



# COUNTY of NAPA

## Juvenile Justice Commission

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### NAPA COUNTY JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMISSION 2008 ANNUAL INSPECTION REPORT

#### General information:

The Juvenile Justice Commission of Napa County is a state mandated county commission consisting of both adult members and student members from any of the five high schools in the county. The Juvenile Justice Commission is charged with the annual inspection of the county juvenile hall. The commissioners are appointed by the Napa County Superior Court Judges.

#### Location and type of facility inspected:

Name and location is the Napa County Juvenile Justice Center 212 Walnut Street Napa, Ca 94559 Phone 707-253-4361. Type of facility inspected is the juvenile hall detention center.

#### Copies of this 2008 Annual Report will go to:

The Presiding Juvenile Court Judge of Napa County, Chief Probation Officer of Napa County, Deputy Director of the Board of Corrections State of California, Juvenile Hall Superintendent, and the Assistant Juvenile Hall Superintendent of Napa County.

#### Date and Time of Inspection:

April 22, 2008 Tuesday 9:00 a. m.

The Juvenile Justice Commission had been split into 4 teams all conducting inspections of the juvenile halls school, kitchen, toilet facilities, showers, nurse examining room, wards rooms, exterior and interior. Commissioners interviewed the administrative staff, school staff, food service staff, and the wards in custody. It must be noted that this is the third inspection of the new juvenile hall now named the Napa County Juvenile Justice Center. On this date of the inspection there were 35 boys and 9 girls in custody.

### **Juvenile Ward Interviews:**

A total of 20 wards were interviewed, the ages of the wards varied from 12 years old to 17 years old, 11 wards were at Level 1 (the highest behavioral level) 8 wards were at level 2, 1 ward was at Level 4 (the lowest behavioral level). All wards knew what the rules are while at the hall and all wards were well aware of what happens to them when they break those rules such as having points taken away or sent back to their room for lockdown. There were 7 wards in juvenile hall for the first time, 1 ward for the second time, 2 wards for the third time, 1 ward for the fourth time, 2 ward for the sixth time, 1 ward for the eighth time, 1 ward for the ninth time, and 1 ward said, "a few times". 15 wards were to be released anywhere from 1 day to 10 months, 5 wards had no idea when they would be released, and 17 of the 20 wards interviewed were in custody ranging from 1 week to 10 months. All 20 wards interviewed knew what personal possessions they could or could not have in their rooms. 14 wards felt comfortable knowing there is someone on staff that they could speak to and 1 ward felt that only sometimes, and 2 wards felt that not on every shift there was someone they could speak with. Only 3 wards felt that there are staff officers from their ethnic background that could speak their primary language and 1 ward did not know if there was someone that could speak his/her language. All 20 wards knew what medical services including psychological counseling were available for them, 12 wards knew that by filling out a form they could obtain these services, and 3 wards did not know. 17 wards knew that religious services were available and 3 wards did not answer. All 20 wards interviewed knew how often and how long they could exercise daily, and 1 ward felt there was not enough time for outside exercises. All 20 wards knew they could shower once a day and 11 wards are aware of how often their families were allowed to visit them, 3 wards did not know. All 16 wards are aware that they were allowed to talk during meals only after everyone is seated and 15 wards are aware there are provisions for special diets, and 2 wards were not aware. 8 wards were aware that sometimes staff would eat with them, and 8 wards were not aware. 16 wards attended school on the grounds and 1 ward attended public school off the grounds.

### **Juvenile Ward Interviews Additional Findings and Recommendations:**

Note: Many wards gave one to three answers for many of the interview questions asked by this commission and some wards refused to answer many of those same questions.

#### ***Question #1: Are the hall rules understandable and reasonable?***

Finding #1. 17 wards found them understandable, reasonable, and fair, and 3 wards did not answer the question.

Recommendation: None.

#### ***Question #2: Are the rules posted?***

Findings #2. 10 of the wards were aware that the hall rules are posted and 5 were not.

Recommendation: None.

***Question #3: Are staff consistent and fair when enforcing rules and issuing consequences?***

Finding #3. 14 wards felt that staff officers are consistent and fair, 5 wards felt that some staff officers were not consistent when enforcing the juvenile hall rules.

Recommendation: Response invited by a commissioner focusing on staff consistency when enforcing the hall rules.

***Question #4: Are Rules and Procedures reviewed with you when you enter the hall?***

Finding #4. 13 wards had the Rules and Procedures reviewed upon entering the hall. 1 ward did not have the Rules and Procedures reviewed with him/her upon entering the hall, and 4 wards were just given a packet of the Rules and Procedures to read.

Recommendation: Response invited by a commissioner that all wards should go through a review with staff officers upon intake. This would be the proper time for review in case the ward is unable to read English.

