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(707) 784-6129



County Administrator
BIRGITTA E. CORSELLO
(707) 784-6100
Fax (707) 784-6665

675 Texas Street, Suite 6500
Fairfield, CA 94533-6342
<http://www.co.solano.ca.us>

August 27, 2013

Honorable Paul Beeman
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court
Solano Superior Court
600 Union Avenue
Fairfield, CA 94533

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SEP 6 2013

SOLANO COUNTY
GRAND JURY

The Honorable Judge Beeman,

Re: Response to Grand Jury Report of May 31, 2013 -- Solano County Juvenile Detention Facility Complex

Pursuant to Penal Code sections 933(c) and 933.05, the Solano County Board of Supervisors responds to the findings and recommendations contained in the 2012/2013 Grand Jury Report of May 31, 2013 regarding Solano County Juvenile Detention Facility Complex.

Finding 1

Juveniles are transported from the Juvenile Detention Facility Complex to the Vallejo and Fairfield courts. This process is time-consuming, costly, and a safety concern to the community.

Response to Finding 1

Probation: I agree with the finding of the Grand Jury.

Board of Supervisors: The Board of Supervisors agrees with Probation's response.

Recommendation 1

Solano County Probation Department explore alternatives to the current juvenile transportation issues, such as holding hearings in existing vacant space within the Juvenile Detention Facility Complex.

Response to Recommendation 1

Probation: This recommendation will be implemented in the future. Probation has consulted with the Courts and will continue to do so in exploring alternatives to transporting juveniles to court in Fairfield and Vallejo. Unfortunately, the only remedy to this issue appears to be the construction of a courtroom at the JDF. Without funding from the state court or extensive County resources, which are not available at this time, this remedy appears unlikely in the foreseeable future.

Board of Supervisors: The Board of Supervisors agrees with Probation's response to Recommendation 1.

Finding 2

Juvenile Detention Facility Complex does not have the “Institutional Module” to document, track and organize statistical information on incidents within the facility.

Response to Finding 2

Probation: I agree with the finding of the Grand Jury.

Board of Supervisors: The Board of Supervisors agrees with Probation’s response.

Recommendation 2

Solano County Probation Department upgrade its computer system to include an “Institutional Module” which allows the documentation, tracking and organization of this statistical information.

Response to Recommendation 2

Probation: The recommendation requires further analysis. Staff are reviewing the current case management system to see if it is being utilized to its fullest capacity, which might negate the need to purchase the costly institutional module upgrade. A decision to upgrade the existing system will be made after the review is completed within the next 6 months.

Board of Supervisors: The Board of Supervisors agrees with Probation’s response to Recommendation 2 to conduct a full analysis of the existing system to determine if it can document, track, and provide organized statistical information.

Finding 3

Juvenile Detention Facility Complex security surveillance system is inadequate and contributed to the escape. The camera placements cannot monitor all secured areas. The Juvenile Complex does not record or store images on their video system.

Response to Finding 3

Probation: I partially agree with the finding of the Grand Jury. The current placement of video cameras cannot monitor all secure areas and the system does not record or store images. The escape of two wards from the JDF is currently under investigation, therefore, at the present time no conclusions can be drawn as to what contributed to their escape.

Board of Supervisors: The Board of Supervisors agrees with Probation’s response due to the ongoing investigation.

Recommendation 3

Solano County Probation Department upgrade its security surveillance and recording systems.

Response to Recommendation 3

Probation: This recommendation has been implemented. Prior to the release of this report and this recommendation, the Probation Department hired a consultant to review and recommend an upgrade to the current video surveillance system. The consultant's recommended upgrades will be implemented upon completion of the County's bidding process.

Board of Supervisors: The Board of Supervisors agrees with Probation's response. The Board of Supervisors anticipates approving a contract to implement the consultant's recommended upgrades in late September.

Finding 4

Two juveniles were allowed in a recreational area unsupervised by staff, violating stated Juvenile Detention Facility Complex policy.

Response to Finding 4

Probation: I cannot respond presently to this finding because this incident is currently under investigation and any additional comment would be inappropriate.

Board of Supervisors: The Board of Supervisors agrees with Probation's response due to the ongoing investigation.

Recommendation 4

Juvenile Detention Facility Complex Staff adhere to their stated policy.

Response to Recommendation 4

Probation: I cannot respond presently to this recommendation because this incident is currently under investigation and any additional comment would be inappropriate.

Board of Supervisors: The Board of Supervisors agrees with Probation's response to Recommendation 4 due to the ongoing investigation.

Respectfully,



Linda J. Serfert, Chair
Solano County Board of Supervisors

cc: Clerk of the Board, Solano County Board of Supervisors
Christopher Hansen, Probation Department, Solano County
Birgitta Corsello, Solano County Administrator
Dennis Bunting, County Counsel, Solano County
Grand Jury Office