



COUNTY OF SOLANO PROBATION DEPARTMENT

Isabelle Voit
Chief Probation Officer

Bruce Lillis
Chief Deputy Probation Officer

March 2, 2010

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 2009-2010 Grand Jury Report Entitled. Fouts Springs Youth Facility, dated February 5, 2010.

Sincerely,

Isabelle J. Voit
Chief Probation Officer
Solano County

cc: Grand Jury
Michael Johnson, County Administrator
George Untal, Senior Management Analyst
Hon. Robert Fracchia, Presiding Juvenile Court Judge

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Fouts Springs Youth Facility

Issued February 5, 2010

Chief Probation Officer response to the Grand Jury Report:

Finding 1 – While there is sufficient land and adequate housing for 162 wards, staffing levels only provide for a maximum of 60 wards. At the time of the Grand Jury's visit, there were 43 wards participating in the Fouts program. Several California counties send wards to the facility.

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

Recommendation 1 – The Probation Department should actively solicit court placements from other counties.

Probation's Response to Recommendation 1 – This recommendation has been implemented as part of continuous efforts to improve marketing of the program. A new marketing DVD is being finalized and so far this year outreach efforts have resulted in two new counties signing contracts. Although the average daily population was 43.3 for the first quarter of the fiscal year, it rose to 48.92 in the second quarter, and was 52.39 in January 2010.

Finding 2 – Solano County has proposed capital improvements to the Fouts Springs land and buildings. There is no incentive to initiate these improvements until Solano County takes ownership of the land.

Probation's Response to Finding 2 – Probation agrees with this finding.

Recommendation 2 – The Solano County Board of Supervisors and the Fouts Springs Board of Directors should continue their efforts to complete the potential trade of land between Solano County and the United States Department Forest Service. This would allow the facility to make much needed upgrades to the water system as well as the grounds.

Probation's Response to Recommendation 2 – This matter is not under the control of the Probation Department.

Comments

There are a few corrections/clarifications needed to information in two sections of the report:

BACKGROUND AND SUMMARY

The acceptance criteria for Fouts exclude sex offenders and arson offenders. All other offenses can be screened for the program. Even though all juvenile felony offenders were eligible for commitment to DJJ prior to the implementation of Senate Bill 81, they were not all committed; most felony offenders were handled locally. The land located in Colusa County that is owned by Solano County is known as Deafy Glade. The new administrative area referenced was completed in 2002. The kitchen/dining area was remodeled 8-10 years ago. Medical care outside of the facility is provided at Glenn Medical Center or Enloe Hospital.

EDUCATION

The on-site school at Fouts is Clinton B Nielson High School.