



COUNTY OF SAN BENITO ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

481 Fourth Street • Hollister, CA 95023
Phone: 831-636-4000 • Fax: 831-636-4010

Susan Thompson
County Administrative Officer

DATE: October 7, 2008
TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Susan Thompson, County Administrative Officer
SUBJECT: Response to Grand Jury Report dated July 31, 2008

Summary

The County of San Benito Civil Grand Jury Final Report 2007-2008 was issued on July 31, 2008. The final report included 12 titled reports relative to county and city department and agencies. A response has been prepared for those topics and departments named and referenced in the titled reports to include the "Hollister Animal Shelter – 2007/2008 Grand Jury Follow-up Investigation, San Benito County Jail: Grand Jury 2007/2008 Annual Review", the San Benito County Juvenile Hall: 2007/08 Annual Review", the San Benito County Sheriff's Office: Property Room Inspection and the "San Benito County: Alternative Solutions to Youth Crime Activity". As per the Penal Code Section 933, upon approval by your Board, this response to the Grand Jury Report will be submitted on your behalf.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of Supervisors:

1. Approve the prepared response to Grand Jury Report dated July 31, 2008 and authorize the chair to sign same.

Discussion

The Grand Jury Report was issued on July 31, 2008 and the County Board of Supervisors is among those required to respond in 90 days, as per the Penal Code Section 933. This is a prepared response to the Grand Jury Report for your review and approval to submit on your behalf.

The Grand Jury made findings and recommendations to county departments and the San Benito County Board of Supervisors regarding a number of topics. Included in this report are responses from the County Board of Supervisors, the Chief Probation Officer and the Sheriff relative to their departments or function over specific issues.

The County Board of Supervisors is required to respond to the overall 2007/08 Grand Jury Report and specifically to the Hollister Animal Shelter: 2007/08 Follow up Investigation, Jail Annual Review, Juvenile Hall Annual Review, Sheriff's Office Property Room and Youth Crime Activity.

It is recommended that the County Board of Supervisors concur with all the responses to the findings and recommendations made by the Sheriff and Chief Probation Officer, except with regard to those recommendations which would require increased staffing or budget appropriations at this time.

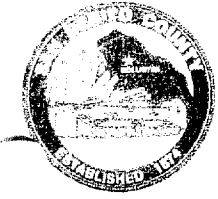
Attached for your Board's approval is a letter of response to the Grand Jury for your consideration and Chair's signature.

Other Agency Involvement

Other agencies involved with this report included the County Administrative Officer, Sheriff, and Chief Probation Officer.

Financial Consideration

The response to the Grand Jury Report itself has no fiscal implications. However, many of the Grand Jury recommendations would require appropriations of additional county budget resources and additional staff positions. While these recommendations can be considered, the currently adopted FY08-09 Budget does not include these additional resources. Furthermore, the current economic environment has significantly affected discretionary revenues available to fund mandated services and priority non-mandated expenditures. The Board of Supervisors will soon also be faced with the need to adjust and reduce the adopted budget in response to pending State Budget reductions. It is not recommended that additional expenditures as recommended by the Grand Jury be entertained at this time.



COUNTY OF SAN BENITO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

481 Fourth St • Hollister, CA 95023
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Don Marcus, District No. 1
Anthony Botelho, District No. 2
Pat Loe, District No. 3
Reb Monaco, District No. 4
Jaime De La Cruz, District No. 5

October 7, 2008

The Honorable Harry Tobias
Presiding Judge San Benito County Superior Court

Dear Judge Tobias:

This is the San Benito County formal response submitted to the Grand Jury Report issued July 31, 2008 on behalf of the County Board of Supervisors. This response has been prepared pursuant to the California Penal Code Section 933 in regard to findings and recommendations made by the Grand Jury.

The Grand Jury made findings and recommendations to specific departments and the San Benito County Board of Supervisors regarding a number of topics. Included in this report are responses from the County Board of Supervisors for county departments that they have authority over. No separate responses are submitted by either the County Administrative Office or Department of Public Works.

The responses to Grand Jury recommendations submitted by the Sheriff and the Chief Probation Officer have been incorporated in this consolidated county response for the convenience of the Grand Jury.

The County Board of Supervisors offers concurrence with the responses made by the Sheriff to each of the recommendations made in the titled report "San Benito County Jail: 2007/08 Grand Jury Annual Review", The "San Benito County Sheriff's Office: Property Room Inspection" and the "San Benito County: Alternative Solutions to Youth Crime Activity".

Likewise, the County Board of Supervisors concurs with the responses made by the Chief Probation Officer to each of the recommendations made in the titled report "San Benito County Juvenile Hall: 2007/08 Annual Review and San Benito County: Alternative Solutions to Youth Crime Activity".

The only exception are to the recommendations that require additional budgetary appropriations. The recommendations tied to expenditures, new employees, or equipment that would impact the approved budget cannot be considered during this extremely difficult fiscal year.

This letter and the following documents is the response that fulfills Penal Code Section 933 that mandates a response to the Grand Jury Report within 90 days of the report.

Please extend our appreciation to the Grand Jury for their continued dedication and service to the community.

Sincerely,

Jaime De La Cruz, Chair
San Benito County Board of Supervisors

Attachment: San Benito County Response



COUNTY OF SAN BENITO

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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San Benito County Board of Supervisor's Response to Grand Jury Report

I. Hollister Animal Shelter

The following findings and recommendations were made in the Grand Jury Report dated July 31, 2008, titled "Hollister Animal Shelter: 2007/08 Grand Jury Follow up Investigation". For the purpose of subdivision (b) of section 933, as to each Grand Jury Findings, and recommendations, the County Board of Supervisors offers the following responses on behalf of the County.

Please note that the County Board of Supervisors has authority over appointed county department heads and these department heads will not be responding separately.

Findings

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F11. The San Benito County Code, Animals and Fowl, Chapter 4 is outdated and contains numerous anomalies and inconsistencies.

Response of the County Board of Supervisors – The respondents agrees with the findings.

The County of San Benito is aware and has identified the changes required to update the San Benito County Code, ordinance and agreement with the City of Hollister in regards to Animal Control. We realize these documents are outdated and contained numerous anomalies and inconsistencies. To that end, over the last 8 months the County Administrative Office has worked with the Hollister Police Department to address the concerns raised herein with an agreement and a draft ordinance being developed to update those inconsistencies.

Recommendations

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R9. Review and update the San Benito County Code, Animals and Fowl, Chapter 4 to incorporate the latest California Food and Agriculture Codes. Also, make sure the County Code is consistent with the Hollister Animal Shelter Duty Manual and Hollister Police Department Animal Control Operations Section 321 (based on F11).

Response of the County Board of Supervisors – The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future, no later than February 2009.

The County of San Benito Code as it relates to Animals and Fowl, Chapter 4 is currently under revision to incorporate and update the code on a number of levels and will address the latest California Food and Agriculture Codes. It is also our intent that the revision of the San Benito County Code will be consistent with the Hollister Animal Shelter Duty Manual and Hollister Police Department Animal Control Operations Section 321.

