



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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Janice.graham@sdcounty.ca.gov	_____	_____
E-mail	_____	E-mail

Response: This recommendation will be implemented. Each of the three parts will be addressed separately, as follows.

Part 1: Conduct a thorough inspection of the kitchen, dorm toilet and shower areas, floors and grounds accompanied by Camp Barrett staff and Probation Department management.

- Supervising Probation Officers will conduct daily inspections of all areas and promptly address any concerns.
- The camp Director will conduct weekly inspections of all areas and promptly address any concerns.
- The showers were inspected by maintenance and the grout is stained from past mold. Quotes for grout replacement are being obtained and a spending plan will be submitted.

Part 2: Stringent cleaning and grounds maintenance schedules should be established immediately that will address the problem areas on a routine basis before they become worse.

- A cleaning schedule both routine and deep cleaning in the kitchen area was developed and implemented June 2011 to include scheduled and non-scheduled inspections of area.
- A dorm schedule for daily clean up and monthly deep cleaning has been developed and will be implemented June 2011 throughout the facility.
- The camp will begin clearing weeds (fire break) on the camp road on June 9, 2011. General weed abatement has begun within the camp and will be conducted on a regular basis, as needed, by camp work crews. Year round weed abatement is not possible due to the inclement weather during the winter and summer months.

Part 3: Consideration should be given to instituting a trained, volunteer inmate crew who would receive “good behavior” or similar credits to perform a deep cleaning regimen on a monthly or more frequent basis. This regimen should focus particularly on the kitchen and dorm bathrooms and showers.

- After reviewing the recommendations and concerns, the Probation Department will include cleaning and grounds keeping in the daily schedule and work readiness programs as follows:
 - The Culinary Arts students will be designated to keep the kitchen/dining hall clean on a daily basis with once a month deep cleaning.
 - Individual dorm work crews will be responsible to clean the dorm daily with a once a month deep cleaning for dorm cleanliness.
 - The Building & Grounds and Horticulture ROP students will complete grounds maintenance and fire break assisted by in camp work crews.

“Pertussis (Whooping Cough) Epidemic:Let’s Get Educated!”

Released May 25, 2011

Finding 01: San Diego County Public Health Services provides valuable information on pertussis and other preventable diseases on its web site.

Response: Agree.

Finding 02: Many local primary healthcare providers are not current with information on who should receive the *Tdap* immunization.

Response: Disagree. There have been multiple outreach efforts to healthcare providers by both the California Department of Public Health and San Diego County Public Health Services (PHS). Information has been distributed through statewide and local provider associations, including the San Diego County Medical Society and the local chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, about vaccinating close contacts of infants to create a protective "cocoon" for newborns and infants, promoting *Tdap* vaccine to healthcare workers, and about implementation of AB 354, the pertussis vaccine booster law that goes into effect on July 1, 2011. Additionally, notices were sent via the California Health Alert Network, or CAHAN, on May 24, 2010, "*Pertussis Cases Increasing in San Diego County*," July 9, 2010, "*Three-Fold Increase in Pertussis Cases Compared to Last Year*," and October 6, 2010, "*Pertussis Epidemic Continues in San Diego County*." CAHAN notices are sent to approximately 3,100 participants, of whom an estimated 700 are licensed doctors of medicine (MD). Additional information and updates were sent through the San Diego County Medical Society, reaching approximately 4,000 physicians, and through the local chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, reaching approximately 450 pediatricians throughout the county. PHS will continue to communicate with local providers on this issue.

Finding 03: The cost of the *Tdap* vaccine varies depending on insurance coverage and who provides it. Random calls to local pharmacies revealed costs ranging from \$35-\$120 per injection.

Response: Agree.

Finding 04: The San Diego Unified School District and San Diego County Public Health Services appear to have well-coordinated plans to educate parents about pertussis and strongly encourage immunizing children.

Response: Agree.

RECOMMENDATIONS- The 2010/2011 San Diego County Grand Jury recommends the Director, Health and Human Services:

11-51: Direct the Public Health Officer to develop and implement a comprehensive and widely publicized plan, in collaboration with local school districts, the San Diego County Office of Education and local medical societies, to educate healthcare providers and the public, especially parents, about the disease and the critical need for all ages to be immunized against pertussis.

Response: This recommendation has been implemented. Although Public Health Services (PHS) has been engaged in promoting pertussis vaccine since the Tdap vaccine became available in 2005, PHS developed a plan in 2010 specifically to address pertussis communications in response to the epidemic. A summary of the strategic plan goals, strategies and accomplishments to date will be posted on www.sdiz.org. Immunization Program staff will develop additional strategies to enhance efforts completed to date. In brief, activities include but are not limited to:

- Issued 40 news releases in 2010 and 22 news releases to date in 2011 to provide updates on the number of pertussis outbreaks occurring in public settings and to reinforce messages about groups for whom pertussis vaccination is recommended.
- Administered 3,786 Tdap shots at community sites in August and September of 2010, and 8,269 at community sites in January and February 2011. An additional 15,491 doses of Tdap were given to low income and uninsured persons in 2010 across seven public health center sites, and another 4,959 have been given from January through April, 2011.
- Posted information on the San Diego Immunization Registry to reach physicians and medical support staff at 78 community health center sites and 69 private provider offices about relevant immunization legislation and updates about pertussis and other vaccines.
- Coordinated with the San Diego County Office of Education to provide information for school districts on implementing AB 354, including a joint news conference on May 18, 2011. A second press conference is planned for late summer 2011.
- Utilized social media, including County and HHS Facebook pages as well as the immunization website www.sdiz.org, to reach an estimated 6,500 persons, businesses or organizations and promote vaccinations.
- Provided trainings to approximately 1,000 school health and other school personnel about Tdap booster requirements.
- Utilized California Health Alert Network (CAHAN) to notify 700 registered physicians in San Diego of increases in pertussis cases and promote vaccination.

11-52: 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 required for school entry and minimize the “personal belief” exemption by parents.

Response: This recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted, for the following reasons:

Strengthen current law regarding immunization for school entry. A new law, AB 354, was signed and becomes effective July 1, 2011. For the 2011-2012 school year, the law requires all students entering 7th through 12th grades to have documented proof of a pertussis booster (Tdap) before starting school, and beginning July 1, 2012, all students entering 7th grade will need proof of a pertussis booster. The new law applies to both private and public schools. The County is coordinating with San Diego County Office of Education to implement AB 354. The booster

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.