



COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

Sesquicentennial 1850-2000

**Alcohol, Drug & Mental Health Services
Administration**

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Merna McMillan, Ph.D.
Director

June 29, 2001

Hon Rodney S. Melville
Presiding Judge, Santa Barbara Superior Court
312-C East Cook Street
Santa Maria, CA 93456-5369

Judge Melville:

The following is the response of Alcohol, Drug & Mental Health Services to the 2000-2001 Grand Jury Report on Juvenile Probation. ADMHS was asked to respond to Finding 6, and Recommendations 3b and 4 of that report.

Finding 6: More placement and treatment programs—particularly female-specific programs—are needed for female juveniles in view of the increased numbers of female juvenile offenders.

ADMHS agrees with this finding. There has been an increase in female juvenile offenders, and female-specific programs are justified by the special needs of adolescent girls.

Recommendation 3b: The Probation Department should continue collaboration with professionals in the County Departments of Public Health, Social Services, and ADMHS, as well as County and municipal schools and community-based non-profit organizations, to develop and enhance female-specific programs.

This recommendation has been implemented. Directors and Assistant Directors of these Departments meet monthly as the Interagency Policy Council to develop and enhance services to children and youth. Managers and Supervisors of the Multiagency Integrated System of Care (MISC), which

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includes these departments and representatives of community-based organizations, also meet monthly to implement program and policy decisions. Efforts to develop and enhance female-specific juvenile programs is part of the ongoing work of these groups.

Recommendation 4: In view of the increased numbers of female juvenile offenders, the Probation Department should develop more female-specific placement and treatment programs.

This recommendation requires further analysis. The number of female juvenile offenders will need to be determined by County region, and funding and feasibility for these services will need to be explored. Expansion of community-based services for children and youth is already being explored, and services to females will be prioritized. ADMHS and other MISC departments will work closely with the Probation Department to conduct this analysis.

Please contact us if you need further detail about our response to this Grand Jury report.

Sincerely,

Merna McMillan PhD
ADMHS Director