***Question #5: Describe the Grievance Procedure.***

Findings #5. 7 wards knew about filling out a form for the grievance procedure, 8 wards were unable to describe the Grievance Procedure, 1 ward had a group grievances made out and they disappeared.

Recommendation: Response invited by a commissioner.

***Question #6: How are you made aware of the Grievance Procedure upon entering the hall and have you ever filled out a grievance report?***

Findings #6. 4 wards were made aware of the Grievance Procedure by staff, 3 by packet, 1 ward was aware that the rules are posted, and 4 wards were not aware. 11 wards have never filed a grievance and only 1 ward filled out a grievance report.

Recommendation: None.

***Question #7: How are they handled by staff?***

Findings #7. 8 wards did not know how they were handled, and 4 wards were aware that a staff member or a supervisor would review the grievances with them after their grievance was filed.

Recommendation: None.

***Question #8: Do you think the daily point system works well and is fair?***

Findings #8. 15 wards felt that the daily point system works well and is fair, 1 ward felt it depended on staff, 1 ward felt that some wards don't care about the point system, 1 ward did not like the point system the school has, 1 ward felt the point system was stupid, 1 ward felt that the point system is sometimes too fair for the other wards who act out, and 1 ward felt that points are taken away for dumb stuff.

Recommendation: None.

***Question #9: Are you aware the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Commission is now reviewing the resident's Grievances each month?***

Finding #9. 1 ward was aware that the Juvenile Justice Commission reviews their grievances each month, and 8 wards were not aware of this commission's monthly review of their grievances.

Recommendation: None.

***Question #10: Is there adequate space, convenient times or accommodation to parent work schedules, special visits etc.***

Findings #10. All 15 wards felt that there is adequate space and accommodations for special visits, and 1 ward did not.

Recommendation: None.

***Question #11: Is there adequate privacy during visits and how are visits supervised?***

Findings #11. 1 ward felt there was no privacy, 1 ward did not care about privacy, 14 wards felt there was adequate privacy, and 15 wards were aware that staff officers supervise visits.

Recommendation: None.

***Question #12: Describe the hall supervision.***

Findings #12. 12 wards felt that staff supervision is good, fine, light, adequate and comfortable, 2 wards felt the supervision was strict, and 1 ward felt the hall supervision was like daycare.

Recommendation: None.

***Question #13: How Accessible are staff when you need them?***

Findings #13. 15 wards felt that staff officers were very accessible when needed, and 1 ward felt that it staff was not accessible on every shift.

Recommendation: None.

***Question #14: Do you feel safe from harm from staff?***

Findings #14. 17 wards felt safe and 1 ward did not feel safe.

Recommendation: None.

***Question #15: Do you feel safe from harm from the other kids?***

Findings #15. 17 wards felt safe and 1 ward did not feel safe.

Recommendation: None.

***Question #16: Tell us what things you like about the hall?***

Findings #16. 11 wards liked the recreational area, free food, movie night, games, board games, free time, school, television, sleeping, time spent out of their rooms, decorating, projects, and they liked the new juvenile hall. 6 wards did not like anything about the hall, 1 ward felt being at the hall was better than living on the streets, and 1 ward felt the hall was like daycare.

Recommendation: None.

***Question #17: Is your exercise period of one hour ever restricted?***

Findings #17. 5 wards said yes, 10 wards said no, and 2 wards did not know.

Recommendation: None.

***Question #18: Describe recreation activities and supplies and is there enough quantity.***

Findings #18. We found that all 20 wards enjoy basketball, video games, board games, dominos, all other games, television, playing cards, free time, P.E., and talking with people. 15 wards felt that there is enough quantity of recreational supplies, and 1 ward did not know if supplies were adequate.

Recommendation: None.

***Question #19: Describe the condition of the recreation supplies?***

Findings #19. 11 wards felt the condition of the recreational supplies were good, 4 wards advised this commission that some of the basketballs are popped and some games and puzzles pieces are missing, 2 wards felt that there is a need for new stuff and new basketballs.

Recommendation: Response invited by a commissioner.

***Question #20: Do you have access to personal hygiene accessories?***

Findings #20. All wards acknowledged that they do have access to personal hygiene accessories from the juvenile hall and they also have access to personal hygiene accessories from their parents.

Recommendation: None.

***Question #21: What factors cause you to be most uncomfortable while at the hall?***

Findings #21. 4 of the wards felt that there was nothing causing them to be uncomfortable while in the hall. 1 ward did not like the rooms, 1 ward felt uncomfortable while in the showers because shower doors don't provide enough privacy, 11 wards felt uncomfortable because they can't watch certain television channels, just being in custody, being away from family, waiting for his/her sentence, unable to see his girlfriend, being sent to your room to eat and waiting 20 minutes for the food, staff peeping into the room at you, and 1 ward felt that one staff member is always looking at her chest when she is doing jumping jacks.

