



Honorable Judge Joyce D. Hinrichs, Presiding Judge
Superior Court of Humboldt County
825 Fifth Street
Eureka, California 95501

Re: Grand Jury Recommendations

Dear Judge Hinrichs:

The 2015 Grand Jury examined the jail release policy of the Humboldt County Sheriff's Office.

F1. Changes made to the booking process of the Humboldt County Correctional Facility (HCCF) have not been adequately communicated to the arresting officers from many law enforcement agencies.

The Eureka Police Department agrees with this finding.

F2. Law enforcement officers in Humboldt County are not sufficiently knowledgeable about their role in determining the release or hold of potential arrested felons, based on the current use of the Ohio Risk Assessment Tool (ORAT), during the booking process of the HCCF.

The Eureka Police Department partly agrees with this finding. The Sheriff's office has reached out to their local partners and suggested the misdemeanor incarceration form be used for felony detentions. They also presented a basic understanding of the ORAT at the county chiefs association.

(R1) The Eureka Police Department is willing to collaborate in any reasonable way to improve communication with the Sheriff's Office on policies related to the booking process at the HCCF. Part of this communication improvement should be a method for local police agencies to communicate the changes vertically within its own organizations.

F3. The current "Misdemeanor Incarceration Form" retitled "Request for Non-Release" form is and was, an ineffective way to address the issues associated with the release of felons based on an ORAT score.

The Eureka Police Department agrees with this finding.

(R2) The Eureka Police Department will work with the Sheriff through the county chief's organization to create a design of the booking form and process to simplify the form and ensure the correct threat assessment of arrestees. This is dependent on the HCCF being willing to redesign the forms and or process.

(R3) The Eureka Police Department has and will continue to stress to its supervisors and officers to use the "Request for Non-Release" form as often as possible and in cases where violence is likely to continue.

Should you have any questions please let me now.

Andrew G. Mills

Chief of Police