



County of San Diego

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SAN DIEGO
COUNTY GRAND JURY

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June 28, 2011

The Honorable Kevin Enright
Presiding Judge, San Diego Superior Court
220 West Broadway
San Diego, CA 92101

Dear Judge Enright,

The 2010-11 San Diego County Grand Jury issued six reports during their tenure that addressed findings and recommendations to the County of San Diego. Today, the County Board of Supervisors approved responses to these six reports and directed me to forward these responses to your office, as required by the California Penal Code.

The responses, which are enclosed, correspond to the following reports:

- In-Home Supportive Services: An Open Door for Abuse and Fraud
- Oh, For Critters' Sakes!
- County Supervisor Discretionary Funds: More Transparency Needed
- Detention Facilities Inspection
- Pertussis (Whooping Cough) Epidemic: Let's Get Educated!
- Hitting Back at Domestic Violence

If you have questions or need additional information, please contact me at (619) 531-5250.

Sincerely,

WALTER F. EKARD

Chief Administrative Officer

Attachment

cc: Board of Supervisors



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

AGENDA ITEM

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

GREG COX
First District

DIANNE JACOB
Second District

PAM SLATER-PRICE
Third District

RON ROBERTS
Fourth District

BILL HORN
Fifth District

DATE: June 28, 2011
TO: Board of Supervisors
SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO 2010-11 GRAND JURY REPORTS (DISTRICT: ALL)
SUMMARY:

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Overview

The 2010-2011 San Diego County Grand Jury recently completed their term and issued 7 reports that address County programs under the purview of the Board of Supervisors. Six of those reports contained recommendations and one contained only commendations.

According to the California Penal Code Section 933(c), agencies that are the subject of Grand Jury reports must respond in writing to Findings and Recommendations addressed to them. Therefore, this is a request for your Board to review and approve the draft Finding and Recommendation responses prepared by the Chief Administrative Officer and authorize the Chief Administrative Officer to transmit your Board's responses to the Grand Jury, via the Superior Court Presiding Judge. The proposed responses address the recommendations and findings contained in following reports:

- In-Home Supportive Services: An Open Door for Abuse and Fraud
- Oh, For Critters' Sakes!
- County Supervisor Discretionary Funds: More Transparency Needed
- Detention Facilities Inspection
- Pertussis (Whooping Cough) Epidemic: Let's Get Educated!
- Hitting Back at Domestic Violence

Recommendation(s)

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Approve the proposed responses and authorize the Chief Administrative Officer to transmit the responses to the Grand Jury via the Superior Court Presiding Judge.

Fiscal Impact

This recommendation will have no fiscal impact.

SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO 2010-11 GRAND JURY REPORTS (DISTRICT: ALL)

Business Impact Statement

N/A

Advisory Board Statement

N/A

BACKGROUND:

The 2010-2011 San Diego County Grand Jury recently completed their term and issued 7 reports that address County programs under the purview of the Board of Supervisors. Six of those reports contained recommendations and one contained only commendations.

According to the California Penal Code, agencies that are the subject of Grand Jury reports must respond in writing to Findings and Recommendations addressed to them. Therefore, this is a request for your Board to review and approve the draft Finding and Recommendation responses prepared by the Chief Administrative Officer covering these six reports and authorize the Chief Administrative Officer to transmit your Board's responses to the Grand Jury, via the Superior Court Presiding Judge.

The proposed responses address the recommendations and findings contained in following reports:

- "In-Home Supportive Services: An Open Door for Abuse and Fraud"
- "Oh, For Critters' Sakes!"
- "County Supervisor Discretionary Funds: More Transparency Needed"
- "Detention Facilities Inspection"
- "Pertussis (Whooping Cough) Epidemic: Let's Get Educated!"
- "Hitting Back at Domestic Violence"

The seventh report the County received was titled "Civic Successes: Public Service at its Best" and commended the County's Child Welfare Services, Commission on Children and Families, Polinsky Children's Center, Planning and Land Use Department, Medical Examiner, and Sheriff's Office Crime Lab. Commendations do not require a written response.

Individual elected officials who received Grand Jury recommendations, such as the San Diego County Sheriff and District Attorney, submit their responses separately, under the Penal Code. However, copies of all Grand Jury reports and the subject agencies' responses to them are posted on the Grand Jury website.

Linkage to the County of San Diego Strategic Plan

The Grand Jury reports listed above and the County's corresponding responses address issues associated with all three of the County of San Diego's 2011-16 Strategic Initiatives, which are to Improve Opportunities for Children and Families; Preserve and Protect the Environment and Promote Safe and Livable Communities. They also link to the County's eight Required Disciplines, which focus on the organization's commitment to: Fiscal Stability; Customer Satisfaction; Regional Leadership; a Skilled, Adaptable and Diverse Workforce; Essential

SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO 2010-11 GRAND JURY REPORTS (DISTRICT: ALL)

AGENDA ITEM INFORMATION SHEET

REQUIRES FOUR VOTES: Yes No

WRITTEN DISCLOSURE PER COUNTY CHARTER SECTION 1000.1 REQUIRED
 Yes No

PREVIOUS RELEVANT BOARD ACTIONS:
N/A

BOARD POLICIES APPLICABLE:
A-43 Response to Grand Jury Reports

BOARD POLICY STATEMENTS:
N/A

MANDATORY COMPLIANCE:
N/A

ORACLE AWARD NUMBER(S) AND CONTRACT AND/OR REQUISITION NUMBER(S):
N/A

ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT: Chief Administrative Office

OTHER CONCURRENCE(S): Community Services Group
 Health and Human Services Agency
 Public Safety Group
 Finance and General Government Group

CONTACT PERSON(S):

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dose is important because pertussis immunity wanes over time, diminishing communitywide “herd” immunity.

