



El Dorado County Board of Supervisors

Final Draft Response

to the

2013-14 Grand Jury Midterm Report

June 10, 2014

**EL DORADO COUNTY GRAND JURY, 2013-
2014**

**REPORT NUMBER 13/14-
03**

***EL DORADO COUNTY JUVENILE DETENTION
FACILITIES INSPECTIONS***

Reason for the Report

Each year, the grand jury is mandated by California Penal Code §919(b) to “inquire into the conditions and management of the public prisons within the county.”

Background

Both South Lake Tahoe and Placerville have Juvenile Detention Centers. They are managed by the El Dorado County Probation Department. The South Lake Tahoe facility is relatively new (2005), while the Placerville facility was built in 1971. Both facilities can accommodate approximately 40 wards, and at the time of our inspection were at about 50% capacity. The average age of the wards is 13 years.

2013-2014 Grand Jury Actions

This grand jury conducted on-site inspections of the South Lake Tahoe Juvenile Detention Center on September 23, 2013, and the Placerville facility on October 21, 2013. We interviewed both staff and wards regarding the condition and management of the facilities.

Grand Jury Findings

1. Both facilities appeared to be well maintained.

Response: The respondent agrees with the finding.

2. Both facilities appeared to be well managed.

Response: The respondent agrees with the finding.

3. The kitchen areas were sanitary, and the menus indicate a variety of well-

balanced meals.

Response: The respondent agrees with the finding.

4. We observed an abundance of programs for the wards, including substance abuse, life skills, work skills, aggression replacement training, goal setting, and a couple of girls- only programs.

Response: The respondent agrees with the finding.

5. We were told that the local community is involved in providing bible study and church services. The Juvenile Services Council conducts various activities and parties monthly, especially during holidays.

Response: The respondent agrees with the finding.

6. Both facilities operate a school program with one principal who oversees Placerville and South Lake Tahoe teachers on staff. The curriculum is tied in to public schools, but specific needs of each ward are incorporated into the study plan. School is in session every day for *all* wards even if incarcerated for only one day.

Response: The respondent agrees with the finding.

7. Maintaining adequate female staff had been a problem, primarily at the South Lake Tahoe facility. Recent aggressive recruitment efforts have been effective in mitigating that problem.

Response: The respondent agrees with the finding.

8. In the Placerville facility, the south exercise area is not used due to drainage problems. There are cracks in the asphalt, the surface is uneven, and it is not covered. This causes the usable north area to be over-crowded.

Response: The respondent agrees with the finding.

9. The Placerville facility does not have a “sally port” (separate entrance for new wards). The public front door of the building is the only accommodation for all entrants. This lack of a separate entrance for new wards creates potential confidentiality and safety concerns.

Response: The respondent agrees with the finding.

Grand Jury Evaluation of Findings

We were impressed with the school principal and program manager. We commend the El Dorado County Probation Department for its wide array of schooling and behavior programs for the wards. We liked their stated goal for the kids: "Don't Come Back"!

Grand Jury Recommendations:

1. Because of its age, the Placerville facility should be evaluated for replacement or extensive refurbishment.

Response: The recommendation has been implemented. The County contracted with Vanir Construction Management for a detailed assessment of all county-owned facilities including the Placerville Juvenile Hall. The 2013-14 Facilities Capital Improvement Plan was presented to the Board of Supervisors on October 28, 2013. The condition assessment report for the Placerville Juvenile Hall indicates a high deferred maintenance to replacement ratio. Deferred maintenance needs are estimated at \$1,858,637, and replacement cost at \$3,760,000. Similar to the Grand Jury's recommendation, Vanir Construction suggests the "County should evaluate how this facility currently meets needs. If the building is not meeting current and future needs, then the county should look to relocate or replace this building." However, given competing facility replacement priorities, relocation of this facility is not feasible at this time. On January 27, 2014 the Board again considered the Facilities Capital Improvement Plan, approving in concept years two through five of the deferred maintenance plans, and also approved the priority of facility replacements as such 1) Sheriff Administration, 2) El Dorado Center and 3) District Attorney's office.

2. The surface of the south exercise area at the Placerville facility should be repaired and an overhead cover installed.

Response: The recommendation has not yet been implemented but will be implemented in the future. This repair and others identified in the Facilities Improvement Plan will be completed according to the approved schedule of priorities and available resources.

3. A “sally port” (separate entrance for new wards) should be added to the Placerville facility.

Response: The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not reasonable. The Placerville Juvenile Hall has fire, safety, structural, and electrical deferred maintenance needs that must be addressed before the county can consider this improvement.