



TUOLUMNE COUNTY PROBATION DEPARTMENT

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FILED

JUL 16 2018

Superior Court of California
County of Tuolumne

By: Diana DeLeon Clerk

July 16, 2018

The Honorable Judge Kate Powell Segerstrom
Tuolumne County Superior Court
60 North Washington Street
Sonora, CA 95370

RE: Probation Department Response to 2017-2018 Grand Jury Findings & Recommendations

Dear Judge Powell Segerstrom:

The following is the response related to the Probation Department, to include the Mother Lode Regional Juvenile Detention Facility, section of the 2017-18 Grand Jury Report as requested and required pursuant to Penal Code Sections 933 and 933.05. There were no findings for the Department to respond to. Below you will find a list of each Grand Jury recommendation followed by my response to each.

Recommendations:

- R1. Review the options for feeding the youth detainees at the MLRJDF something other than the food served to Tuolumne County Jail inmates.

Response: The recommendation is already in place for the Probation Department and is ongoing. Probation management staff is aware of the complaints of the youth housed at the Mother Lode Regional Juvenile Detention Facility regarding the meal service. During the services/program planning prior to the opening of the facility, multiple possible resources were explored for the food service which included running our own kitchen, local schools, restaurants and Adventist Health Sonora. Due to the low number of meals that would be prepared and other factors (transporting meals, capacity, hours of operation, cost), these options were not feasible. Trinity Food Services provides food service for many juvenile facilities in the western United States and were already providing the food service for our county jail. They are able to provide the complex and required documentation needed to participate in the National School Lunch Program which allows us to claim meal reimbursements through the program. The meals meet the Title 15 Regulations nutrition guidelines/ requirements and differ

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2 | RE: Probation Department Response to 2017-2018 Grand Jury Findings & Recommendations

from the jail meals slightly to meet these requirements, as well as the School Lunch Program mentioned above. Discussions with Trinity Food Services' West Region Dietitian are on-going in an attempt to modify the menu to allow for more appealing meals. In addition, the Superintendent of the facility provides cooking opportunities for the youth as a behavioral incentive and the Gold Ridge Educational Center incorporates cooking breakfast and lunch in their curriculum a few times each month. Our religious services volunteers often bring a meal or snacks for their Sunday evening program. We are also fortunate to have volunteers who have provided culinary experiences in the form of cooking classes as well.

Sincere and earnest attempts are made for the youth to have multiple opportunities each month for an alternative or additional meal that is more appealing and satisfying to the youth housed in the facility.

- R2. Review the files of youth who are in delinquency proceedings and determine whether the W&I Section 241.1 (e) protocol should be employed for any additional youth.

Response: The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted. The Deputy Probation Officers assigned to the Juvenile Unit are trained to assess situations in a youth's life that may require a Suspected Child Abuse Report (SCAR) to be completed and submitted to Child Welfare Services. This assessment process is on-going, and remains for the life of the involvement with the youth or case.

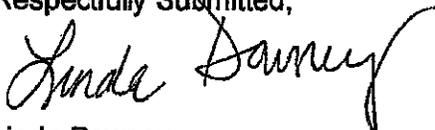
When a youth first enters the delinquency system the Officer assigned to the case reviews any and all Child Welfare Services history. An extensive investigation and social interview is conducted. If the Officer believes there is a situation that falls under the W&I Code Section 300, a meeting is scheduled between the two agencies to determine if a Petition should be filed under W&I Code Section 241.1 (e). In order to pursue a Petition under this code section for youth whose first contact with the County is through delinquency rather than child welfare proceedings there must be a current allegation of abuse or neglect of the youth by a parent or someone who resides in the home. In this case, Child Welfare Services is also required to file a Petition with the Juvenile Court alleging the abuse or neglect.

Child Welfare Services and Probation have a strong working relationship. A potential "Dual Status Youth" is reviewed and assessed to determine which agency is best able to meet the needs of a particular youth and their family, or if involvement in both systems would be advantageous to the family. The Probation Department is considered a Child Protective Agency; however, Child Welfare Services is considered the experts in the matters of abuse or neglect. Probation staff often consults with Child Welfare Services staff regarding questionable abuse or neglect situations.

Because Deputy Probation Officers are required to follow the same regulations regarding out-of-home placement and services to provide families as CWS Social Workers, there are situations that do not warrant the involvement of Child Welfare Services and services can best be provided by the Probation Department. With that being said, Tuolumne County understands the implications for a youth who is in the delinquency vs. dependency system. Out-of-home placement cases are assessed

formally every six months (through Child and Family Team meetings) and informally monthly (during regular youth and family contact) or at the request of the Social Worker or Probation Officer. It is always a priority to de-escalate a youth from the delinquency system to the dependency system whenever possible. This is accomplished through the 241.1 W&I Code Section process. Youth in the delinquency system who have achieved rehabilitation by meeting their Court ordered terms and conditions of probation are almost always transitioned to the dependency system through a process allowed under W&I Code Section 450.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Linda Downey".

Linda Downey
Chief Probation Officer