Several meetings have occurred over the last eight months between the Hollister Police Department and the County Administration Office regarding the agreement and the County Code. The revision of Chapter 4 of the San Benito County Code is near completion at this time. Simultaneously, we are developing a new agreement with the City of Hollister to provide services to the County. These documents are under County Counsel and/or the City Attorney review and approval process at this time. We anticipate the review process will take one month to complete, as both legal entities will be involved in the agreement. The agreement is likely to go first with the code revision to follow. Once the revision of the County Code is complete it will be subject to public hearings and approval by the County Board of Supervisors before it can be adopted. The timeline for the public hearing process can take up to one month with another 30 days beyond that for the code to become effective.

Given the steps that are required, it has been determined that the revision of Chapter 4 of the San Benito County Code will require three months to complete. Pending no objections, we anticipate the implementation of this recommendation can be accomplished by February 2009.

II. Jail Annual Review

<u>Findings</u>	/	<u>Recommendations</u>
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The Board of Supervisors concur with the Sheriff's response to Grand Jury conclusions and recommendations: R1, R3, R4, R5 and R6.

Recommendation R2 – Requires further analysis. A complete review of Facilities Maintenance Services on a countywide basis is being pursued and appropriate staffing levels and job classifications will be included in the final plan which will be recommended for Board of Supervisors consideration during FY 09-10 budget development.

III. Juvenile Hall: 2007/08 Annual Review

Findings

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Recommendations

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The Board of Supervisors concur with the Chief Probation Officer's responses F1-15 and recommendations R1, R2, R3, R6, R7, R8, R9, R10, R11, R12, R13, R14 and R15.

R4 and R5 both require further analysis. Recommend added staff and budgetary resources which will have to be considered at budget time due to resource constraints. Requires further analysis.

IV. Sheriff's Office Property Room

Findings

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Recommendations

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The Board of Supervisors concur with the Sheriff's responses R1, R3, R4, R5, R6, R7.

Recommendation R2 requires further analysis within context of facility design eventually completed and budgetary resources available to the Board at the time the new facility is operational.

V. Alternative Solution to Youth Crime Activity

Findings

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Recommendations

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The Board of Supervisors concur with the Sheriff's responses to R1-7. Further, The Board included \$80,000 in the adopted FY 2008-09 budget for gang initiatives funding. The concept of a multi-agency funded gang intervention coordinator is currently under consideration at the staff level and will be discussed in the near future by the Policy Boards of the anticipated several partner agencies, including the County, City of Hollister, County Superintendent of Schools, Hollister School District and San Benito High School District.



SAN BENITO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

POST OFFICE BOX 700 • HOLLISTER, CALIFORNIA 95024-0700
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CURTIS J. HILL
SHERIFF-CORONER

September 15, 2008

TO: San Benito County Grand Jury
FROM: Curtis J. Hill, Sheriff/Coroner
RE: **2007 – 2008 Grand Jury Report and Response, County Jail**

The following is my response to the conclusions and recommendations of the Grand Jury:

- 1. Install signs to clearly identify the location of the San Benito County Jail from Highway 25, San Felipe Road, and Flynn Road. In addition, install a sign on the driveway that distinguishes the Jail from the Juvenile Hall.**

The recommendation identifying the Jail has been implemented by the County Public Works Department on San Felipe Road and Flynn Road. The sign has not been implemented on Highway 25 due to Caltrans restrictions on signage, but will be continuously worked on the install.

Public Works has installed a sign on the driveway which distinguishes the Jail from the Juvenile Hall.

- 2. Upgrade the job classification of the Jail maintenance worker.**

The recommendation is being studied by the County Public Works Department.

- 3. Offer inmates a variety of reading materials for their reading pleasure, as well as for helping them improve their English and adult literacy skills. Include both fiction and non-fiction books, such as American literature, classic children's literature, adult literacy novels, job skills books, and dictionaries.**

The recommendation will be considered. In some instances, inmates are provided the listed materials when they are enrolled in the various programs offered by the program staff. There may be restrictions placed on some types of materials for housing units as they can be modified into weapons.

MISSION STATEMENT

TO SERVE THE PUBLIC BY ESTABLISHING A PARTNERSHIP WITH THE COMMUNITY; TO PROTECT LIFE AND PROPERTY,
PREVENT CRIME AND SOLVE PROBLEMS

- 4. Upgrade the heating and air-conditioning system in the intake room, safety cells, and sober cell to match or exceed the air quality observed in the rest of the Jail.**

The recommendation will not be implemented. The facility currently meets or exceeds Title 24 standards in all work and housing spaces.

- 5. Negotiate with the San Benito County Express to provide bus service to or near the Jail at the daily scheduled time of release. Alternatively, arrange for the San Benito County Express's Dial-a-Ride.**

The recommendation has been implemented.

- 6. Provide an adequate observation room for suicidal inmates. The observation room should be under surveillance.**

The recommendation will not be implemented. The current policy and procedures are in full compliance with Title 15.




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CURTIS J. HILL
SHERIFF-CORONER

September 15, 2008

TO: San Benito County Grand Jury
FROM: Curtis J. Hill, Sheriff/Coroner 
RE: **2007 – 2008 Grand Jury Report and Response, Property Room Inspection**

The following is my response to the conclusions and recommendations of the Grand Jury:

- 1. Consider design aspects for the Property Room in the new Sheriff's Administrative Building that would allow for all evidence and found property to be organized in a single, central area rather than various spaces separated from each other.**

The recommendation is agreed upon and will be implemented when the new Sheriff's Administrative Building is constructed. Concept drawings of the new facility reflect the Grand Jury recommendation.

- 2. Hire another staff person to assist the MSO with duties in the Property Room and/or other responsibilities.**

The recommendation has not been implemented but will be implemented in the future once the new building is constructed and funding for such a position is available.

- 3. To ensure the integrity, security, and safety of evidence, inmates should not be involved with custodial maintenance in the area in which evidence is processed by Deputy Sheriffs.**

The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not reasonable. This area is not a property room. It is used only to process and secure evidence into lockers. Inmates are not allowed into this area without being under direct supervision and are not allowed into the area if evidence is being processed and booked.

MISSION STATEMENT

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PREVENT CRIME AND SOLVE PROBLEMS

4. All firearms (evidence and found property) should be stored in a locked storage space.

The recommendation is agreed upon. Firearms are stored in a proper secure location within the evidence locker.

5. Install a solid door to the storage room where large found property items are stored.

The recommendation has been implemented. A steel plate has been welded to the top of the door creating a single solid door.

6. Store drug evidence in a more secure and safe area.

The recommendation has been implemented. The drug evidence has been moved into a locked, secure room within the evidence locker and is monitored by a video camera.

7. Provide proper lighting and air ventilation for staff members in the Property Room.

The recommendation has not been implemented, but will be implemented in the future. The Sheriff's Office has concept drawings to construct a new administrative building which include all Title 24 requirements for evidence storage.



