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MAY 3 0 2000

**SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF TRINITY
BY: DONNA REGNANI, DEPUTY CLERK**

DR

TRINITY COUNTY GRAND JURY

1999-2000

**JUDICIAL COMMITTEE
FINAL REPORT**

TRINITY COUNTY SHERIFF'S DETENTION FACILITY

**This report was approved
On May 4, 2000**

**1999-2000 TRINITY COUNTY GRAND JURY
JUDICIAL COMMITTEE
FINAL REPORT**

TRINITY COUNTY SHERIFF'S DETENTION FACILITY

PURPOSE:

Per mandate of Penal Code Section 919(b), the Grand Jury will annually inquire into the conditions and management of all public prisons within the county. In addition, recommendations made by the 1998-1999 Grand Jury merited follow up.

BACKGROUND:

The Trinity County Jail is used to detain persons who are awaiting or undergoing trial, those who have been sentenced to serve time there up to one year, and minimum-security state parolees back in custody due to parole violations.

The maximum capacity of the jail is 53. The 1997-1998 Grand Jury found the average population to be 45-47. The 1998-1999 Grand Jury found that the jail population remained near the maximum. During this years Grand Jury jail tour the inmate population was in the low 30's.

METHOD OF INVESTIGATION:

The Judicial Committee toured the Detention Facility. In addition, several interviews were held with the Sheriff and Undersheriff. One Grand Jury member also spent a day accompanying a jail supervisor on her job.

FINDING #1: Staffing

The staffing level at the jail meets the minimum level required by state mandate. While it would be desirable to have additional staff, considering the financial situation in Trinity County, this seems unlikely.

RECOMMENDATION #1:

None.

FINDING #2: Utilization of Facilities

A rear oversight station is not being used as it was originally intended because of lack of current need. At present it is being used for storage.

The 911/dispatch/communications center is very cramped. During an emergency this could cause crowding problems, possibly resulting in slowed response time.

A dining area is not being used for dining. Due to low staffing levels, and for safety reasons, it is more feasible to deliver meals to individual cells. It is at times used

for other purposes, such as meetings and training sessions, although it sits idle most of the time.

RECOMMENDATION #2:

The 911/dispatch/communications center needs more room. If and when it becomes economically feasible this area should be expanded.

FINDING #3: General Operations

Food service, laundry, and minor health care problems are handled in-house in an efficient manner. The jail appears very neat and clean, and seems to be run efficiently and well. The use of inmate labor wherever possible helps keep the jail operating efficiently for a minimum cost to the county.

RECOMMENDATION #3:

None.

CONCLUSION:

Overall, the jail is run in a very professional manner. The Grand Jury commends the jail staff for maintaining a high standard of professionalism.

30-DAY RESPONSE REQUESTED FROM: Trinity County Board of Supervisors;
Trinity County Sheriff.

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TRINITY COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

P.O. BOX 1228, WEAVERVILLE, CA 96093 Phone: (530) 623-2611
JUDGE'S CHAMBERS

PAUL SCHMIDT, Sheriff
CHARLES DOWNEN, Undersheriff

July 26, 2000

TO: The Honorable John Letton
The Trinity County Board of Supervisors

FROM: *Paul Schmidt*, Sheriff

SUBJECT: Response to 1999-2000 Grand Jury Judicial Committee Report;
Trinity County Detention Facility

I would first like to thank the members of the Judicial Committee for their hard work and dedication. Considerable time and effort went into their review of the operations at the Detention Facility and preparation of this report.

I agree with all but one of the Grand Jury findings. I disagree on the jail staffing issue.

To adequately staff the Sheriff's Office jail and dispatch functions it is necessary to have fifteen (15) Correctional Officer/Dispatchers and one Sergeant. State Board of Corrections compliance requires two Correctional Officers in the facility at all times for safety reasons.

As a cost cutting measure the County in the mid-1990s cut three of these fifteen Correctional Officer/Dispatcher positions. Two of the positions were reinstated after additional funding was developed through the Sheriff's work alternative programs, incarceration fees, and housing of State parole violators. I have repeatedly through the budget process asked for refunding for the fifteenth position and not met with success.

This shortage of personnel in the jail has been exacerbated by employee health problems. The combination of too few salaried jail positions and employee health problems has caused a situation where Correctional Officers are working twelve hour shifts and are still unable to fill all jail shifts. During the period of May 1 through July 25, 2000, there were a total of 37 ten hour shifts and 115 twelve hour shifts worked in an attempt to mitigate this personnel shortage. I am as of this date holding ten hazardous incident reports from the graveyard shift because of inadequate staffing. I have begun supplementing the jail staff with patrol deputies to relieve some of the pressure in the jail.

In the past Reserve Deputies helped us through critical times like these but as I have mentioned to the Board of Supervisors several times in the past, the P.O.S.T. Reserve training requirements have become so difficult and time consuming they have all but eliminated the program.

I am currently proposing the initiation of a new class of extra help for the jail that would require only the completion of a background investigation and the 832 P.C. course. This Correctional Officer Cadet position is not the permanent answer to our personnel shortage but may help us get by until we can resolve the issue by filling the one empty funded Correctional Officer position and the previously mentioned fifteenth unfunded Correctional Officer position.

In the meantime our meager patrol force will be severely impacted by the use of patrol personnel to work shifts in the jail and transport inmates.

Cc: Trinity County Grand Jury



TRINITY COUNTY

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

P.O. Drawer 1613 (530) 623-1217
WEAVERVILLE, CALIFORNIA 96093

Dero B. Forslund, Clerk

Jeannie Nix-Temple, County Administrative Officer

To: John K. Letton, Superior Court Judge

From: Board of Supervisors

Date: October 25, 2000

RE: 1999-2000 Grand Jury Judicial Committee report on the Trinity County Sheriff's Detention Facility

The Board of Supervisors agrees with the three Findings and Recommendations of this report and concurs with its conclusion.

DATE: November 9, 2000
APPROVED: Ralph Modine
CHAIRMAN-Board of Supervisors

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CLERK'S OFFICE
WEAVERVILLE, CALIFORNIA