmates were allowed to purchase supplies and make handicrafts and sell them to staff and the public. The Hobby Program was supervised by Correctional Staff and was eliminated many years ago due to budget cuts. CMF is actively searching for a volunteer in hopes the program can be initiated as a In Cell Hobby Program.

The second was Arts in Corrections Program. It was overseen by the Education Department and staffed with an Arts Facilitator. The staff member and program was recently eliminated due to budget cuts.

The third is the Occupational Therapy Program. This program is still running with the assistance of a staff Occupational Therapist. At this time there is no reason to believe this program will be discontinued as it is therapeutic in nature.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact me at 707-449-6500.

Sincerely,


KATHLEEN L. DICKINSON
Warden