SAN BENITO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

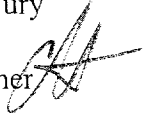
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CURTIS J. HILL
SHERIFF-CORONER

September 15, 2008

TO: San Benito County Grand Jury

FROM: Curtis J. Hill, Sheriff/Coroner 

RE: **2007 – 2008 Grand Jury Report and Response, Alternative Solutions to Youth Crime Activity**

The following is my response to the conclusions and recommendations of the Grand Jury:

- 1. Collect, analyze, and publicly disclose statistics about criminal street gangs, gang-related crimes, and gang activity within San Benito County.**

The recommendation requires further analysis. A meeting with the software provider for the Sheriff's Office to determine the changes required to the Computer Aided Dispatch, Crime reporting and Jail booking systems in order to capture the information requested will take place.

- 2. Assess the value of hiring an expert to oversee the data collection of gang-related crime activities, resource development, and management of crime prevention programs.**

The recommendation will not be implemented. Current staff within the Sheriff's Office currently oversees gang activities, resource development, and management of crime prevention activities. Collection of gang-related crime and gang activities can be accomplished with current Sheriff's Office staffing levels within the department.

- 3. Develop and implement crime prevention programs in public elementary schools.**

The recommendation is agreed upon and is implemented. The Sheriff's Office School Resource Officers currently frequent the rural schools within the county to provide crime prevention presentations.

MISSION STATEMENT

TO SERVE THE PUBLIC BY ESTABLISHING A PARTNERSHIP WITH THE COMMUNITY; TO PROTECT LIFE AND PROPERTY, PREVENT CRIME AND SOLVE PROBLEMS

4. Reinstate the following crime prevention programs, which are sponsored by the Hollister Police Department: Neighborhood Watch, Citizen Academy, Youth Academy, D.A.R.E., and Juvenile Impact Program.

The recommendation is agreed upon and will not be implemented. These programs are city functions and should not receive funding from the County of San Benito.

5. Hire more patrol officers in the local law enforcement agencies.

The recommendation is agreed upon and has been implemented. The San Benito County Board of Supervisors has done an outstanding job in providing the necessary funding to the San Benito County Sheriff's Office. Additional authorized staffing levels will be increased when justified.

6. Identify the areas within our cities and county that have the highest levels of crime and gang activity, and modify patrol patterns to strengthen the presence of law enforcement in those areas.

The recommendation is agreed upon, however, will not be implemented. These functions are a current part of the daily function of the Sheriff's Office.

7. Hire school resource officers at the elementary and middle school levels.

The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future. For the past 10 years, every effort to implement School Resource Officers (SRO) into the county school system has been a priority. The San Benito County Sheriff's Office will continue to add the position of SRO when funding is available in partnership with the school districts providing service to the county.



San Benito County Probation Department

400 Monterey Street
Hollister, CA 95023
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831-636-5682 FAX

Brent Cardall
Chief Probation Officer

San Benito County Probation Department Response to Grand Jury Report In Reference to San Benito County Juvenile Hall

This is the formal San Benito County Response to the Grand Jury Report dated July 31, 2008, titled "San Benito County Juvenile Hall: 2007-08 Annual Review". This response has been prepared by the San Benito County Chief Probation Officer pursuant to the California Penal Code Section 933 in regard to findings and recommendations made by the Grand Jury.

The following findings and recommendations were made in the Grand Jury Report dated July 31, 2008, titled "San Benito County Juvenile Hall: 2007-08 Annual Review". For the purpose of subdivision (b) of Section 933, as to each Grand Jury findings, and recommendations, the respondent offers the following responses.

FINDINGS

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F1. No signs are present on Highway 25, Highway 156, San Felipe Road, or Flynn Road to direct visitors to the Juvenile Hall.

Response of the San Benito County Chief Probation Officer –
The respondent agrees with the findings.

The County of San Benito has taken steps to rectify this finding. Signs have been purchased and installed at the various locations mentioned.

F2. No signs are present on the driveway that the Juvenile Hall and San Benito County Jail share to direct visitors to the Juvenile Hall.

Response of the San Benito County Chief Probation Officer –
The respondent agrees with the findings.

The County of San Benito has taken steps to rectify this finding. Signs have been purchased and installed at the various locations mentioned.

R3. Develop a career path that provides Juvenile Institutional Officers with opportunities to gain experience, as well as obtain education and training to become qualified for higher level managerial positions (based on Findings F4).

Response of the San Benito County Chief Probation Officer -

The recommendation has been implemented, with a summary regarding implemented action.

I agree that we need to mentor and train staff to grow within our organization. We recently hired a Probation Officer from Juvenile Hall. I believe that this has sent a message to staff; if you work hard and do a good job there will be growth within the department. A new officer, who began as extra help JIO staff, has been hired on as a Probation Officer. The Adult Probation Supervisor and most recent Interim Juvenile Hall Superintendent began her career as an extra help JIO at the Juvenile Hall. In addition to the promotional process, two committees were formed on safety and staffing. These committees provide feedback and recommendations to the Chief.

R4. Hire a program manager to be responsible for planning, developing, implementing, and coordinating internal and volunteer rehabilitative programs for the wards. This position would also be responsible for seeking and applying for grants to fund such youth programs (based on Findings F5).

Response of the San Benito County Chief Probation Officer -

The recommendation has not yet been implemented.

Most recently we have added additional programming to the Juvenile Hall such as: Behavioral Health and Substance Abuse; Youth on Fire which looks at the root cause of youth violence, cynicism and apathy; Silicon Valleys De-Bug program which uses media as a platform for young people to express themselves; Health Realization; Youth Intervention Program sponsored by Hollister Youth Alliance; Rancho Cielo Silver Star Program which offers an alternative to incarceration and help youth develop into self disciplined individuals. We also recently partnered with Hollister Police Department, Substance Abuse, and the California Highway Patrol to conduct a Fatal Vision program. Minors participated in five events with special goggles that impaired vision in order to reiterate how drinking alcohol affects motor skills.

Going forward, we will be using evidence-based practices, which is the primary goal of the department for implementation of programming. In addition, all staff will be trained in Motivational Interviewing to assist with the implementation of programs and the assessment of minors upon intake. Each Full Time Juvenile Institution Officer (JIO) has been assigned a specific duty at the Juvenile Hall. A full time JIO has been assigned to programming. She will be in charge of making sure all staff are running a beneficial program and assessing each of those programs. She will be able to put in requests for any items needed to complete the programs.

We are very much in need of a Program Manager/Grant Writer. In the past the Assistant Chief Probation Officer position would be responsible for writing grants to help facilitate our budget. However, there is a vacancy in the Assistant Chief Probation Officer position due to the budget cuts so we are limited to the help we have with grant writing.

R5. Hire a full-time maintenance worker who has basic plumbing, electrical, carpentry, and other building skills (based on Findings F6).

- F14. *The single fence structure, with green tarp covering, is inadequate for the proper security and safety of young wards.*

Response of the San Benito County Chief Probation Officer –
The respondent disagrees with the findings.