Recommendation: Response invited by a commissioner.

***Question #22: Is your privacy and safety maintained while you shower?***

Findings #22. 14 wards interviewed felt their privacy and safety is well maintained while showering, and 2 wards did not.

Recommendation: None.

***Question #23: What provisions are provided for clothing, blankets, air temperature, etc. to assure comfort?***

Findings #23. 12 wards are aware that they would be provided with blankets, sheets, pillows, and extra blankets when needed, 4 wards advised this commission that their rooms are cold at night, and 1 ward felt there was not enough provisions.

Recommendation: Commissioners requests a response focusing on the heat for the rooms when cold.

***Question #24: Are there programs offered to you in the hall that you participate in?***

Findings #24. All 20 wards interviewed do participate in some juvenile hall programs such as substance abuse classes, music therapy, church groups, and Planned Parenthood, 1 ward did like mandatory groups.

Recommendation: None.

***Question #25: What other kinds of programs would you like to see offered?***

Findings #25. 5 wards would like to have programs like sex education programs, girls only group programs, sport activities group programs, need to have art programs available for all wards, and 13 wards felt that there was no need for any other new programs.

Recommendation: Response invited by a commissioner.

**Commissioners Inspection of the School Curriculum:**

Wards now have 2 classrooms in the new juvenile hall and they also have adequate school supplies. Wards can be excused from attending class by reason of illness, doctor, attorney, nurse visits, lockdowns, probation issues, court appearances, and court ordered activities. We find that the halls school course work follows the Napa County Department of Education guidelines.

Recommendations: None.

**Juvenile Ward Interviews on School Curriculum, Additional Findings, and Recommendations:**

***Question #26: How would you describe the atmosphere in the classroom.***

Findings #26. All 20 wards had different comments regarding the atmosphere in their classroom, it was boring, it was strict, it is calm, really nice, good, quiet, better than public school, very helpful, everybody working hard, easy, controlled, appropriate, and the school is fine.

Recommendation: None

***Question #27: Are there adequate supplies in the classroom?***

Findings #27. 15 wards felt that there are adequate supplies in the classroom, and 1 ward felt that they needed computers.

Recommendation: None.

***Question #28: Are you provided with adequate school supplies in the hall for homework?***

Findings #28. 13 wards interviewed felt there are adequate supplies when needed for homework, and 1 ward did not know.

Recommendation: None.

***Question #29: Describe your relationship to school, hall staff, and probation.***

Findings #29. 8 wards felt the relationship with hall staff and probation is good. 5 wards felt that staff members were cool, adequate, staff makes you feel comfortable, and school is o.k. 1 ward got along with all staff members, 3 wards liked some staff members, 1 ward felt that staff provokes wards, and 1 ward felt that staff members are unprofessional and unfair.

Recommendation: None.

***Question #30: What would you like to share with us as a result of our visit?  
What works well, and what needs attention or correction?***

Findings #30. Commissioners findings were: Wards would like to be moved to warmer rooms during cold nights, need more privacy during showers, need bigger shower doors for more privacy, fix things faster in our rooms such as a broken toilet button, a need for more P.E. time, takes more than a week to talk to your probation officer, should be a shorter time, wards given too much milk, the need for sleeping pills at night, staff members put their feet on the wall, when we put our feet on the wall we get into trouble, some staff members are racist, should have home passes for us after two months in juvenile hall, and wards need more footballs.

Recommendation: Response invited by a commissioner.

**Commissioners Inspection of Programs and Correspondence:**

Programs are adequate for the wards while in custody at the new juvenile hall. There is a telephone available. Postage is free and letters written or received is unlimited for the wards. All outgoing mail by the wards are uncensored and unread.

Recommendations: None.

**Commissioners Inspection on Meals and Nutrition:**

We found the meals for the wards adequate and nutritious with no significant health or safety issues and in compliance with the Napa County Public Health Division.

Recommendations: None.

**Commissioners Inspection of the Kitchen:**

We found that the kitchens sanitation was excellent and clean with no significant health or safety issues and in compliance with the Napa County Public Health Division.

Recommendations: None.

**Juvenile Ward Interviews on Meals, Nutrition, Ample Servings, Additional Findings, and Recommendations:**

***Question #31: Describe the food and nutrition.***

Findings #31. 10 wards felt that the food is nutritious, appetizing, good, fair, healthy, great, and it's o.k. 8 wards felt that sometimes the food is not always good, taste is bad, taste like crap, it's gross, it's nasty, and the food is not the best,

Recommendation: None.

***Question #32: Are servings ample and appetizing?***

Findings #32. All 15 wards felt that the meals are amply served and are appetizing, 3 wards did not.

