

DETENTION FACILITIES

The 2001-2002 Grand Jury, found that Santa Barbara County has dedicated officers and a well trained staff running the detention facilities. The Grand Jury wishes to thank our peace officers and staff who have dedicated themselves to protecting and serving our community.

OBJECTIVE

To comply with California Penal Code 919(b), which mandates that each year members of the Grand Jury investigate the conditions and management of public detention facilities and report on their findings.

PROCEDURE

This Grand Jury visited each of the facilities listed in this report. Deputies and staff members were interviewed that were on duty at the time of the visits. When present and convenient, inmates were also interviewed. All facilities were inspected at least once, and some sites were revisited two or more times.

INTRODUCTION

The following report covers detention facilities within the County of Santa Barbara. These facilities fall into three categories and therefore our report is divided into three sections as follows:

- Facilities operated by the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Department – Main Jail Facility, Men's and Women's Honor Farms, Isla Vista Foot Patrol Office and substations in New Cuyama, Lompoc, Carpinteria, Buellton, Solvang and Santa Ynez.
- Facilities operated by municipal police departments in the County – Santa Maria, Guadalupe, Lompoc and Santa Barbara Police Departments.
- Facilities under the control of the Santa Barbara County Probation Department – Santa Maria and Santa Barbara Juvenile Halls, Tri-Counties Boot Camp and Los Prietos Boys' Camp.

SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT FACILITIES

Facilities operated by the Sheriff's Department vary significantly in the level of security and amenities provided to inmates. For example, inmates assigned to the Honor Farms have been identified as low risk and are housed in environments that offer minimal physical restrictions. Individuals held pending trial on more serious charges are housed

in the most secure section of the main jail and allowed very limited opportunities to leave their cells.

The Grand Jury visited all of the facilities operated by the Sheriff's Department. The Jury was met and escorted by courteous, knowledgeable, articulate and professional staff members who were proficient in facility operations and procedures.

MAIN JAIL FACILITY

The Main Jail is used for the detention of persons pending arraignment, during trial and post sentencing.

All inmates are evaluated mentally and physically upon initial arrival. Inmates are clothed, housed, fed and provided medical care as needed. Inmates have access to telephones, can meet with family or friends and have access to legal assistance.

Revenues generated through a commissary operation, vending machines and collect phone calls provide structured education opportunities for all eligible inmates.

The Jury found that visitors are not routinely screened for weapons when visiting inmates.

Current California law allows certain juvenile offenders to be tried as adults and sentenced to adult correctional facilities. The Main Jail is not configured to meet the sight and sound segregation requirements for juveniles held in adult facilities mandated in Title 15 of the California Code of Regulations. Therefore, any juvenile sentenced as an adult to the Main Jail, would force the Sheriff to find an alternative facility.

FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Finding 1: Visitors are not routinely screened for weapons.

Recommendation 1: The Sheriff's Department should install metal detectors to screen persons visiting inmates.

Finding 2: The Main Jail is not configured to meet Title 15 of the California Code of Regulations for minors detained in adult facilities.

Recommendation 2: The Sheriff should educate all parties involved in sentence recommendations as to this limitation.

WOMEN'S HONOR FARM

The Women's Honor Farm is a facility for low risk inmates. Recreational opportunities, classes for high-school competency, English, and parenting skills are provided. The Sheriff's Treatment Program (STP) provides drug and alcohol rehabilitation counseling. There is a large hole in the ceiling of the shower/lavatory area caused by a roof leak. There is inadequate equipment and facilities for physical exercise.

FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Findings 3: There are inadequate exercise opportunities.

Recommendation 3: Provide adequate exercise opportunities.

Finding 4: The roof leaks.

Recommendation 4: Fix the leaks and repair shower ceiling.

MEN'S HONOR FARM

The Men's Honor Farm is a facility for low risk inmates. The facility provides physical recreational opportunities, classes for high-school competency, English, parenting skills and computer training. The Sheriff's Treatment Program (STP) provides drug and alcohol rehabilitation counseling.

Most inmates housed at the Honor Farm are assigned a job at this facility, at the Main Jail, on an outside crew. In addition, all inmates participate in a daily Honor Farm clean-up on a rotating schedule. Inmates are allowed to work outside the compound. The laundry provides services for the Main Jail, Honor Farm and Juvenile Halls. All meals for the Main Jail facility are prepared by inmates from the Honor Farm.