A second perimeter fence around the existing fence is not financially feasible. We currently have two security cameras and will be adding more along with the new control panel to ensure the safety and security of the minors and staff at the Juvenile Hall

- F15. *Juvenile Hall has no emergency generator for back-up power.*

Response of the San Benito County Chief Probation Officer –
The respondent agrees with the findings.

The County of San Benito has taken steps to rectify this finding. Public Works is in the process of obtaining bids for the purchase and installation of a generator.

RECOMMENDATIONS

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- R1. Install signs to direct visitors to the Juvenile Hall from Highway 25, San Felipe Road, and Flynn Road. In addition, install a sign on the driveway that directs visitors to the Juvenile Hall (based on Findings F1 and F2)

Response of the San Benito County Chief Probation Officer -
The recommendation has been implemented, with a summary regarding implemented action.

The Juvenile Hall now has signs on Highway 25, San Benito Street, and Flynn Road that state where the Juvenile Hall is located. In addition, there is a sign as you enter the access road that designates which building is the Jail and which is the Juvenile Hall. The Juvenile Hall also has letters on the face of the building that are over a foot tall that read "San Benito County Juvenile Hall" as well as a sign on the front door that has a Probation star with "San Benito County Juvenile Hall" clearly stated.

- R2. *Hire a full-time, on-site Juvenile Hall Superintendent, whether interim or permanent, as soon as possible (based on Findings F3).*

Response of the San Benito County Chief Probation Officer -
The recommendation has been implemented, with a summary regarding implemented action.

- The Juvenile Hall has since hired a permanent, full time, and on-site Superintendent. The Superintendent brings twenty two years experience with Probation and Corrections. He also has a bachelor's degree with emphasis in Juvenile Justice. He is a great asset to the San Benito County Juvenile Hall.

—The County of San Benito has taken steps to rectify this finding. Alliance Environmental professionally cleaned the air ducts and filters. The Board of Supervisors has already approved the purchase and installation of a new AC unit and repairs to the old AC unit and swamp cooler.

F9. The schoolroom, nurse's room, and multi-purpose room look cluttered and messy.

Response of the San Benito County Chief Probation Officer –
The respondent agrees with the findings.

The County of San Benito has taken steps to rectify this finding. The clutter has been removed and is part of the daily cleaning requirements for the Juvenile Hall staff.

F10. Juvenile Hall has insufficient storage space and the space that they have is under utilized and poorly organized.

Response of the San Benito County Chief Probation Officer –
The respondent disagrees partially with the findings.

The County of San Benito has taken steps to rectify this finding. However, due to the size and layout of the Juvenile Hall we are limited to our storage capabilities

—*F11. The classroom instructors are using antiquated computer hardware and software.*

Response of the San Benito County Chief Probation Officer –
The respondent agrees with the findings.

The County of San Benito has taken steps to rectify this finding. The computers used by the teachers were purchased by the County Office of Education in February 2008. The computers and monitors used by the students were purchased within the last year.

F12. Juvenile Hall's security control panel is out-of-date.

Response of the San Benito County Chief Probation Officer –
The respondent agrees with the findings.

The County of San Benito has taken steps to rectify this finding. The purchase of a new control panel has been approved by the Board of Supervisors and is in the process of being built.

F13. The bathtub and shower stalls are unsafe in that they have slippery or corroded surfaces.

Response of the San Benito County Chief Probation Officer –
The respondent agrees with the findings.

—The County of San Benito has taken steps to rectify this finding. We are in the process of applying non slip surfaces to the main showers. The intake restroom has non-slip surfaces applied in the bathtub as well as a non-slip mat on the floor.

F3. The Juvenile Hall has not had a permanent, full-time Superintendent, who is based on site, for the last two years.

Response of the San Benito County Chief Probation Officer –
The respondent agrees with the findings.

The County of San Benito has taken steps to rectify this finding. A permanent, full-time Superintendent, who is based on site, has been hired.

F4. Juvenile Institutional Officers have limited advancement prospects.

Response of the San Benito County Chief Probation Officer –
The respondent disagrees partially with the findings.

The County of San Benito has had a promotional system in place. Three Probation Department staff members have been hired from the Juvenile Hall. One of whom is a Supervisor. The other two were hired within the last year.

F5. Juvenile Hall does not offer consistent or established rehabilitative and treatment programs for youth offenders.

Response of the San Benito County Chief Probation Officer –
The respondent agrees with the findings.

The County of San Benito has taken steps to rectify this finding. Rehabilitative programs have since been implemented.

F6. The physical plant is poorly maintained.

Response of the San Benito County Chief Probation Officer –
The respondent agrees with the findings.

The County of San Benito has taken steps to rectify this finding. Daily, weekly, and monthly maintenance checks are conducted.

F7. The bathtub and shower stalls have mold.

Response of the San Benito County Chief Probation Officer –
The respondent agrees with the findings.

The County of San Benito has taken steps to rectify this finding. All showers in the Juvenile Hall have been cleaned and had mold abatement applied.

F8. The air in the building is stuffy and uncomfortable.

Response of the San Benito County Chief Probation Officer –
The respondent agrees with the findings.

Response of the San Benito County Chief Probation Officer -
The recommendation has not yet been implemented.

The Jail is well maintained due to the fact that they have a full time maintenance worker. Juvenile Hall is in great need of a maintenance worker and we are open to the possibility of Public Works supervising that position if need be.

R6. Apply mold-abatement in the shower stalls and the bathroom, which is used by wards during the intake process (based on Finding F7).

Response of the San Benito County Chief Probation Officer -
The recommendation has been implemented, with a summary regarding implemented action.

Mold Abatement has been applied to all showers in the Juvenile Hall. It is a continual process and will be reapplied as necessary.

R7. Maintain air vents on a more frequent basis (based on Finding F8).

Response of the San Benito County Chief Probation Officer -
The recommendation has been implemented, with a summary regarding implemented action.

Alliance Environmental Company has professionally cleaned all air ducts, vents and ceiling tiles. A full time maintenance worker would ensure that the air ducts, vents and ceiling tiles are maintained well in the future without the large cost of hiring an outside company.

R8. Remove clutter in rooms (based on Findings F9).

Response of the San Benito County Chief Probation Officer -
The recommendation has been implemented, with a summary regarding implemented action.

The clutter has been removed and is part of the daily cleaning requirements for the Juvenile Hall staff.

R9. Evaluate the Juvenile Hall's storage needs and rearrange its various inventories in a more efficient and hygienic manner. If possible, hire a professional organizer-consultant (Alternatively, seek a volunteer) to help staff (based on Finding F10).

Response of the San Benito County Chief Probation Officer -
The recommendation has been implemented, with a summary regarding implemented action.

The storage areas are monitored on a daily basis to ensure that they are well organized. However, due to the size and layout of the Juvenile Hall we are limited to our storage capabilities. In the most recent inspection by the Corrections Standards Authority on April 3, 2008 this issue was addressed: "The deficient personal storage space was also clearly documented as grandfathered in when BOC assumed the inspection responsibility and should not have been listed as a non-compliance issue."

R10. Store blankets, towels, clothing, and shoes neatly in separate and closed containers, drawers, or cabinets so that they are free from dust and chemicals (based on Finding F10).

