

SHASTA COUNTY JUVENILE HALL

REASON FOR INQUIRY:

California Penal Code section 919 mandates that the Grand Jury inquire into the condition and management of all public prisons located within the County.

Shasta County Juvenile Hall
2680 Radio Lane
Redding, CA 96001
(530) 225-5728

BACKGROUND:

The Shasta County Juvenile Hall (SCJH) was built in 1958 to detain juveniles between the ages of ten and eighteen.

SCJH provides space for the Juvenile Probation Office, Juvenile Court and three housing units. Unit A houses male and female maximum-security juveniles and contains eight, single occupancy “wet” cells. These cells contain a toilet, sink and drinking fountain. Units B and C, comprising 6,000 square feet, were added in 1988. These housing unit cells are double occupancy, medium security, “dry” cells with three centrally located rest rooms per unit. There is a dayroom in each unit for general population dining, daily orientation and recreation. There is an area outside the housing units, which is used for recreation such as basketball, volleyball, softball, gardening and animal husbandry. When weather prohibits outdoor activities, the juveniles spend time in the dayrooms.

Housing units B and C are designed for 24 juveniles each. Housing unit B is designated for females and C is designated for males. There are often more male than female juveniles. When the male population exceeds 24, carefully screened males are housed in the female unit. If the total number of juveniles exceeds 52, selected juveniles are given an early release.

School is held five hours per day, five days per week for the juveniles housed in units B and C. The classrooms are in three modular buildings on the campus. The juveniles housed in unit A attend school in one of the dayrooms.

California Forensic Medical Group provides medical care. There is an on-site nurse five days per week and a physician visits twice a week. A nurse is always on call and must respond within two hours. In the event of a medical emergency, 911 is called and the injured person is taken to a local hospital.

The Shasta County Juvenile Hall staffing includes:

- The Division Director
- Four Supervising Group Counselors
- Twenty-six full time Group Counselors
- Eight to ten extra-help Group Counselors
- A Food Service Supervisor
- Two fulltime cooks
- A Legal Process Clerk
- Two Teachers
- A Nurse

METHOD OF INQUIRY:

The Grand Jury toured the Shasta County Juvenile Hall on August 19, 2003 and again on January 22, 2004.

The Grand Jury interviewed:

- The Division Director
- A Food Service Supervisor
- One Cook
- One Teacher
- A Nurse

The Grand Jury reviewed the following documents:

- Board of Corrections (BOC) Inspection Report dated April, 2003
- Responses from the County Administrative Officer and Division Director to the BOC Inspection Report
- BOC Inspection Report dated February 5, 2004
- Booking Forms
- Inmate Census and Tracking Forms
- Orientation Pamphlet
- Procedure Manual
- Report from independent consultants
- Response from the Shasta County Administrative Officer to the report from the independent consultants
- Special Incident Reports randomly selected by the Division Director
- Staff Organization Chart
- State Fire Marshal's Inspection Report of September 8, 2003
- Use of Force Reports covering a three month period during 2003
- Various logs for Shasta County Juvenile Hall: Juvenile Count Log, Shift to Shift Unit Message Log and Facility Status Log

FINDINGS:

1. During the initial visit, the Grand Jury found the juvenile intake door/sally port area had two security issues. The Division Director told the Grand Jury that some vegetation and latticework required removal so staff would have better visualization of the area. The second issue was the absence of a true sally port entry for juvenile intake. A sally port is a system of entry and exit with a secured door at each end, which cannot be opened simultaneously. Having a sally port reduces the risk of escape at the time of intake. These issues had been addressed by the time of the second Grand Jury visit. There is a plan to remove the remnants of the vegetation and latticework and to build a true sally port later this fiscal year. The estimated cost for this is between \$80,000 and \$100,000.

2. The surveillance system is outdated and needs replacing. It does not cover the building interior, only partially on the perimeter along the fence, has no taping system and the console occasionally heats up and shuts down.

3. A suicide and a pregnancy on the campus in 2002 resulted in the Shasta County Board of Supervisors hiring independent consultants to inspect SCJH. The independent consultants recommended, in their January, 2003 report, that of the following be installed:

- Razor wire atop the chain link fence
- Privacy slats in the chain link
- Breakaway sprinkler heads
- Windowed bathroom doors.

The consultants further recommended addition of eight group counselors and a rewrite of the Policy and Procedure Manual.

4. The Board of Corrections (BOC) performed its biannual inspection of SCJH on April 10 and 11, 2003. That inspection reinforced the independent consultants' recommendations and added a few more escape risk concerns. The inspectors also reduced the number of licensed beds from 60 to 56 because of inadequate toilet facilities.

5. All recommendations of the BOC and Independent Consultants have been implemented.

6. The fiscal year 2003/2004 budget is \$2,391,000. This is an increase of over \$600,000 from the preceding year. The reasons for this increase are the expenses to fund the recommendations made by the BOC.

7. The February 5, 2004 BOC Inspection Report reviewed by the Grand Jury revealed SCJH to be compliant with Titles 15 and 24 of the California Code of Regulations Minimum Standards for Juvenile Facilities and an improvement in living conditions, schooling, safety and staff morale since April, 2003.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

None

RESPONSE REQUIRED:

None

COMMENDATION:

The Grand Jury commends the Division Director and the Staff for their dedication to improving the conditions, morale and operations at the Shasta County Juvenile Hall.