Overcrowding in jails continues to be an issue. This has made it necessary to explore and implement various programs that provide alternative sentencing. The Sheriff's Department offers various programs for qualified inmates. The Work Furlough program allows qualified inmates to work at their regular jobs during the day and return to a controlled environment at night. Inmates may apply to the Sheriff's Work Alternative Program (SWAP) as an alternative to jail. SWAP allows the inmates to live at home and work off their jail sentence at local, approved work sites in the community on a pre-arranged schedule. The Sheriff's Department depends upon various agencies and individuals such as probation officers, attorneys, employers and other interested persons for input and recommendations. However, the Sheriff's Department reserves the right to determine who will be accepted into these programs by the authority of Penal Code Sections 1208 and 4024.2(B).

FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Finding 5: Overcrowding in jails continues to be an issue.

Recommendation 5: Board of Supervisors should continue to look for solutions to the overcrowding of the Main Jail.

Finding 6: Instructions in the laundry facility are written in Spanish only.

Recommendation 6: All instructional placards for the laundry equipment should be written in English and Spanish.

ISLA VISTA FOOT PATROL

The Isla Vista community, predominately college students, has the highest crime rate in the county. Most of these offenses are alcohol or drug related. The Sheriff's Department properly regards many students under the influence as potential victims. As the Sub-Station has no detention capability these individuals are transported to the Main Jail to sober up.

The Isla Vista Foot Patrol operates very effectively in an environment unique because of the density and youthful age of the population. As most patrols are made on foot or bicycle, inadequate street lighting puts officer and student safety at risk. Relations between the Patrol and the student community are generally very good.

Deputies are especially active from the start of the school year until the end of October when Halloween celebrations place a heavy demand on all law enforcement agencies. A good working relationship is in place with the UCSB Police Department and the California Highway Patrol, as well as other agencies which provide assistance to the Sheriff's Department upon request.

There is a major problem of students littering the streets, most notably at the end of the academic year and after holidays. At present, clean-up is the sole responsibility of the County.

The Isla Vista Foot Patrol is well managed and operates effectively.

FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Findings 7: The existing street lights are too dim.

Recommendation 7: Brighter bulbs would enhance the safety of the students and officers.

Findings 8: Because of excessive alcohol consumption by students, the Sheriffs Department is transporting many of the students to the Main Jail for sobering up.

Recommendation 8: The County should provide a sobering center in Isla Vista.

Findings 9: Isla Vista is prone to excessive student generated littering during the academic year.

Recommendation 9(a): The County and the University need more cooperation to share in the responsibility and manpower to clean up the streets after holiday celebrations and at the end of the academic year.

Recommendation 9(b): The District Attorney should consider recommending that students booked for public intoxication/urination do community service in Isla Vista by cleaning up litter on the streets.

CARPINTERIA

The City of Carpinteria has contracted with the Santa Barbara Sheriff's Department for law enforcement services. All sworn and support personnel at the station are employees of the Sheriff's Department.

Officers and support personnel have made various improvements to the station thereby improving safety and efficiency. Additional repairs, listed in the findings are necessary.

FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Finding 10: Water leaks through the roof onto desks, equipment and light fixtures.

Recommendation 10: The roof needs to be repaired.

Finding 11: Various ceiling panels and light fixtures are past their useful life.

Recommendation 11: Replace ceiling panels and light fixtures as required.

Finding 12: The deteriorating wall under the bullet proof window in the reception area could compromise employee safety.

Recommendation 12: Modify the wall to improve security.

AVIATION BUREAU, SANTA YNEZ AIRPORT

The Santa Barbara Sheriff's Aviation Bureau operates two helicopters and one Cessna airplane for search and rescue missions and patrolling.

The Aviation Bureau hanger is at the opposite end of the runway from the approved site for the helicopter take off and landing pad. This requires trailering the helicopters to the opposite end of the airport. This takes from 10 to 20 minutes. In the case of an emergency, this is critical time lost.

Helicopters fly over the mountainous terrain North and East of the airport. Refueling is often required before completion of the mission. Currently, the only fuel available is at the Santa Barbara, Santa Maria and Santa Ynez Airports. Fueling capability at Cuyama airport would be very advantageous.