Response of the San Benito County Chief Probation Officer -

The recommendation has been implemented, with a summary regarding implemented action.

There are now two separate, closed, and lockable storage units in the laundry room. One unit holds the minor's hygiene products and clothing items while the other contains all cleaning chemicals and is labeled as such. There is a full time Juvenile Hall staff now assigned to making sure that all chemicals are stored only in this labeled, lockable cabinet.

R11. Update computer hardware and software for classroom instructors (based on Finding F11).

Response of the San Benito County Chief Probation Officer -

The recommendation has been implemented, with a summary regarding implemented action.

The responsibility of the school is balanced between the Juvenile Hall staff that makes sure the minors attend school, and the school itself which ensures that proper education is given to each minor. The computers used by the teachers were purchased by the County Office of Education in February 2008. The computers and monitors used by the students were purchased within the last year.

R12. Update Juvenile Hall's control panel immediately (based on Finding F12).

Response of the San Benito County Chief Probation Officer -

This recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future.

The purchase of a new control panel has been approved by the Board of Supervisors and is in the process of being built. We will have new cameras surrounding the entire facility as well as updated sound capabilities and locks. The estimated date of completion is September 30, 2009. In the meantime, the existing control panel has been thoroughly cleaned and repainted.

R13. Apply non-slip surfaces to the bathtub and shower stalls (based on Finding F13).

Response of the San Benito County Chief Probation Officer -

This recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future.

By September 30, 2008 non-slip surfaces will be applied to the main showers. The intake restroom has non-slip surfaces applied in the bathtub as well as a non-slip mat on the floor.

R14. Install a safety bar in the bathtub (based on Finding F13).

Response of the San Benito County Chief Probation Officer -

This recommendation will not be implemented because it has been determined to be a safety hazard.

In regard to the safety bars, staff feels that this could be used as a suicide tool since the intake process is the most vulnerable time for the minors. By September 30, 2008 a safety bar will be placed in the staff shower for minors with special needs. We will continue to look at other options.

R15. Build a perimeter fence to provide additional security and safety to wards (based on Finding F14).

Response of the San Benito County Chief Probation Officer -

This recommendation will not be implemented because it is not financially feasible or necessary.

A second perimeter fence around the existing fence is not financially feasible. We currently have two security cameras and will be adding more along with the new control panel to ensure the safety and security of the minors and staff at the Juvenile Hall. The extra cameras will cover the entire perimeter and will greatly enhance the security of the Juvenile Hall. The fence covering has been reinstalled so there are no gaps and it is continually kept up by JCWP.

R16. Secure funds to provide the Juvenile Hall with an emergency generator (based on Finding F15).

Response of the San Benito County Chief Probation Officer -

This recommendation has not yet been implemented but will be implemented in the future.

Public Works is in the process of getting bids for the purchase and installation of a generator for the Juvenile Hall. The estimated completion date is June 2009.

FINAL SUMMARY

I greatly appreciate the Grand Jury's cooperation and feedback and I agree with the report. I highly concur with the Grand Jury's recommendation in hiring a Program Manager/Grant Writer and Maintenance Worker. The Program Manager/Grant Writer is a vital link to planning, developing, implementing, and coordinating internal rehabilitative programs.

Since most of the report was linked to maintenance issues, a full time maintenance worker would also be a tremendous asset to the Juvenile Hall. A skilled maintenance worker will reduce our maintenance costs and ensure preventative maintenance checks and services are completed.

The Juvenile Hall staff and I have taken this report very seriously. The Juvenile Hall is now cleaned and maintained to a high standard that I am sure will meet your expectations as well as mine.

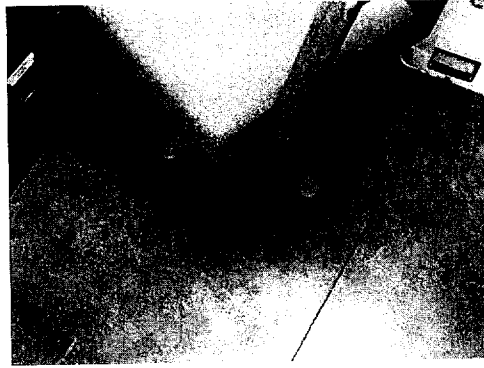
Thank you for taking the time to review this response.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

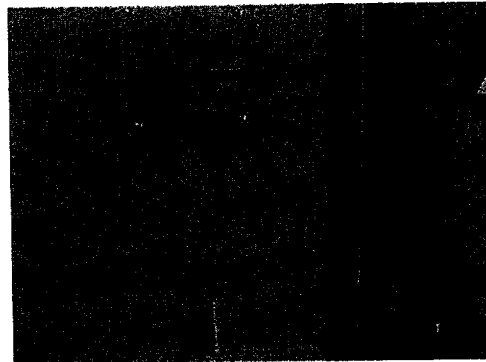
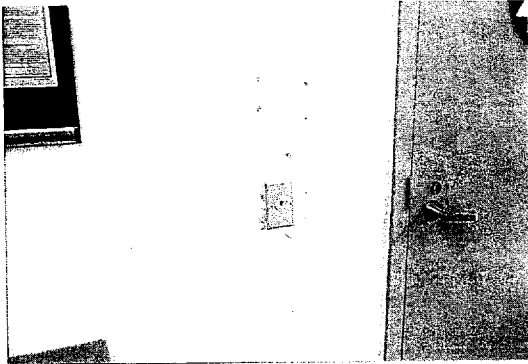
Documents

- State of California, Corrections Standards Authority. Corrections Standards Authority San Benito County Juvenile Hall 2006/2008 Biennial Inspection Report (July 2008)

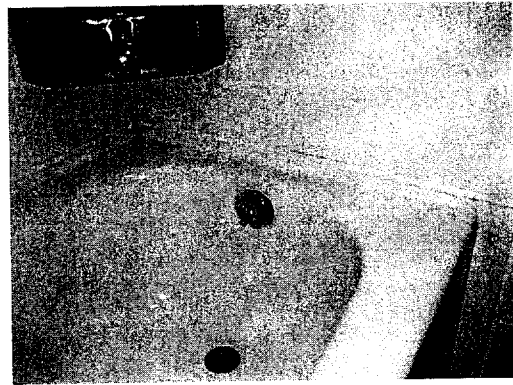
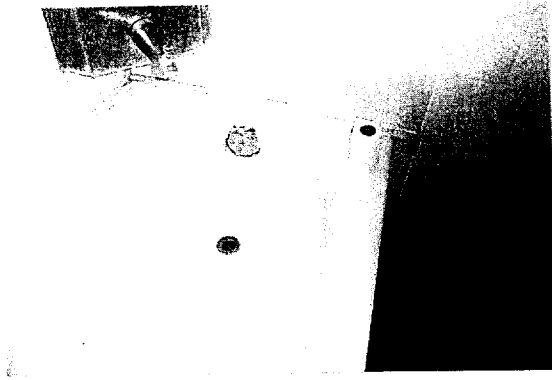
PICTURES



