



A Tradition of Stewardship
A Commitment to Service

NAPA COUNTY GRAND JURY

2012-2013

MAY 20, 2013

FINAL REPORT

NAPA COUNTY JUVENILE HALL

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Letter to Presiding Judge	3
Letter to the Citizens of Napa County	4
Napa County Juvenile Hall	5
Summary	5
Background	5
Methodology	6
Discussion	6
Findings	7
Recommendations	7



A Tradition of Stewardship
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NAPA COUNTY GRAND JURY
P.O. BOX 5397
NAPA, CALIFORNIA 94581

May 20, 2013

The Honorable Mark S. Boessenecker
Supervising Judge
Superior Court of the State of California
County of Napa
825 Brown Street
Napa, California 94559

Re: 2012-2013 Grand Jury Final Report: Napa County Juvenile Hall.

Dear Judge Boessenecker,

Pursuant of Section 933 (a) of the California Penal Code, the 2012-2013 Napa County Grand Jury submits its final report on the Napa County Juvenile Hall.

Our investigation of this subject was conducted in a manner consistent with the California Penal Code, this Court's Charge, and the historic role of the Grand Jury, to pursue the interests of the residents of Napa County.

This is the fourth in a series of final reports we will be issuing during our term. I would like to acknowledge the dedication of the Grand Jurors, which our report reflects.

Respectfully submitted,

Victor J. Connell
Foreperson
2012-2013 Napa County Grand Jury



NAPA COUNTY GRAND JURY

**P.O. BOX 5397
NAPA, CALIFORNIA 94581**

May 20, 2013

To the Residents of Napa County:

Our fourth Grand Jury Final Report is on the Napa County Juvenile Hall. The Grand Jury is required to inspect county adult and juvenile jail facilities every year.

The Napa County Office of County Counsel has reviewed this final report. The Napa County Superior Court Presiding Judge, pursuant to California Penal Code Section 933(a), has found that this report complies with California Penal code Part 2 Title 4.

Copies of this report are available for review in the Napa City-County Library and online at www.napa.courts.ca.gov (follow the link to the Grand Jury).

We hope you find this report informative. It is an honor and privilege to serve you during our 2012-2013 Grand Jury term.

Respectfully submitted,

The 2012-2013 Napa County Grand Jury

NAPA COUNTY JUVENILE HALL

SUMMARY

As prescribed by law, the 2012-2013 Grand Jury has completed its annual inspection and review of the Napa County Juvenile Hall (NCJH). The current NCJH facility, constructed in 2004, began operation in 2005. The Grand Jury found the facility clean, well maintained and secure. The Chief Probation Officer serves as Director of NCJH and has held this position since 2002.

Various members of the staff participated in the interview and inspection. The facility and programs are all designed to engage and rehabilitate youth. The staff is knowledgeable and maintains both discipline and a strict regimen of activities. The juveniles are treated with respect for their privacy as prescribed by law pertaining to juveniles.

This report also will address progress that has been achieved in decreasing the numbers of youth offenders and those on Probation.

BACKGROUND

The NCJH facility was built in 2004 as a state-of-the-art detention and rehabilitation center and was designed to house up to 50 juveniles, supervised by 27 permanent staff assisted by additional part time staff members. The Napa County Probation Department oversees the operation of NCJH. The Chief Probation Officer serves as its Director and is responsible for the overall operation of NCJH.

NCJH provides for juvenile detention and rehabilitation providing custody, counseling, medical care, and guidance of delinquent and custodial juveniles in a variety of what NCJH refers to as “evidence-based” programs. It is very difficult to assess the performance of Juvenile Hall without also integrating the role of Probation in the rehabilitation process as it is intended to provide a smooth transition from the Hall to becoming a law-abiding citizen once back in the community. Juvenile probation oversight delivers various levels of individual supervision that are based on protection of the community, risk/needs assessments, out-of-home placements, and amenability to rehabilitation. Juvenile Hall supervisors collaborate with the Napa County Health and Human Services Department in the supervision of selected cases wherein mental health issues are a major factor. The supervisors also collaborate with other community and government agencies such as Juvenile Drug Court, Wolfe Center and Aldea Inc. Detainees receive treatment including mental health evaluations and services provided by a full-time mental health professional. General nursing care is provided seven days per week.