The helicopters have capacity for only a pilot, co-pilot and two seated passengers. Stretcher capability is not available. There is no cable/harness lifting capability to remove victims from inaccessible landing areas.

The size and power of the helicopters does not allow flying over water.

FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Finding 13: There is a need for a larger and better equipped helicopter.

Recommendation 13: Replace one helicopter with a larger, stretcher capable, and hoist compatible helicopter, capable of over-the-water flight.

Finding 14: There are limited refueling stations for the helicopters operating in certain areas of the County.

Recommendation 14: Provide refueling capability at the Cuyama Airport.

Finding 15: The helicopter hanger is located at the opposite end of the airport from the take off and landing pad.

Recommendation 15: Investigate alternative locations at the Santa Ynez Airport for faster deployment of helicopters.

MUNICIPAL POLICE DEPARTMENTS

GUADALUPE POLICE DEPARTMENT

The Grand Jury is concerned with the proximity of the Mary Buren Elementary School to the Guadalupe Police Station. An existing chain link fence between the School and the Station allows the children to observe detainees as they enter and leave the rear of the facility. In addition, this is a risk to the children should a detainee escape by trying to climb the school fence.

An unlocked gate separates the back of the Police Station and the back of the Park and Recreation Department.

FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Finding 16: Only a portion of the fence separating the Mary Buren Elementary School and the Guadalupe Police Station has wooden slats.

Recommendation 16: The entire chain link fence between the School and the Police Station needs slats to limit visibility to the children.

Finding 17: The gate separating the back of the Parks and Recreation basketball area from the Station has no lock and was open at the time of the Grand Jury visit.

Recommendation 17: Close and padlock the gate.

Finding 18: There is no deterrent at the top of the chain link fence to prevent a detainee from trying to escape into the school yard.

Recommendation 18: Add an obstacle to the top of the chain link fence.

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY PROBATION DEPARTMENT

The Grand Jury commends the Probation Department and the Staff at the Santa Barbara Juvenile Hall, Santa Maria Juvenile Hall, Tri-Counties Boot Camp and Los Prietos Boys' Camp for their thoughtful and productive approach to the problem of juvenile crime and for their genuine interest in the welfare of the juveniles.

The Santa Barbara County Probation Department operates five separate facilities with differing levels of service and security for juvenile offenders. Probation is a County correctional program. Its basic legal framework and mandates are found in sections of the Penal Code and the Welfare and Institutions Code.

The Santa Barbara County Probation Department serves the Courts and assists juvenile offenders in establishing and maintaining law abiding, productive lives. The type of service provided is determined by the law, the orders of the Court, the risk the offender present to the community and the needs of the offender and his/her family.

SANTA BARBARA JUVENILE HALL

This facility holds Juvenile offenders from arrest to disposition hearing or sentencing by the Court. The facility accommodates 56 juveniles for an average stay of 14 to 18 days. In Unit Two, not all Juvenile Offenders have rooms with a toilet or a sink. There is a well-equipped dispensary and a full-time registered nurse on site, Monday to Friday from

7:30am to 4pm. There is no nurse on weekends or after 4pm during the weekdays. A medical doctor and other health services are provided as needed.

The detainees are provided with educational opportunities. Classrooms are equipped with computers and a large variety of books and maps. The exercise yard is equipped for basketball and handball. A swimming pool is operated from April through October. Each juvenile is encouraged to participate in the exercise program.

The Hall is showing the wear and tear from many years of use. The Probation Department recognizes the need to improve the facility.

FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Finding 19: There is a Registered Nurse on duty at the Hall only on day shift, Monday through Friday.

Recommendation 19: Have a Registered Nurse on site Saturday and Sunday.

Finding 20: Unit Two has ten dry rooms (no sink or toilet within the room) and nine wet rooms. With only two staff members on duty, when one accompanies a dry room detainee to a toilet facility, there is a shortage of staff to oversee the other detainees.

Recommendation 20: Probation Department should seek funds to convert these ten dry rooms to wet rooms.

Finding 21: Some text books at the Hall are out dated.

Recommendation 21: Update the text books, especially the history books and social studies to a more current volume.

SANTA MARIA JUVENILE HALL

The Santa Maria Juvenile Hall average detention time is 15 days. Detainees attend classes in all academic areas.