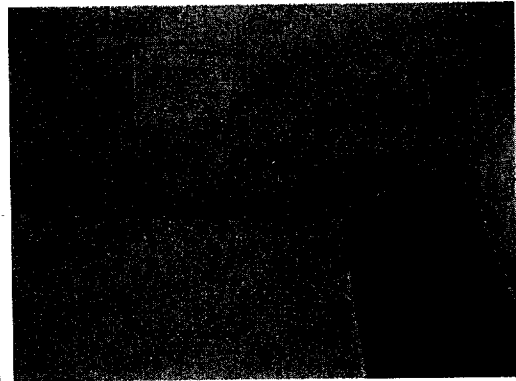
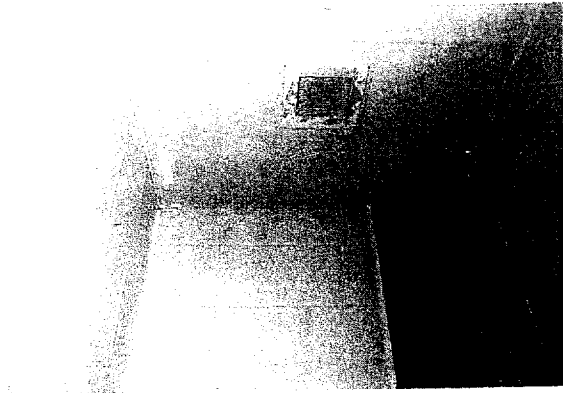
The floor in the nurse's room has been professionally acid washed by Hollister Paint and stained.



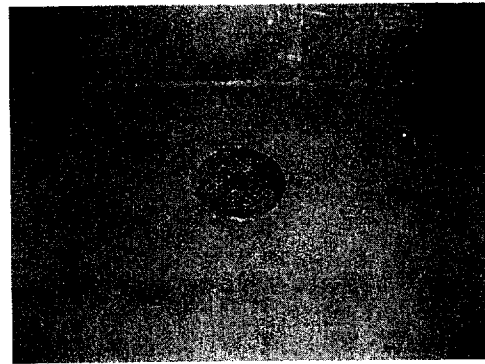
D&T Williams Drywall was hired to fix the drywall issues. It has been repainted and there is now a "NO GANG PARAPHENALIA ALLOWED AT ANY TIME" sign displayed.



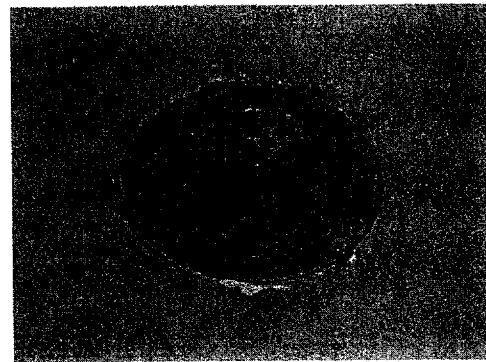
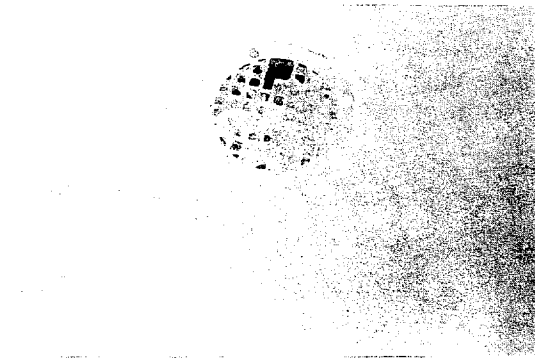
The intake bathroom has been cleaned, treated with mold abatement and repainted. We have also installed non-slip grip to the bottom of the tub. Safety bars were not installed because staff feels that they could be used as a suicide tool.



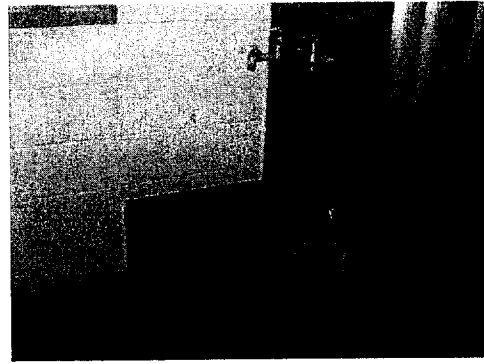
The shower stall ceilings have been replaced with new paneling. The walls have been painted as well as the vents.



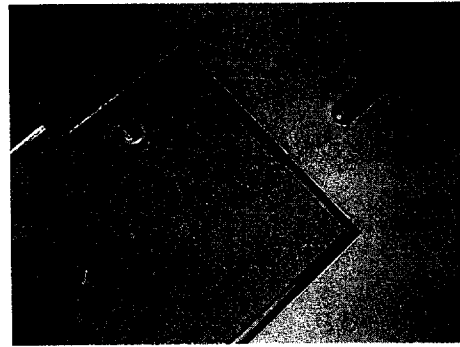
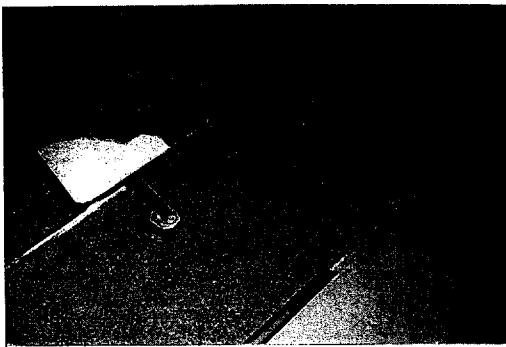
The shower stalls are a continual project. We are in the process of getting bids to acid wash the floors so that we no longer have to repaint them. We have also replaced all shower drain covers.



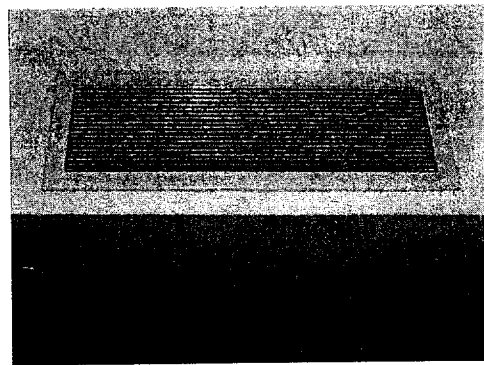
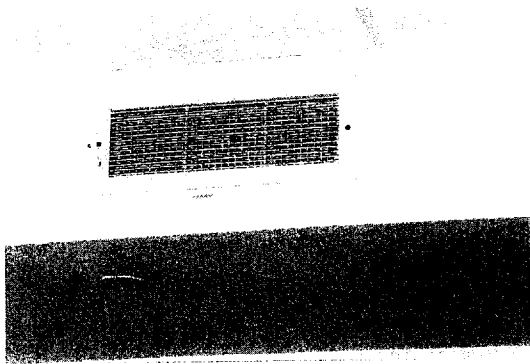
All showers have new drain covers.



