



TUOLUMNE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

JKP

"Serving with Professionalism and Pride"

James W. Mele
Sheriff-Coroner

July 10, 2017

FILED

AUG 04 2017

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

Superior Court of California
County of Tuolumne

By: JKP Clerk

Re: Response to the Grand Jury Report 2017- Tuolumne County Jail

The following is offered in response to the 2016-2017 Grand Jury Report as it pertains to the Tuolumne County Jail.

Grand Jury Recommendations:

Recommendation #1 – Institute a formal officer recruitment plan. (F1 – The jail is currently understaffed by two officers).

Response: Agree – The Sheriff's Office Recruitment Team continually attends job fairs, colleges, law enforcement academy's and meets regularly to project out future hiring needs. The Jail is also in the final stage of editing our Jail Deputy Recruitment video that will be used as part of presentations made by the Sheriff's Office Recruitment Team. It is not uncommon to have a couple of job vacancies in our industry. Since the Grand Jury's inspection one deputy has been hired and a second deputy is in the final stage of the hiring process and is expected to be working by the end of July.

Recommendation #2 – This facility will continue to be used for dispatch and administrative services so health and safety issues need to be addressed immediately. (F2 – Construction of the new jail facility is delayed. As a result the current outdated facility will be in use for much longer than projected. F3 – Dispatch and administrative services will remain at the current facility. F4 – There are potential health and safety issues at the current facility).

Response: Agree – While we understand that the construction of the new jail facility will not be completed until 2019 and other Sheriff Office staff will still be working in the current building; they are not located in the jail facility areas. The current jail facility has passed all inspections from Public Health, Environmental Health, Local Fire Department and the Board of State and Community Corrections. Any noted health and safety issues found during the inspections have been corrected.

Recommendation #3 – Have the County Code Compliance Officer complete an immediate and thorough inspection of the current facility. (F3 – Dispatch and administrative services will remain at the current facility. F4 – There are potential health and safety issues at the current facility. F5 – Sewage leaks in the basement are captured in large open containers, creating potential health and safety issues).

Response: Agree – The water in the basement area that is being captured in containers is grey water and not raw sewage therefore it has not been found to be not creating any health or safety issues. The current jail facility has passed all inspections from Public Health, Environmental Health, Local Fire Department and the Board of State and Community Corrections. Any noted health and safety issues found during the inspections have been corrected.

Recommendation #4 – Correct the plumbing issues. (F4 – There are potential health and safety issues at the current facility. F5 – Sewage leaks in the basement are captured in large open containers, creating potential health and safety issues).

Response: Agree – Due to the age of the facility plumbing issues are corrected as needed. The current jail facility has passed all inspections from Public Health, Environmental Health, Local Fire Department and the Board of State and Community Corrections. Any noted health and safety issues found during the inspections have been corrected.

Recommendation #5 – Find a less disruptive, county owned space for training purposes that is not in the locker rooms. (F6 – The male officer's locker room and the training classroom share the same space resulting in a disruptive environment for training).

Response: Agree – Whenever possible the jail does use other facilities depending on the type of training being conducted. Examples are the patrol training room, fairgrounds, Sheriff's Office conference room, Sheriff's Range, Posse Grounds and ambulance building.

Recommendation #6 – Build a partition or create a separate entrance for the female officer's locker room. (F7 – Female officers have to walk through the male officer's locker room to get to their locker room creating privacy and potential legal issues).

Response: Disagree – The female deputies already have a separate entrance to their locker room through and jail basement garage vehicle sally port. Female deputies do not need to use the male locker room entrance located in the rear of the basement on W. Jackson Street.

Information Technology Department

Recommendation #22 – Create, maintain and observe a policy and procedure for HIPPA compliance. Each affected Department should be aware of their obligations and actively participate and pursue full compliance. (F22 – The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) requires regular software and Operating System (OS) maintenance, as well as regular review and auditing to remain in compliance with steep penalties for failure).

Response: Agree – The Tuolumne County Jail contracts with California Forensic Medical Group (CFMG) for inmate medical services. CFMG's policy and procedures for privacy of personal health information, website privacy policies, and medical staff request for service policies are in compliance with HIPAA standards. The CFMG policies are inspected by the Tuolumne County Public Health Department every year and by the Board of State and Community Corrections every two years.