METHODOLOGY

The 2012-2013 Grand Jury conducted the annual inspection of Juvenile Hall on October 30, 2012. Several supervisors of Juvenile Hall participated in the tour and informally responded to questions and clarifications posed by the Grand Jury at that time. Subsequently, multiple members of the counseling staff were interviewed.

Documents reviewed include the Napa County Evening Reporting Center Annual Report, July 2012 and previous Grand Jury reports. The Grand Jury also reviewed the inspection report issued after the March, 2012 inspection by the Board of State and Community Corrections to determine whether or not the NCJH is in compliance with Title 15 and Title 24 of the California Code of Regulations (CCR), Minimum Standards for Juvenile Facilities and the Federal Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention standards for holding minors.

DISCUSSION

The Napa County criminal justice system, spearheaded by the Probation Department, has implemented programs to improve outcomes for youth offenders since traditional correctional services, such as “scared straight” were not yielding desired results. Evidence-based practices and programs describe the methods and strategies that have proven effective in the specific goal of reducing recidivism. Based on eight guiding principles for risk/recidivism reduction, this approach includes: assessing actuarial risk through risk/need assessments, enhancing intrinsic motivation, targeting intervention skill training with directed practice, increasing positive reinforcement and engaging ongoing support in communities.

Although several evidence-based programs were implemented post-release, it became apparent that additional resources were needed to provide youth services during high risk times of the day to reduce recidivism and create positive, lasting behavior change in the lives of youth. Much of the juvenile crime occurs during the hours after school and before parents return home from work. The hours of 3 pm to 7 pm were identified as times that youths need activities and skill building to help change their behavior. Thus, in 2009 the Napa County Evening Reporting Center (ERC) was established to fill this important gap in juvenile services. The overall goals of the ERC are to reduce costs; reduce juvenile hall population; target chronic criminal behavior and thinking; create a positive environment for ex-offenders; support the efforts of the entire justice system; and help youth develop skills and positive connections that will prevent them from becoming inmates of the adult corrections system and help transform them into productive citizens. There are enormous cost savings associated with these activities.

The fruits of these efforts are borne out by the data over the last 3-4 years. In 2009, when the ERC opened there were 736 youth on probation, the average daily population of NCJH was 44 and the average length of stay was 42 days. In 2011 there were 431 active wards of the court, down from 536 in 2010 following the programs’ inception in 2009. As of July 2012 that number is down to 261 active wards of the court, which represents an impressive reduction in the number of youth under the scrutiny of the Juvenile Probation Dept. Further, the average number of youth at NCJH decreased from 44 in 2009 to the current 27 and the average length of stay decreased from 42 days to 18 in FY 2011/2012.

The Grand Jury notes that the inspection report issued by the Board of State and Community Corrections found that the NCJH is 100 percent in compliance with all standards and regulations. This report was based on a walk-through of the physical plant, a review of written policy and procedures, and a review of documentation to verify that practice follows policy. In addition the report reflects findings based on interviews with youth, counselors and health care staff.

FINDINGS

- F1.** The NCJH provides a secure and progressive environment for offending Napa County youths.
- F2.** The staff displays a high level of professionalism and dedication to the youth in their charge.
- F3.** In addition to mandated appropriate education, evidence-based programs are implemented to provide intensive and targeted attention to the highest risk offenders. These programs are designed to help offenders with issues such as anger management, substance abuse, and criminal thinking; and to promote alternative positive behaviors.
- F4.** The NCJH is in compliance with all state and federal standards and regulations.

COMMENDATION

The Grand Jury commends the entire staff of the NCJH for their high level of professionalism and sincere commitment to serving the youth of Napa County.