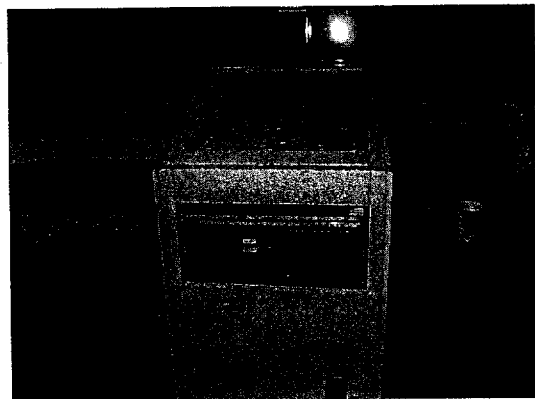
The sink has been cleaned and stained. The stainless steel wall, the concrete wall and the pipes have all been cleaned. The hygiene items are in an enclosed cabinet.



The exposed carpet wiring has been fixed with a rubber lining. Please note that the bench in the picture is a different bench than photographed originally. We are in the process of fixing the bench seating.

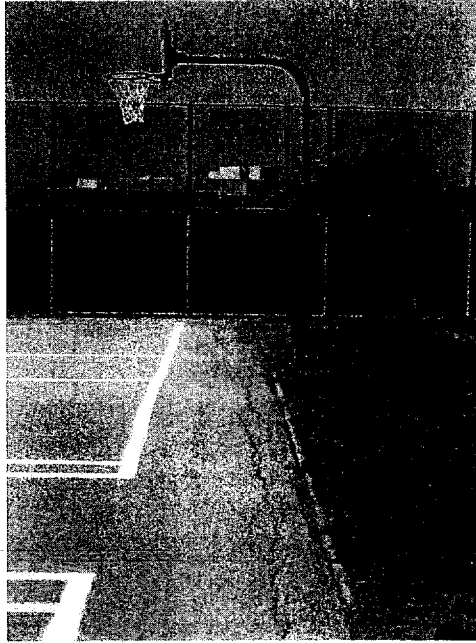


The vents were professionally cleaned and have been repainted.

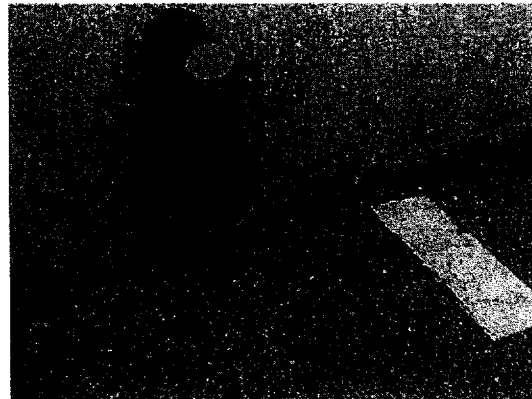


NO GRAND JURY PHOTO AVAILABLE

The purchase of a new control panel has been approved and is in the process of being built. We will have new cameras surrounding the entire facility as well as updated sound capabilities and locks. In the meantime, the existing control panel has been thoroughly cleaned and repainted.

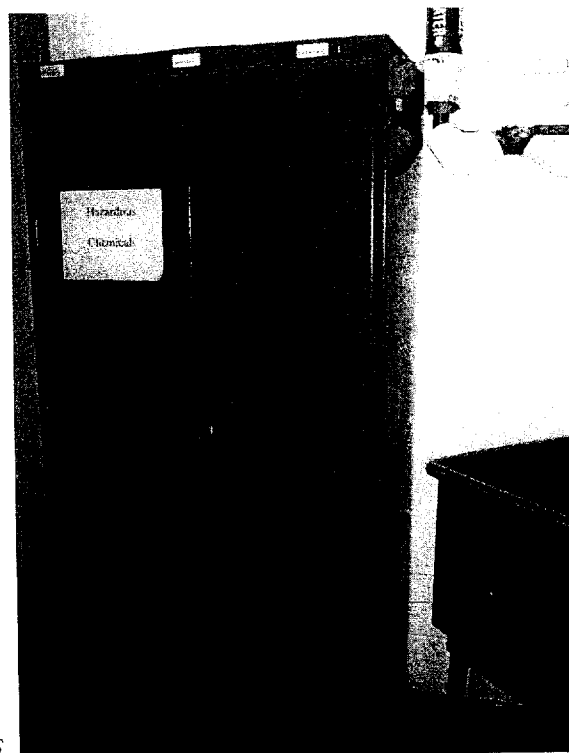


We have obtained the necessary bids and are awaiting approval to begin resurfacing. The cracks are now continually maintained and are free from weeds and debris.



NO GRAND JURY PHOTO AVAILABLE

The laundry room vent area is now taken care of by regular, weekly maintenance.

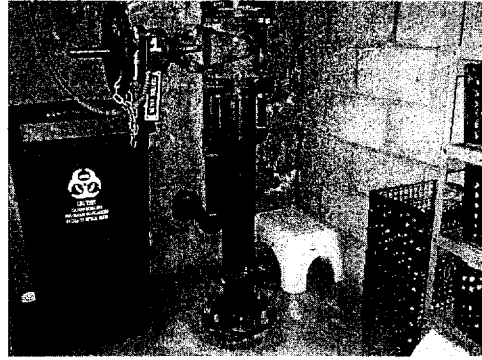
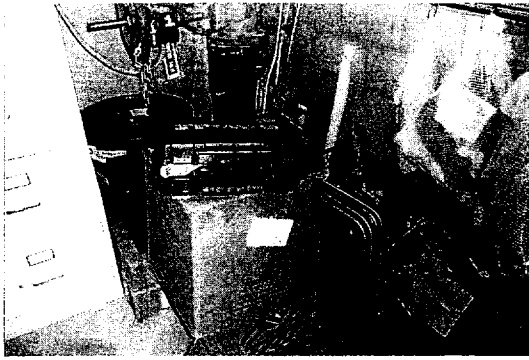


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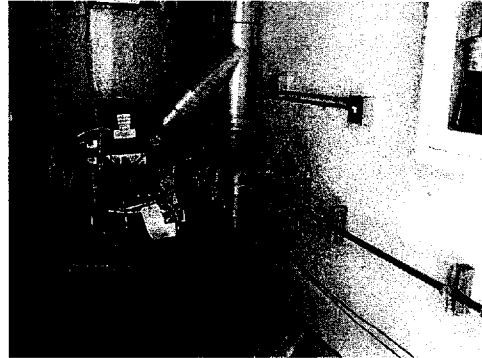
The open shelving units have been replaced with closed and lockable units. The chemicals and other items are kept separate.



