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(707) 784-6129  
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(707) 784-6130  
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Linda J. Seifert (Dist. 2)  
(707) 784-3031  
James P. Spering (Dist. 3)  
(707) 784-6136



County Administrator  
MICHAEL D. JOHNSON  
(707) 784-6100  
Fax (707) 784-6665

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

June 1, 2010

To: Honorable D. Scott Daniels  
Presiding Judge

From: Supervisor John M. Vasquez  
Chair, Board of Supervisors

Re: *March 19, 2010 Grand Jury Report – Solano County Juvenile Hall*

Honorable Judge Daniels:

The following, under Penal Code sections 933 and 933.05, is the Solano County Board of Supervisors' response to the findings and recommendations contained in the 2009-2010 Grand Jury Report of March 19, 2010 relating to the Solano County Juvenile Hall.

**Finding 1**

There are no courtroom facilities in Juvenile Hall. Juveniles must be transported to the Superior Court for their required court appearances. Providing transportation involves additional expense, safety and security issues to juveniles, counselors, transporting staff and the general public.

**Responses to Finding 1**

**Probation** - Probation agrees with this finding.

**Sheriff** - The Sheriff's Office agrees with the finding.

**Board of Supervisors** - The Board of Supervisors concurs with the responses of the Probation Department and the Sheriff's Office to the Grand Jury's finding.

### **Recommendation 1**

The Grand Jury suggests that the County work with the Superior Court to provide a facility at Juvenile Hall that could be used for juvenile hearings.

### **Responses to Recommendation 1**

**Probation** – This matter is not under the control of the Probation Department. Discussions between Solano County and the Solano Courts regarding construction of court facilities at the Juvenile Detention facility site have taken place, but securing funding for the project continues to be a major obstacle.

**Sheriff** – This matter is not under the control of the Sheriff.

**Board of Supervisors** - The Board of Supervisors concurs with the responses of the Probation Department and the Sheriff's Office to the Grand Jury's recommendation.

The County is interested in having juvenile hearings conducted at Juvenile Hall and had engaged the Courts in discussions on this matter. The County would consider providing space that can be used as a courtroom to conduct hearings. However, in a recent discussion with the Executive Officer of the Court, it was indicated that the Courts would require complete court facilities on site in order to conduct juvenile hearings at Juvenile Hall. Since the construction of court facilities is the responsibility of the State, the County will continue to work with the Courts in an effort to secure construction funding from the State.

### **Finding 2**

There is no procedure in place that allows juveniles to take their G.E.D. exam.

### **Responses to Finding 2**

**Probation** – Probation agrees with this finding.

**Sheriff** - This matter is not under the control of the Sheriff.

**Board of Supervisors** - The Board of Supervisors concurs with the responses of the Probation Department and the Sheriff's Office to the Grand Jury's finding.

## **Recommendation 2**

A procedure should be established with the County Office of Education and the Fairfield/Suisun Unified School District for the G.E.D. test to be administered as needed.

## **Responses to Recommendation 2**

**Probation** – This recommendation has been implemented. Fairfield-Suisun Unified School District has agreed to provide testing as needed.

**Sheriff** - This matter is not under the control of the Sheriff.

**Board of Supervisors** - The Board of Supervisors concurs with the responses of the Probation Department and the Sheriff's Office to the Grand Jury's recommendation.

## **Finding 3**

Due to pending budget cuts, Juvenile Hall may lose all mental health staff, leaving no trained mental health specialists to monitor juveniles in crisis.

## **Responses to Finding 3**

**Probation** – Probation disagrees partially with this finding. Solano County Mental Health (SCMH) has stopped providing services to the Juvenile Detention Facility. Immediately after the withdrawal of SCMH, services were provided by Seneca Center and through Probation paying to maintain the services of a psychiatrist under an existing SCMH contract. Beginning May 10, 2010, mental health services are being provided by California Forensic Medical Group, the existing medical provider for the Juvenile Detention Facility.

**Sheriff** - This matter is not under the control of the Sheriff.

**Board of Supervisors** - The Board of Supervisors concurs with the responses of the Probation Department and the Sheriff's Office to the Grand Jury's finding.

## **Recommendation 3**

It is imperative to ensure that Mental Health program services are provided. A possible solution to this issue would be the combining of Mental Health program of Juvenile Hall with existing County Mental Health programs within the Department of Health and Social Services.