Recommendation: None.

***Question #33: Do you have enough time to eat?***

Findings #33. 12 wards feel they do have enough time to eat and 8 wards felt they don't.

Recommendation: Response invited by a commissioner.

**Commissioners Inspection on the Personal Appearance of Wards:**

Commissioner's inspections found that the wards clothing is appropriate for the weather and their clothing was clean. All wards have access to personal hygiene accessories such as shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorants, feminine products, and hairbrushes.

Recommendation: None.

### **Commissioners Inspection of Health Care Services:**

Wards have medical access through a Nurse Request Form. A licensed or a certified health care person evaluates wards for their medical needs. Mental Health services are available. The nurse and staff can notify the Medical Doctor in an emergency. January 2006 through December 2006 there were 0 deaths and 0 escapes.

Recommendations: None.

### **Commissioners Inspection Regarding Discipline of Minors, Grievances and Serious Incident Reports:**

Wards are disciplined with adjustments to their point status or put into a special program. The most restrictive discipline intervention by staff would be the use of shackles and handcuffs that are used only in accordance with the juvenile halls policies and procedures. The 24-hour lockdown is also used for disciplinary action against the wards. All staff members are trained in counseling and conflict resolution. Wards are aware of the grievance procedure because it's clearly posted in both units.

Recommendations: None.

### **Commissioners Inspection Regarding Visits:**

Wards have adequate space for family visits and staff officers do their best to accommodate all family visits to assure their privacy and comfortability. The Probation Department schedules family visits and there are accommodations made for visits according to the parents work schedules, siblings, boyfriends, girlfriends, and babies.

Recommendations: None.

### **Commissioners Inspection of Staff Officer's Training and Diversity:**

We found that staff officers are well trained in the areas CPR, first aid, law enforcement 832 Penal Code, pat down procedures, room searches, management of assault behavior, verbal judo, safety, emergency evacuations, 136 hours Juvenile Hall Core Training, 40 hour staff training and orientation, in-house updates regularly and 24 hours annually for relevant training and 40 hours of annual training for supervisors.

Recommendations: None.

**Commissioners Inspection regarding the Orientation for the Wards:**

Wards are given Rules and Procedures during the intake procedures. The Rules and Procedures are posted in both units and they are printed in English and Spanish.

Recommendations: None.

**Commissioners Inspection on the Interior Condition of the Juvenile Hall:**

Building temperature is centrally controlled, hallways were clear, sleeping rooms were clean, linen, and towels were clean and changed daily. There was some graffiti found in the intake room and the superintendent advised us she would personally take of it immediately. Lighting is very adequate and it must be noted that this facility is new and everything is clean, updated, and well maintained.

Recommendations: None.

**Commissioners Inspection on the Exterior Condition of the Juvenile Hall:**

The building is new and found to be clean and well maintained.

Recommendations: None.

**Commissioners Inspection of Napa County Jails for the Year 2006:**

Napa County has 4 jails and they are:

Napa City Police Department:

Napa County Jail:

St. Helena Jail:

Calistoga Jail:

As per the Board of Corrections letter dated August 04, 2003 regarding Section 209 (a) Welfare Institutions Code there were no minors in confinement in any of our Napa County Jails for more than 24 hours, therefore no inspections were required. **We also found no minors were in detention outside of a locked enclosure as per the changes to Title 15, Section 1148; the time frame for such secure detention has been increased from 30 minutes to 60 minutes.**

**Other Napa County Inspections:**

This commission concurs with the annual inspections and evaluations by Fire, Health, Environmental, Nutritional, Building Safety, Education, Board of Corrections and the Presiding Judge as required by Title 15, Section 1313 for the year 2006. We found all regulations, safety requirements, and standards current.

**Conclusions and Acknowledgments:**

We find the Juvenile Hall Facility in compliance with Title 15 and 24 requirements.

This Commission commends the Napa County Chief Probation Officer, Napa County Juvenile Hall Superintendent, Juvenile Hall Management, Juvenile Hall Staff Officers, and Juvenile Hall Office Personnel for their courtesy, respect, and concern during the 2008 Juvenile Hall Inspection.

For their help this Commission wishes to give special recognition and acknowledgement to **Acting Supervisor Cathy Cameron and Superintendent Christopher Howard** for their skillful proficient capabilities during the 2008 Juvenile Hall Inspection.

This Chair commends the Student Commissioner and the Adult Commissioners of the Juvenile Justice Commission for their professionalism, efficiency, concern, and interest during the 2008 Juvenile Hall Inspection.

**Members of the 2008 Inspection Teams were Commissioners: Cristina Flores Haley, Patricia Wells, Doug Cary, Vice-Chair Randi Storm, and Chairperson Samuel John Reyes, Sr.**