Public Prisons Report

California Penal Code Section 919(b) provides that each year: "The Grand Jury shall inquire into the condition and management of the public prisons within the County." The current Grand Jury visited the two Trinity County public prisons: the **Sheriff's Detention Facility** and **Juvenile Hall Facility**. Additionally, it visited the State of California facility: **Trinity River Conservation Camp #3.**

All county detention facilities are overseen by the Board of State Community Corrections (BSCC). The BSCC conducts biennial inspections of local detention facilities. It collects data and issues reports on those facilities. Prior to inspection, the Grand Jury reviews previous inspection reports as well as any earlier grand jury reports. The BSCC publishes the 'Title 15—Minimum Standards for Local Detention Facilities' For both adult and juvenile facilities. These documents are useful as guides for inspections. When visiting the facilities, the Grand Jury looks at conditions, including cleanliness, staff presence, overall safety and security, and the orderliness of operations.

During tours the Grand Jury observes booking areas, housing areas for inmates, the presence of safety and sobering cells, kitchen and dining areas, exercise areas, program areas, intake and holding areas and any other applicable areas (example: vital communications). Personnel are asked about any outstanding compliance issues, special concerns regarding facility conditions or staffing. Other questions asked include the condition of the physical plants and welfare of the inmates.

We thank all personnel who graciously hosted us at each facility. We were welcomed and engaged in honest conversations about a variety of issues. Our many questions were answered thoughtfully and thoroughly.

TRINITY COUNTY DETENTION FACILITY

The 2017-2018 Grand Jury visited the Trinity County Detention Facility. Sadly, we found that issues reported in previous grand jury reports continued. The 2014-2015 Grand Jury found that the findings and recommendations documented over prior years continued to worsen year after year. Important issues continue: dangerous understaffing, inadequate recruitment and retention, significant safety concerns, low morale and heavy workloads due to staffing issues. The physical plant continues to be plagued with mold, outdated communication systems, overcrowding and general deterioration of the facility.

Responses from local government to previous Grand Jury reports regarding the condition of the facility were either (1) they were looking for funding for a new jail or (2) they were waiting for the Classification and Compensation Study to fully address the recruitment and retention issues.

The 2017-2018 Grand Jury understands that the long-awaited Classification and Compensations Study has been completed. We hope that this leads to resolutions that help the County recruit and retain enough qualified personnel to staff the new jail facility. The current Grand Jury heard concerns that the current inadequate pay and benefit package, as well as safety issues regarding the new facility, impact recruitment and retention of personnel.

As many know, Trinity County obtained funds to build a new detention facility. That obviously addresses some of the maintenance issues. The current Grand Jury heard concerns about the safety of the new jail's design, specifically the safety of both personnel and inmates in emergency situations. Personnel issues (pay, recruitment and retention) need to be addressed. In addition to safety issues, concerns were expressed about the design of the new plant. We understand the number of beds originally planned was reduced; this despite increased need. Furthermore, the on-site kitchen is being considered for elimination.

We hope that all stakeholders have had the opportunity to participate in the planning stages for the detention facility. This would ensure that all aspects of the new facility are the safest and most efficient, as well as cost effective. The Board of Supervisors (BOS), upon receiving funding, said that it is committed to fully staffing the new jail. The Grand Jury will follow the county's commitment to this and all other aspects of this project.

TRINITY COUNTY JUVENILE FACILITY

The Grand Jury's visit to the Trinity County Juvenile Facility was informative. It was apparent that the staff truly cares for the youth under its control. We were given the 2014-2016 BSCC inspection report in which only one issue was noted. As of April 2017, That issue was resolved. Following that inspection, the Trinity County Probation Department was commended by the BSCC in three areas: outcomes, training and programming.

As to 'outcomes,' the Trinity County Probation Department saw a 73% drop in the use of longer term out-of-county detention beds. Additionally, only one youth, while serving custody time on weekends, committed a new delinquent offense during the week. all youth were programmed locally; only two foster placements were needed. The BSCC found the program to be innovative and appropriate to the needs of Trinity County.

'Training' involves the entire facility. Trinity County Juvenile Facility is a Special Purpose Juvenile Hall. While not required, all staff is currently CORE trained. CORE-trained staff trains to the higher standard in order to have a better understanding of the expectations of day-to-day operations in a detention facility.

'Programming' involves planning for and implementing programming that is restorative-justice based. Restorative justice seeks to balance the needs of the victims with the rehabilitation of their perpetrators. To facilitate this, there are substance abuse classes taught in conjunction with Alcohol and Other Drugs (AOD) classes. Based on the U.S. Department of Labor's 'identified-skill-sets,' Life Skill/Vocational Readiness Life Skills Trainings (VRLS) classes use community projects to teach youth skills for employment. The facility offers academic tutoring and assistance, plus a Victim Awareness class that began in the third quarter 2016. Staff is planning on adding additional weekend parenting classes that would be a combined effort between probation and AmeriCorps.

While there is a lack of adequate funding to maintain this facility at its highest potential, we commend the staff for making the most of the available resources and for investigating potential new sources of funding and partnerships. We encourage the county and the community to support this very worthwhile facility with additional funding.