### **Responses to Recommendation 3**

**Probation** – The recommendation will not be implemented as an appropriate plan for provision of mental health services is in place.

**Sheriff** - This matter is not under the control of the Sheriff.

**Board of Supervisors** - The Board of Supervisors concurs with the responses of the Probation Department and the Sheriff's Office to the Grand Jury's finding.

### **Finding 4**

A large number of juveniles require Special Education. There are only two special education teachers to comply with all Individual Education Plans (IEPs).

### **Responses to Finding 4**

**Probation** – Probation disagrees partially with this finding. Approximately 25% of the minors in the Juvenile Detention Facility are Special Education students. According to Solano County Office of Education Alternative Education Director Rick Vaccaro, the current level of staffing for this size population is more than what is provided in public schools.

**Sheriff** – This matter is not under the control of the Sheriff.

**Board of Supervisors** - The Board of Supervisors concurs with the responses of the Probation Department and the Sheriff's Office to the Grand Jury's finding.

### **Recommendation 4**

Due to the number of juveniles with Special Education needs, i.e., academic and emotional needs, it would be beneficial to have additional Special Education teachers as many juveniles come into Juvenile Hall with learning disabilities. Additional funding should be provided to acquire additional Special Education teachers.

### **Responses to Recommendation 4**

**Probation** – This matter is not under the control of the Probation Department; however, the Solano County Office of Education indicates that this recommendation will not be implemented.

**Sheriff** - This matter is not under the control of the Sheriff.

**Board of Supervisors** - The Board of Supervisors concurs with the responses of the Probation Department and the Sheriff's Office to the Grand Jury's recommendation.

### **Finding 5**

Currently, the wards have to be removed from the facility for dental care. A local dentist has volunteered to come to the facility and provide the appropriate dental care. Complete dental office/equipment was donated to Juvenile Hall by the Solano County Sheriff's Department. The appropriate space is available and the equipment just needs to be installed.

### **Responses to Finding 5**

**Probation** – Probation disagrees partially with this finding. Only wards requiring immediate/emergency care are transported outside the facility. The average is about 60 outside dental trips per year. A local dentist has volunteered to come to the facility to provide dental care but would charge for the service. In addition to installation of the equipment, necessary supplies would be required on an ongoing basis to provide dental care in the facility.

**Sheriff** - This matter is not under the control of the Sheriff.

**Board of Supervisors** - The Board of Supervisors concurs with the responses of the Probation Department and the Sheriff's Office to the Grand Jury's finding.

### **Recommendation 5**

The Board of Supervisors should instruct the appropriate county department to install the donated equipment.

### **Responses to Recommendation 5**

**Probation** – This matter is not under the control of the Probation Department.

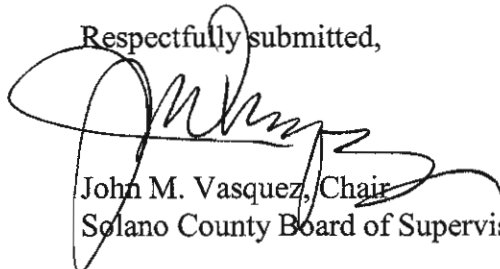
**Sheriff** - This matter is not under the control of the Sheriff.

**Board of Supervisors** - The Board of Supervisors concurs with the responses of the Probation Department and the Sheriff's Office to the Grand Jury's recommendation.

The costs of outside emergency dental care are reimbursed by insurance companies for minors with dental insurance. Charges for uninsured minors are sent by the dentist directly to California Forensic Medical Group (CFMG), which bills the County under an existing contract. The average cost in 2009 was \$100 per visit.

Probation has reviewed the option of an on-site dental clinic at Juvenile Hall. Based on the limited number of wards requiring immediate/emergency dental care each year, the Department has concluded that an on-site dental clinic is not warranted. The Board agrees with this assessment. Consequently, the Board has determined that installation of the dental equipment is not a priority requirement at this time.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John M. Vasquez', is written over the typed name and title.

John M. Vasquez, Chair  
Solano County Board of Supervisors

CF:

Each Supervisor

Isabelle Voit, Chief Probation Officer

Gary Stanton, Sheriff

Brian Taylor, Executive Officer of the Court, Solano Courts

Rick Vaccaro, Alternative Education Director, Solano County Office of Education