Juveniles are seen by a Registered Nurse upon arrival and are given both a physical and mental evaluation. There is a full time Registered Nurse during day shift, Monday through Friday. On weekends and other than day shift, the Registered Nurse must be paged and return to the facility when juveniles require medical evaluation or attention. The staff has noted an increase in the number of detained juveniles with chronic illnesses such as diabetes and asthma. This has increased the frequency that the Nurse has been called for support.

Lack of a quiet area for counseling in Juvenile Hall requires transporting the detainees to the Mental Health Facility. A staff member must stay with the juvenile detainee during transport and treatment. The transported juvenile must remain in restraints during this

session. This can reduce the effectiveness of the counseling session. There are no padded cells for juveniles found to be a danger to themselves.

FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Finding 22: There is a Registered Nurse on duty at the Hall only on day shift, Monday through Friday.

Recommendation 22: Increase the time when a Registered Nurse is available.

Finding 23: Juveniles are transported to the Mental Health facility in restraints for treatment due to the lack of an adequate treatment facility on site.

Recommendation 23: Probation should provide a quiet, segregated room on site to conduct counseling sessions.

Finding 24: There are no padded cells on site to hold juveniles found to be a danger to themselves.

Recommendation 24: Probation should provide a padded cell.

TRI-COUNTIES BOOT CAMP

The Tri-Counties Boot Camp is a partnership between the Counties of Santa Barbara, Ventura and San Luis Obispo. This highly structured 90-120 day program focuses on physical training, education, counseling, and vocational training. It is designed for selected juvenile offenders. The Probation Department is doing a great job while the boys are at the camp. The Jury would like to see that same dedication provided after the offenders return to the community so that the boys as well as the program can be assured a lasting success. The goal of this on going supervision is to reduce recidivism and the attendant costs of future incarceration. The heavy case loads of the Juvenile Institution Officers and the Probation Officers is the reason given for the lack of follow up care after the boys are released.

FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Finding 25: There is a lack of aftercare when the boys are released.

Recommendation 25: The Probation Department should hire more Juvenile Institution Officers to provide aftercare.

LOS PRIETOS BOYS' CAMP

The Los Prietos Boys' Camp is a residential treatment center for male court wards between the ages of 13 and 18. The program's objective is to provide a structured, consistent environment which allows a successful return of the boys to the community.

The emphasis is on law abiding behavior and adjustment to home and school once the program is completed. The Jury would like to see that same dedication provided after the offenders return to the community so that the boys as well as the program can be assured a lasting success. The goal of this ongoing supervision is to reduce recidivism and attendant costs of future incarceration. The heavy case loads of the Juvenile Institution Officers and the Probation Officers is the reason given for the lack of follow up care after the boys are released.

FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Findings 26: There is a lack of aftercare when the boys are released.

Recommendation 26: The Probation Department should provide follow up care for the boys after their participation at the Camp.

VISITED FACILITIES WITH NO FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The following Detention Facilities in Santa Barbara County were visited by the Criminal Justice Committee of the 2001-2002 Civil Grand Jury. No findings and recommendations were identified.

- The County Figueroa Street Court Holding Facility,
- The “Old Jail in the County Courthouse”,
- Santa Maria Sheriff’s Sub-Station,
- Lompoc, Buellton, Solvang and Santa Ynez Sheriff’s Sub-Stations,
- The Coroner’s Office,
- Santa Maria City Police Department,
- Santa Barbara Police Department and
- The Cuyama Sheriff’s Sub Station.

AFFECTED AGENCIES

Alcohol, Drug & Mental Health Services

Findings 23

Recommendations 23

Carpinteria City Council

Findings 10, 11, 12

Recommendations 10, 11, 12

Guadalupe City Council

Findings 16, 17, 18

Recommendations 16, 17, 18

Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors

Findings 1, 2, 5, 8, 9, 9(a), 13, 14, 20, 24, 25, 26

Recommendations 1, 2, 5, 8, 9, 9(a), 13, 14, 20, 24, 25, 26

Santa Barbara County District Attorney

Findings 2, 9(b)

Recommendations 2, 9(b)

Santa Barbara County Education Office

Findings 21

Recommendations 21

Santa Barbara County Probation Department

Findings 19 through 26

Recommendations 19 through 26

Santa Barbara County Public Works Department

Findings 7

Recommendations 7

Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Department

Findings 1 through 6, 8, 9, 13, 14, 15

Recommendations 1 through 6, 8, 9, 13, 14, 15