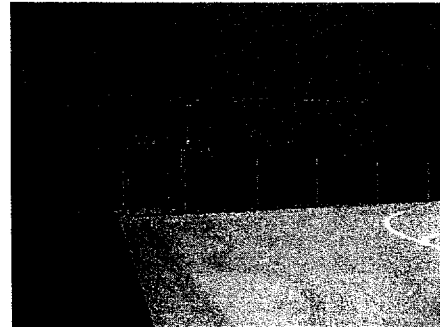
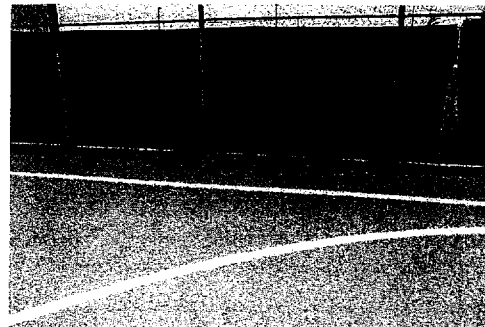
There are now new shelving units in the storage room. All items were removed and the walls were painted. A small crack in the upper left corner was fixed and the lighting fixtures were fixed. The floor was professionally acid washed by Hollister Paint and then stained. All items are removed almost every month and reorganized, along with continual cleaning by staff.



There are new storage bins for each minor. All unnecessary items were removed. This room is now continually cleaned and swept out.



The boiler room is free of any clutter and is maintained and cleaned weekly by JCWP.



The fence covering has been reinstalled. There are no gaps and it is continually kept up by JCWP.



San Benito County Probation Department

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San Benito County Probation Department Response to Grand Jury Report In Reference to Alternative Solutions to Youth Crime Activity

This is the formal San Benito County Response to the Grand Jury Report dated July 31, 2008, titled "San Benito County: Alternative Solutions to Youth Crime Activity 2007-2008". This response has been prepared by the San Benito County Chief Probation Officer pursuant to the California Penal Code Section 933 in regard to findings and recommendations made by the Grand Jury.

The following findings and recommendations were made in the Grand Jury Report dated July 31, 2008, titled "San Benito County: Alternative Solutions to Youth Crime Activity 2007-2008". For the purpose of subdivision (b) of Section 933, as to each Grand Jury findings, and recommendations, the respondent offers the following responses.

FINDINGS

(Page 175)

F1. No gang-related crime or gang activity statistics are available.

Response of the San Benito County Chief Probation Officer-The respondent disagrees with the findings.

The probation department has probationers under our jurisdiction that have been convicted of gang-related crimes. Currently there are Gang Task Force meetings held with Probation, Hollister Police Department, the school district and community members to discuss gang activity in San Benito County. However, a Gang Task Force Coordinator would be able to collect, analyze and present gang activity statistics.

F2. No single person or agency is officially responsible for data collection of gang-related crime and gang activities, resource development, and management of crime prevention programs for all ages, from children to adults.

Response of the San Benito County Chief Probation Officer- The respondent agrees with the findings.

The probation department keeps internal case notes with known gang offenders.

We are in need of a Gang Task Force Coordinator to oversee the data collection of gang-related crime and gang activities, conduct resource development, and manage crime prevention programs for San Benito County.

F3. Law enforcement officers, public officials, community leaders, and others stated that crime prevention programs should start with elementary-school children. However, no such programs are known to be available in local schools.

Response of the San Benito County Chief Probation Officer- The respondent neither agrees nor disagrees with the findings.

The Probation Department has provided parent education workshops to educators, parents and students of a local high school. We have made ourselves available to local elementary schools. A Gang Task Force Coordinator would be able to implement crime prevention programs in public elementary schools.

F4. Crime prevention programs, such as the Neighborhood Watch Program, the Citizen Academy, and the Youth Academy, that are sponsored by the Hollister Police have been discontinued due to budget cuts.

Response of the San Benito County Chief Probation Officer-The respondent agrees with the findings.

The Juvenile Impact Program was re-implemented September 3, 2008.

F5. Due to budget cuts, fewer law enforcement officers patrol our community.

Response of the San Benito County Chief Probation Officer- The respondent neither agrees nor disagrees with the findings.

F6. Law enforcement has noted that there are areas within our community that have higher levels of crime and gang activity.

Response of the San Benito County Chief Probation Officer- The respondent agrees with the findings.

The Probation Department keeps records on the whereabouts of all gang members under our jurisdiction.

F7. School Resource Officers can help build a positive relationship between children and their families and law enforcement, according to experts.

Response of the San Benito County Chief Probation Officer- The respondent agrees with the findings.

There is currently a resource officer serving the San Benito County alternative schools. However, we do not have enough resources to accommodate the elementary and middle school levels.

RECOMMENDATIONS

— (Page 176)

R1. Collect, analyze, and publicly disclose statistics about criminal street gangs, gang-related crimes, and gang activity within San Benito County (based on Finding F1).

Response of the San Benito County Chief Probation Officer- The recommendation has not been implemented, but will be implemented in the future.

I have attended Gang Task Force meetings with the Hollister Police Department, School District and community members to discuss gang activity within San Benito County. I recommend hiring a Gang Task Force Coordinator to collect, analyze and give public presentations about the criminal street gangs, gang-related crimes, and gang activity. A multi-agency team approach will be used in the process of creating a Gang Task Force Coordinator position by January 2009.

R2. Assess the value of hiring an expert to oversee the data collection of gang-related crime and gang activities, resource development, and management of crime prevention programs (based on Finding F2).

Response of the San Benito County Chief Probation Officer- The recommendation has not been implemented, but will be implemented in the future.

— I agree that we are in need of a Gang Task Force Coordinator to oversee the data collection of gang-related crime and gang activities, conduct resource development, and manage crime prevention programs for San Benito County. A multi-agency team approach will be used in the process of creating a Gang Task Force Coordinator position by January 2009.

R3. Develop and implement crime prevention programs in public elementary schools (based on Finding F3).

Response of the San Benito County Chief Probation Officer- The recommendation will not be implemented.

I agree with the recommendation, however, these functions are not currently part of the daily operations of the Probation Department. If available, the Probation Department responds to the schools at their request. A Gang Task Force Coordinator would be able to implement crime prevention programs in public elementary schools.

R4. Reinstate the following crime prevention programs, which are sponsored by the Hollister Police Department: Neighborhood Watch, Citizen Academy, Youth Academy, D.A.R.E., and Juvenile Impact Program (based on Finding F4).

— Response of the San Benito County Chief Probation Officer-The recommendation has been implemented.

I agree with the recommendation. The Juvenile Impact Program was implemented September 3, 2008.

R5. *Hire more patrol officers in the local law enforcement agencies (based on Finding F5).*

Response of the San Benito County Chief Probation Officer- This recommendation will not be implemented.

I agree with the recommendation, however, these functions are not currently part of the daily operations of the Probation Department.

R6. *Identify the areas within our cities and county that have the highest levels of crime and gang activity, and modify patrol patterns to strengthen the presence of law enforcement in those areas (based on Finding F6).*

Response of the San Benito County Chief Probation Officer- This recommendation will not be implemented.

I agree with the recommendation, however, these functions are not currently part of the daily operations of the Probation Department.

R7. *Hire school resource officers at the elementary and middle school levels (based on Finding F7).*

Response of the San Benito County Chief Probation Officer-The recommendation will not be implemented.

There are currently resource officers in the High Schools; however, we do not have enough resources to accommodate the elementary and middle school levels.