



San Diego County Sheriff's Department

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William D. Gore, Sheriff

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August 1, 2016

Honorable Jeffrey B. Barton
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court
County Courthouse
220 West Broadway
San Diego, CA 92101

Dear Judge Barton:

Response to San Diego County Grand Jury Report: "Detention Facilities-San Diego County" Dated June 1, 2016.

Pursuant to California Penal Code Section 933(c), the following is my response to the Grand Jury's Findings and Recommendations 16-42 through 16-47.

SAN DIEGO COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

Grand Jury Finding 01:

"It cannot be determined which inmate programs should be expanded and which should be discontinued."

Response:

The Sheriff's Department disagrees with this finding. Metrics have been established and incorporated into the Offender 360 software. For the first time ever, we will be able to collect, share, and analyze holistic programming information to understand outcomes and measure the success of reentry services by offender, population and program agency.

RECOMMENDATION 16-42:

The 2015/2016 San Diego County Grand Jury recommends that the San Diego Sheriff's Department:

Establish metrics to evaluate programs offered to inmates and begin tracking outcomes.

Response:

This recommendation has been implemented. Metrics have been established and incorporated into the Offender 360 software. This will serve as the "technological glue" for all Community Correctional Partnership ("CCP") agencies, helping us to hold our operational realignment efforts together and inform us of progress and outcomes across the entire justice process. For the first time ever, we will be able to collect, share, and analyze holistic programming information to understand outcomes and measure the success of reentry services by offender, population and program agency. In doing so, the solution will help the CCP to improve how we define, report, understand, and manage recidivism across all member agencies.

Grand Jury Finding 02:

"The Sheriff's Department has difficulty producing unified, comprehensive statistics on recidivism."

Response:

The Sheriff's Department agrees with this finding.

RECOMMENDATION 16-45:

The 2015/2016 San Diego County Grand Jury recommends that the San Diego Sheriff's Department:

Establish a consensus definition of recidivism in order to begin tracking outcomes.

Response:

This recommendation requires further analysis. The difficulty in establishing a consensus definition is there are many definitions of recidivism, which makes statewide comparisons between counties difficult to obtain. Currently, we are able to provide statistical information regarding returns to custody, which is one measure of recidivism. SANDAG is currently conducting an AB109 evaluation examining different ways to measure recidivism from various points of contact with the criminal justice system (technical violations, filings, convictions, and

returns to custody). Based on their findings the Department will look at establishing a consensus definition. The Department will be prepared to discuss this recommendation by November 23rd, 2016.

Grand Jury Finding 03:

"Inmates need access to appropriate shoes in order to maintain health and well-being."

Response:

The Sheriff's Department agrees with this finding.

RECOMMENDATION 16-43:

The 2015/2016 San Diego County Grand Jury recommends that the San Diego Sheriff's Department:

Make shoes appropriate for recreation and exercise available to all inmates.

Response:

The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not reasonable. The sandals currently issued to all inmates are acceptable for the recreational activities offered within our jails. In the past, athletic shoes were sold through commissary. However, for safety and security reasons athletic shoes were removed from most of the inmate population. Assault and thefts related to footwear became such a problem the department had to restrict athletic shoes to inmate workers and those with a medical condition. Inmate workers are allowed to wear athletic shoes for work. Additionally, based on individual medical needs and after evaluation by medical services, appropriate medical footwear is provided to qualified inmates.

Grand Jury Finding 04:

"Inmates have no financial incentive to learn or perform more challenging and complex jobs."

Response:

The Sheriff's Department agrees with this finding.

RECOMMENDATION 16-44:

The 2015/2016 San Diego County Grand Jury recommends that the San Diego Sheriff's Department:

Establish an hourly pay system that recognizes inmate effort and achievement (possibly modeled after the California Department of Corrections tiered system).

Response:

The recommendation requires further analysis. Inmate worker wages are paid from the General Fund. The additional expenditures needed to support a tiered system paid out of the General Fund is not within the current budget.

Currently Assembly Bill 2012 is before the legislature. If passed, it will give the San Diego County Board of Supervisors the authority to authorize the Sheriff to enter into a jail industry program through the California Prison Industry Authority. We are currently exploring participation in the program which would include nationally recognized accredited certifications and valuable work experience to increase inmates' opportunity to succeed and become contributing members of our community. This is accomplished through a unique relationship which is a cooperative effort of private industry and the state of California benefitting businesses, victims, and the state while preparing offenders for successful integration into the community.

Inmate workers chosen by employers to participate receive: job skills training, valuable work experience, improved life skills, comparable wages (minus deductions for federal state and local taxes, restitution, victim compensation, family support, savings set aside for a fresh start).

We are currently working on a plan to have strategies in place should AB2012 pass. The Department will be prepared to discuss this recommendation by November 23rd, 2016.

Grand Jury Finding 05:

"Policies and procedures for family visits are too restrictive and counterproductive to rehabilitation and reintegration into society."

Response:

The Sheriff's Department disagrees with this finding. Weekly visitation times meet Title 15 standards.

RECOMMENDATION 16-46:

The 2015/2016 San Diego County Grand Jury recommends that the San Diego Sheriff's Department:

Revise policies and procedures for visitation with inmates. Initiate contact visits and increase the time allowed for weekly visits.

Response:

The recommendation for expanding contact visits will not be implemented. Those who qualify currently have contact visits. Weekly visitation times meet Title 15 standards; increasing these times would require expanding the facility visit areas, which is cost prohibitive.

We have expanded visitation blocks for those participating in our incentive based housing units. As mentioned, Facility 8 and the new Las Colinas offer video visitation, which is a technology we have leveraged to provide families with greater opportunity to visit with their loved ones. Current policies and practices balance the need to provide a safe and secure environment with the importance of family visitation.

Grand Jury Finding 06:

"Computer-based educational programs exist that could be offered to inmates."

Response:

The Sheriff's Department agrees with this finding.

RECOMMENDATION 16-47:

The 2015/2016 San Diego County Grand Jury recommends that the San Diego Sheriff's Department:

Allow all inmates access to computer-based educational and training programs.

Response:

The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not reasonable. We agree there is a need to expand access to computers; however expanding access to all inmates is not a practical start point. Currently, we are expanding the number of computers available at our reentry facilities. As our resources grow, we plan to increase the number of inmates participating in computer based educational programs based on the needs of our population.

In closing, I would like to thank the Grand Jury for their efforts in working with the Sheriff's Department through this investigation.

If further clarification or additional discussion is needed, please feel free to contact Lieutenant Alan Kneeshaw of the Detention Support Division at (858) 974-2023.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "William D. Gore". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

William D. Gore, Sheriff

WDG:agk

cc: Members, Board of Supervisors
Helen Robbins-Meyer, CAO
David Hall, Director, Clerk of the Board
Melinda J. Richards, Foreman, San Diego County Grand Jury