

Fouts Springs Youth Facility

Issued April 30, 2008

Solano County Probation Department and Board of Supervisors responses to the Grand Jury Report:

Finding #1

The Snow Mountain Academy Program is designed for the rehabilitation of male youthful offenders in a structured environment. Emphasis is placed on education, vocational training and counseling. High risk offenders are sent to the Fouts Springs Youth Facility upon recommendation by a probation department and review of a judge. The Solano County Probation Department tracks wards in the juvenile system from Solano County until they complete their probation. There is no requirement or mechanism to track the status of wards placed in the program by other counties. As a result, there is no method of evaluating the success of the Program for those other wards once they return to their local communities.

Probation's Response to Finding #1

Probation agrees with this finding with the exception of making a correction. The Snow Mountain Academy Program was the name of the boot camp previously operated at Fouts Springs Youth Facility. This program ended in November 2004. The program described in this finding is the current Fouts Springs Youth Facility program.

Board of Supervisors Response to Finding #1

The Board of Supervisors agrees with the Probation Department's response to the Grand Jury finding.

Recommendation #1

The Snow Mountain Academy Program's goals to educate, rehabilitate, and provide counseling services for youthful offenders are laudable. The Solano County Probation Department should develop a method for evaluating the effectiveness of this Program and sharing its objectives and successes with participating counties.

Probation's Response to Recommendation #1

The recommendation has been implemented. Data gathered regarding Solano County's wards is used to evaluate program effectiveness. The objectives and successes of the program are part of materials shared with other counties.

Board of Supervisors Response to Recommendation #1

The recommendation has been implemented.

Finding #2

Fouts Springs Youth Facility's budget is based on revenues derived from a two-tiered structure with Solano and Colusa counties paying a higher rate for the first 20 wards and a lower rate for the remaining 40 wards. While there is sufficient land and buildings to house up to 162 wards, the budget approved by the Solano County Board of Supervisors only provides funding and staffing to operate Fouts Springs Youth Facility and the Snow Mountain Academy Program for up to 60 wards. At the time of the Grand Jury's visit, 60 wards were participating in the Program at Fouts and there was a short waiting list.

Probation's Response to Finding #2

Probation agrees with this finding with one clarification. Solano and Colusa counties pay the higher rate for the first 20 wards and pay the same lower rate as user counties for additional wards. If user counties have more than 40 wards at Fouts, Solano and Colusa offset the difference between the rates for the additional wards.

Board of Supervisors Response to Finding #2

The Board of Supervisors concurs with the Department's response to the Grand Jury's Finding.

Recommendation #2a

The Solano County Board of Supervisors and the Fouts Springs Board of Directors should continue to review the rate structure and occupancy of Solano County and other participating counties to maximize use of Fouts Springs Youth Facility without incurring a deficit in its budget.

Probation's Response to Recommendation #2a

The recommendation has been implemented. Rate structure and occupancy are regularly reviewed. An increase in the user county rate and a slight decrease in the Solano and Colusa County rate have been approved by the Fouts Board of Directors and will be implemented July 1, 2008, if approved by the Solano County Board of Supervisors.

Board of Supervisors Response to Recommendation #2a

The Board of Supervisors concurs with the Department's response to the Grand Jury's Recommendation.

Recommendation #2b

The Solano County Board of Supervisors and the Fouts Springs Board of Directors should consider increasing the budget and staffing for expanding ward capacity when and if there is an increased demand for the Snow Mountain Academy Program.

Probation's Response to Recommendation #2b

The recommendation requires further analysis. Occupancy is constantly monitored and a significant increase in demand will trigger a more detailed analysis of the feasibility of opening additional beds.

Board of Supervisors Response to Recommendation #2b

The Board of Supervisors concurs with the Department's response to the Grand Jury's Recommendation.