

of
Education

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Clerk of the Napa Superior Court

By: *[Signature]*
Deputy

July 8, 2008

**The Honorable Francisca P. Tisher
The Honorable Raymond A. Guadagni
Presiding Judges
Superior Court of the State of California
County of Napa
825 Brown Street
Napa, CA 94559**

Dear Judges Tisher and Guadagni,

Enclosed is a copy of the Napa County Office of Education's response to the three Recommendations of the Grand Jury's 2007-2008 report.

We appreciate the time and effort that went into all phases of the Grand Jury's work, and enjoyed meeting with the subcommittee that visited our office. It is heartening to know that there are so many local citizens willing to donate their time to ensure that our institutions are doing the best possible job for all of us.

We are thoroughly committed to implementing all three recommendations.

Sincerely,

Barbara Nemko

**Barbara Nemko, Ph.D.
Napa County Superintendent of Schools**

cc: Board of Supervisors

Received
Napa Superior Court

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Court Executive Office

*Barbara G. Nemko, Ph.D.
Superintendent
(707) 253-6818*

*Business Services
(707) 253-6819*

*Fiscal Services
(707) 253-6833*

*General Services
(707) 253-6828*

*Human Resources
(707) 253-6824*

*Educational Services
(707) 253-6810*

*Court & Community Schools
(707) 253-6817*

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(707) 253-6999*

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(707) 253-6914*

*Regional Occupational
Program
(707) 253-6830*

*Safe Schools/Healthy Students
(707) 259-5979*

*SELPA
(707) 253-6807*

**Napa County Office of Education's response to the
2007-08 Napa County Grand Jury report on
"Alcohol and Drug Prevention and Treatment Programs
for Napa County Youth"**

NCOE Response to Findings:

NCOE agrees with (all) the following report findings:

1. Napa County youth are more likely than other California youth, as a whole, to be underage users of alcohol (59.4% vs. 45.9%)
2. Drug use by youth in Napa County mirrors the statewide experience
3. There are numerous prevention programs throughout the County, which are not uniformly coordinated and which until recently, have not been evidence-based.
4. NCHHS, NCOE, NVUSD and other governmental agencies have reviewed available local statistics regarding youth AOD use and have recently developed a plan for reducing substance use which incorporates evidence-based programs.
5. NCHHS and the Wolfe Center have recently implemented a strategic plan to address the challenges of providing quality substance abuse treatment for all Napa County youth.
6. The only outpatient treatment program in Napa County is contracted through the Wolfe Center
7. NCHHS, NCOE, NVUSD and other governmental agencies have recognized the valuable work being done by charitable organizations and agencies and is including them in the development and implementation of prevention programs.
8. The true cost of publicly funded youth AOD prevention and treatment in Napa County could not be ascertained from the County and school district budgets reviewed.

NCOE Response to Recommendations:

All three recommendations have been implemented with a summary below regarding our actions:

1. The County of Napa, through NCHHS, NCOE, NVUSD and other agencies and programs involved in developing the strategic plans commit to cooperate fully in implementing these plans.
 - a. Very strong working relationships with NCHHS, school districts, law enforcement agencies and community partners have already been created and will continue.
 - b. NCOE will work with partners to support and help implement both plans.
 - c. The 2007-10 Napa County Strategic Prevention Plan was created through the Catalyst Coalition. The Coalition is funded by a federal grant, awarded and administered through NCOE (2005-2010), and in partnership with NCHHS.
 - d. The Coalition used a federally-recognized and evidence-based community mobilization/planning model to create and implement the Strategic Plan. The plan is not meant to be implemented by stakeholders alone, but rather by the entire community. Four "City Teams" and more than 100 community members have worked to develop and implement the plan, and

will continue to do so under the guidance and support of NCOE and NCHHS.

- e. Paid staff and support ensure the Strategic Plan is implemented. Technical assistance and national training will support the continued success of the Plan.
2. Local governmental agencies and other relevant districts commit to assure sufficient funding is available to fully implement the strategic plans for prevention and treatment.
 - a. NCOE's Grant Center will leverage existing grants and funding by using evaluation reports, partnerships, successes, and resources to apply for additional funds for youth AOD as appropriate, and as specified in the Strategic Prevention Plan and treatment plans.
 - b. NCOE's Grant Center continues to develop additional data resources and evaluation reports that may be used to further assess the needs of the community, and to engage funders in supporting them.
 - c. NCOE commits to continue to partner with local nonprofit organizations to fill funding gaps and produce collaborative programs.
 3. All publicly funded youth AOD prevention and treatment expenditures be separately itemized in each local government's budget by each category, youth AOD prevention and youth AOD treatment, so it is clear how much is being spent by each agency for each category.
 - a. All NCOE AOD prevention and treatment expenditures are tracked through the Grant Center in separate grant budgets and clearly show how much is being spent.
 - b. NCOE implementation of evidence-based programs (as determined by the U.S. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Agency) with AOD outcomes include: Reconnecting Youth, All Stars, Big Brothers Big Sisters Mentoring model, cognitive behavioral therapy, Too Good for Drugs.