



San Diego County Sheriff's Department

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William D. Gore, Sheriff

June 27, 2018

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SAN DIEGO
COUNTY GRAND JURY

Honorable Peter C. Deddeh
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court
San Diego Central Courthouse
1100 Union Street
San Diego, CA 92101

Dear Judge Deddeh:

**Response to San Diego County Grand Jury Report: "Detention Facilities-San Diego County"
Dated May 29, 2018.**

Pursuant to California Penal Code section 933(c), the following is my response to the Grand Jury's Findings and Recommendations 18-21 through 18-23.

SAN DIEGO COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

Grand Jury Finding 01:

Several County jails are out of compliance with State standards.

Response:

The Sheriff's Department agrees with this finding as it pertains to the Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) rated capacity for San Diego County jails. The rated capacity is 5695.

RECOMMENDATION 18-21:

The 2017/2018 San Diego County Grand Jury recommends that the San Diego Sheriff's Department:

Develop and implement a plan to bring the County detention facilities into compliance with BSCC rated capacity.

Response:

This recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be in the future. In recent years there were times the inmate population exceeded the rated capacity at most of our facilities. In mitigation of the anticipated shortfalls, additional beds were installed in order to have a bed for everyone in the Sheriff's Department custody. Of note, for CY 2017 our overall capacity has been routinely at or below 100% of rated capacity. The Rock Mountain Detention Facility is being renovated. This facility will add an anticipated BSCC rated capacity of 1000 beds. Due to other technological

enhancements occurring at the George Bailey Detention Facility and the need to displace inmates during those upgrades, we anticipate the recommendation to come into full compliance with BSCC standards in mid to late calendar year 2020.

Grand Jury Finding 02:

Most detention facility inmates lack access to sunlight and appropriate exercise equipment.

Response:

The Sheriff's Department disagrees wholly with this finding. All facility recreation yards meet Title 24 standards. Additionally, all of the facilities have installed exercise equipment appropriate for those respective housing units that can accommodate equipment.

RECOMMENDATION 18-22:

The 2017/2018 San Diego County Grand Jury recommends that the San Diego Sheriff's Department:

Consider development of incentivized physical education programs tied to inmates' personal goals for all adult detention facilities.

Response:

The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted. The Sheriff's Department does not have the resources to develop and implement individualized plans for every inmate. However, wellness programs have been implemented at our reentry facilities and are already a part of our Incentive Based Housing (IBH) programs. Participants in those programs work with staff in order to participate in physical education programs such as yoga, workout videos or other exercise programs. They are very well received and motivate those who are not in IBH to complete the needed requirements to move them into IBH.

Grand Jury Finding 03:

Without clear definitions and measures of recidivism, the Grand Jury cannot judge the success of reentry programs.

Response:

The Sheriff's Department disagrees partially with this finding. The Board of State and Community Corrections definition of recidivism reads as follows:

Adult Recidivism Definition

Recidivism is defined as conviction of a new felony or misdemeanor committed within three years of release from custody or committed within three years of placement on supervision for a previous criminal conviction.¹

Supplemental Measures

This definition does not preclude other measures of offender outcomes. Such measures may include new arrest, return to custody, criminal filing, violation of supervision, and level of offense (felony or misdemeanor).

Recidivism Rates

While the definition adopts a three-year standard measurement period, rates may also be measured over other time intervals such as one, two, or five years. (Lovell, 2015)

RECOMMENDATION 18-22:

The 2017/2018 San Diego County Grand Jury recommends that the San Diego Sheriff's Department:

Improve the assessment of recidivism to permit evaluation of the success of reentry programs.

Response:

The recommendation has been implemented in part. The BSCC defined recidivism in 2014. The Sheriff's Department has been challenged in integrating data from multiple sources in order to conduct an in-depth analysis. In 2017, the Detention Analytical Research Team (DART) was created to develop a data model that could extrapolate the information needed to realize results of the Sheriff's Department's efforts.

The most reliable data on arrests and dispositions of cases (e.g., convictions) are recorded by Superior Courts and assembled by the Department of Justice. (Lovell, 2015) This poses the largest challenge in our effort to develop the recidivism rates in San Diego County, as the information stored in the Automated Regional Justice Information System (ARJIS) does not interface with our data systems. The Sheriff's Jail Information Management System (JIMS) is the system of record for all jail-related data in San Diego County, which includes bookings. The JIMS system contains data which allows us to determine the rate of return to custody amongst unique individuals. Below is a historical data capture for CY 2014-2016. During this time period, the Sheriff's Dept. processed 255,418 bookings that were generated by 123,214 unique individuals. We concluded, 36.6% unique individuals (Returnees) were booked two or more times within three years of their release for a violation of supervision or a new charge. These returnees (45,090) generated 177,294 or 69.4% of the overall bookings for CY 2014-2016.

Total Unique Individuals CY14-16	Total Bookings CY14-16	Return Rate
123,214	255,418	36.6%

With current technologies and database services, the department is able to analyze JIMS data to discern relationships, identify key performance indicators, and track metrics relevant to return to custody activities. This data model is flexible and will adjust to future reporting requirements and information needs. Optimally, reporting will be provided in real time dashboards which will integrate JIMS data with other systems for a holistic view on returnees and their jail resource utilization. The Sheriff's Department can conduct a presentation for the Grand Jury on analysis conducted thus far.

June 27, 2018

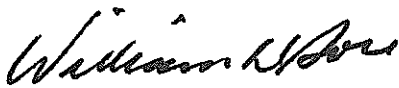
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DART is working on expanding our analysis and develop return to custody data for all releases in a given year. We will be able to draw conclusions for one, two and three years post release.

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 Esther MacLyman of the Detention Support Division at (858) 974- 2023.

Sincerely,



William D. Gore, Sheriff

WDG:em

cc: Members, Board of Supervisors
Helen Robbins-Meyer, CAO
David Hall, Director, Clerk of the Board
Jeff Bryson, Foreman, San Diego County Grand Jury

Works Cited

Lovell, D. (2015, June). *GUIDELINES FOR RECIDIVISM STUDIES: Measuring Criminal Justice Outcomes for Local Programs*. Retrieved June 8, 2018, from <http://www.bscc.ca.gov/>: <http://www.bscc.ca.gov/downloads/Recid%20Guidelines.pdf>

ⁱ "Committed" refers to the date of offense, not the date of conviction.