

2011-2012 GRAND JURY

JUR-2011-2012-002

REPORT

Trinity County Detention
Facility: Disaster Pending!

SHERIFF

RESPONSE



OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF
TRINITY COUNTY

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BRUCE HANEY, Sheriff/Coroner
KEN LANGSTON, Undersheriff

Reviewed
[Signature]
6/25/12

June 26, 2012

James P. Woodward, Superior Court Judge
P.O. Box 1258
11 Court Street
Weaverville, CA. 96093

Dear Judge Woodward,

The following Responses are to the Findings and Recommendations addressed in the 2011/2012 Trinity County Grand Jury Report, Trinity County Detention Facility "Disaster Pending".

Finding 1:

The 08/15/11 response to the 2010-2011 Grand Jury report stated, "The video system is failing and plans are underway to have it replaced in the coming weeks". Although new security cameras have been purchased (some time ago), to date they have not been installed. At the time of the tour only one of the old cameras appeared to be working.

Recommendation 1:

It is imperative for the safety of the staff and inmates that the monitoring system be functional. It is the top priority for replacement. Complete the installation immediately.

Response 1:

Installation is currently underway and completion is expected in the very near future. Unfortunately, due to numerous physical obstacles, funding, and staffing issues the installation has taken longer than originally anticipated. However, several of the new cameras have been installed and are functional. The installation of the remaining cameras is ongoing.

Finding 2:

The mandates of California Bill AB109 are overloading a Jail facility that is not designed for long term housing. Due to the overcrowding the Law Enforcement Officers are having to make a determination as to whether to arrest, or just cite an individual because **"There is no room at the Inn"**.

Recommendation 2a:

- Look for housing long term inmates in surrounding counties.

Response 2a:

The surrounding counties have the same issue as Trinity County in regards to the lack of bed space. Even if beds were available in other facilities costs would be incurred by the County, which there is currently not an adequate level of funding to cover.

Recommendation 2b:

Pay the State Prison bed fee of \$137.00 per day, or CalFire fee of \$45.00 per day to house these inmates until funding for a new facility is acquired.

Response 2b:

The County does not have an adequate level of funding to cover these expenses. The current level of funding received as a result of AB109 does not cover all of the expenses associated with realignment.

Finding 3:

There are a number of maintenance and repairs that need attention.

Recommendation 3:

In conjunction with County General Services staff, use jail trustees to perform required maintenance. For example, but not limited to, holes in the walls, weed, control and security cameras.

Response 3:

Maintenance issues are currently being addressed on a priority basis as funding becomes available. Trustees have been used in the past and will continue to be utilized in the future based upon their personal ability and security issues.

Finding 4:

Female staffing continues to be inadequate. Gender specific positions can be advertised for a detention facility.

Recommendation 4:

Advertise and fill the position that is gender specific.

Response 4:

The Sheriff's Office has completed two separate recruitments for Correctional Officer/Dispatcher in the past twelve months. An eligibility list will be maintained of qualified applicants for appointment to vacant positions as soon as funding becomes available. Appointments will be made based upon the needs of the facility at the time.

Finding 5:

There is a mixing of inmates that are pre-trial, trustee, and felony offenders.

Recommendation 5:

Find alternative means to separate the classes of inmates: such as monitoring devices, work release programs, housing elsewhere.

Response 5:

Inmates are classified and housed based on their past and current history, along with other safety related issues. Housing is limited in the current facility, but every inmate is housed with the safety of the inmate and staff in mind. Electronic monitoring and alternative sentences programs are already being utilized and plans are underway to implement a work release program. In extreme circumstances inmates have been housed at state and/or other county facilities due to medical, mental health, or security reasons. However, this practice is limited to the most extreme cases.

Finding 6:

Lack of supervisory personnel and funding has been the catch all excuse for many years. With the County's limited resources, management must prioritize both staffing and funding needs.

Recommendation 6a:

To minimize the County's liability issues, management must prioritize resources for maintenance and repairs.

Response 6a:

As previously mentioned maintenance issues are currently being addressed on a priority basis as funding becomes available

Recommendation 6b:

A strategic plan for funding a new facility should be developed and implemented immediately.

Response 6b:

The Sheriff's Office hired a consulting firm to compile a Jail Needs Assessment, which was completed on December 31, 2011. An application was also filed with the Corrections Standards Authority for AB900 grant funding for the construction of a new jail facility. Although the County was not awarded funding in this cycle, it is anticipated that additional funding may become available in the coming year. The Sheriff's Office will continue to work with the County to explore all possibilities to fund a new facility.

The Responses conveyed in this report are the result of a thorough review of the Grand Jury's Findings and Recommendations. These Responses reflect the current status of conditions and/or operations in the Trinity County Sheriff's Office - Jail Division.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B. Haney', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Bruce Haney, Sheriff
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(530) 623-3740