Strengthen current law to minimize the “personal belief exemption.” The component of Recommendation 11-52 to strengthen legislation to minimize the “personal belief exemption” (PBE) by parents is currently under debate. California is one of 20 states that allow parents to sign a PBE to school immunization requirements. There is dialogue at national and state levels about how to restrict personal belief exemptions to minimize undermining of communitywide immunity, but there is no legislation in development or pending at this time. County public health officials will continue to contribute to this dialogue.

Although PBEs have not been a driving factor in the pertussis epidemic in California, there are efforts underway to discourage use of the PBE for convenience with regard to the Tdap booster. Parents wishing to exempt their child from the pertussis booster immunization requirement must complete the Pertussis Personal Beliefs Exemption form (CDPH 8261). This form must be completed even if a PBE for other vaccines has already been filed by the family. The form describes to the parent or guardian the serious potential consequences to the student and the community of not being immunized against pertussis and the potential for exclusion from school. The form must be completed at the school offices where school staff can verify the signature of the parent or guardian.

11-53: Initiate efforts to draft legislation, in collaboration with the San Diego County Board of Supervisors and local state legislators, to strengthen current state law regarding immunizations so that all school administrators, teachers, staff and volunteers be immunized against pertussis according to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommendations.

Response: This recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted. Public Health Services continues to promote Tdap vaccine to individuals who are household members, caretakers, or who have close contact with infants and children. Locally, Public Health Services will continue providing information and recommendations to school districts and encourage vaccination among their staff and faculty. It is the responsibility of the school districts or schools to institutionalize policies that support vaccination, and therefore, at this time, legislation is not necessary.

RESPONSE TO 2010/2011 GRAND JURY REPORT

“Hitting Back At Domestic Violence”

Finding 01: The Grand Jury determined the use of GPS monitoring for high-risk offenders could be an effective tool, as it is with the high-risk sex offenders on parole or probation, to improve victim’s safety.

Response: Agree.

Finding 02: Many victims lack the resolve and/or have little confidence in themselves to reject the abuser.

Response: Agree.

Finding 03: Under current law it is difficult to hold abusers accountable for completing domestic violence intervention programs.

Response: Agree.

RECOMMENDATIONS - The 2010/2011 San Diego County Grand Jury recommends that the San Diego County Chief Administrative Officer:

11-71: Direct the Health and Human Services Agency to assess the adequacy of the services the County provides to victims of domestic violence and assure that all agency staff are aware of the Family Justice Center and its services.

Response: The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted. Child Welfare Services (CWS) will continue to comply with State requirements regarding treatment for offenders and will assess resources provided through the various contracts to ensure quality programs are provided. The County has contracts with community based organizations, including Center for Community Solutions, South Bay Community Services, and North County Community Resource Center. These programs provide crises intervention, safety planning, needs assessment and service referrals. The County also contracts to provide “DV Links”, a domestic violence hotline. The hotline is a toll free 24/7 call center for domestic violence, which is supported by a web-based information management system and live answering call center. The hotline provides DV victims with crisis intervention, needs assessment, safety planning, domestic violence emergency shelter and referrals, and connects them to other programs. The hotline also provides law enforcement agencies and domestic violence providers with up-to-the-minute information on the availability of shelter beds and other domestic violence resources.

Currently, the Health & Human Services Agency (HHS) participates on two multi-agency task forces to influence services provided to families impacted by Domestic Violence:

- The DV High Risk Case Response Team (San Diego District Attorney’s Office; San Diego City Attorney’s Office; County of San Diego Probation Department; San Diego Police Department; San Diego Sheriff’s Department; Pretrial Services, San Diego Superior Court; Victim Assistance Program; YWCA San Diego; Center for Community Solutions; San Diego Family Justice Center; CA Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, Division of Adult Parole Operations; Health & Human Services Agency, Child Welfare Services) will collaboratively respond to the needs of individuals and their children experiencing intimate partner violence who are at high level of risk for lethality. The team will also attempt to work with the batterer, where possible and appropriate, in order to provide additional assessment and linkage to services. This team is being piloted in Central San Diego through the District Attorney’s office.
- The Misdemeanor Domestic Violence pilot, headed by the City Attorney’s office, will work with domestic violence misdemeanor offenders to prevent them from reoffending in the future through assessment and linkages to appropriate services.

CWS staff has been made aware of the Family Justice Center (FJC) and its services through an online policy manual and Resource Guide that have links to the FJC website. CWS staff regularly receives information on the FJC's through unit meetings, global emails and/or other online sources. CWS will continue to ensure that all staff is aware of the Family Justice Center and its services.