

2018 RESPONSE TO GRAND JURY REPORT

Report Title: Jails and Facilities

Report Date: 06/18/2018

Response by: W. Honsal, Sheriff, County of Humboldt

FINDINGS

1. The Sheriff agrees with the findings numbered: F1-F4, F6, F7
2. The Sheriff disagrees partly with the finding: F5

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Recommendations numbered R1 and R3 has been implemented. R4 has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future.

Date: 9/15/2018

Signed:  _____

Number of pages attached: _____

RESPONSE TO GRAND JURY REPORT - RECOMMENDATIONS AND RESPONSE SUMMARY STATEMENT

Recommendations

R1. The Humboldt County Civil Grand Jury recommends the Humboldt County Sheriff and the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors raise entry level salaries for deputies working in the Humboldt County Correctional Facility to achieve competitiveness with the other counties of similar size. This change should be in place by December 25, 2018.

Response

The recommendation has been implemented. AFSCME represents the Humboldt County Correctional Deputies in labor negotiations. The County and AFSCME agreed to a contract where the base pay was increased as well as hazard pay was implemented. The Board of Supervisors passed this contract memorandum of understanding on August 21, 2018.

Recommendations

R3. The Humboldt County Civil Grand Jury recommends a coordinated plan be developed between the director of Mental Health Services and the Humboldt County Sheriff to facilitate aftercare for inmates with mental health concerns when they are released from the Humboldt County Correctional Facility. This plan should be in place by December 25, 2018.

Response

The recommendations have not been fully implemented but will be in the future. The County correctional facility has already implemented many programs and services with mental health regarding aftercare for inmates.

Currently there is a collaborative effort between County Mental Health and the Sheriff's Office to provide a continuity of caring for those offenders being released that suffer from Mental Illness. Currently when those individuals are identified we have the ability and are currently providing the following things:

- Ensuring that inmates are informed they have to show up at Community Corrections Resources Center (CCRC) within two business day (and in some cases taken there directly) to get a prescription filled and they have to pick it up at their own pharmacy. Mental Health staff has been able to hire two new clinicians assigned to the jail increasing their staffing and providing more care for the Mentally Ill within the facility.

Humboldt County Sheriff's Office Response to Grand Jury Report – Jails and Facilities

MH Staff in the jail have the ability to place MH detainers on those people with severe mental illness so they are seen by MH staff and a coordinated plan is made prior to their release. (This is currently only available for those being released M-F 0800-1700 based on MH staff on site)

- MH Staff includes a case manager who works directly with inmates on identifying an action plan for their release and connects them with resources such as housing, bus tickets, medication, and helping schedule future appointments.
- In some cases MH Staff crosswalk inmates out of the facility and take them to get medication and to their housing.

Mental Health staff and the Correctional Facility staff continue to look at ways to make system improvements for inmates with mental health needs.

- In the next 6 months Jail MH staff along with Correctional staff will develop and implement a pilot project for a more comprehensive mental health screening and assessment within the jail to better identify individuals with MH needs.
- Beginning in September 2018 DHHS will begin participating in the North Coast Health Improvement and Information Network (NCHIN). NCHIN is already providing emergency department patient summaries for open door clients and will be available to Humboldt County Mental Health soon.
- HCCF Staff will begin working with NCHIN case workers by placing detainers on their clients in custody so they can be notified when the individual is released so the case workers can more expediently follow up with them for continuity of care.
- DHHS Mental Health Services currently has 7 day coverage in the facility however the weekend clinician is on medical leave until December and there is no back fill coverage. DHHS Mental Health Services is hoping to restructure to provide a full time Psychiatric doctor at the facility as at this time we only have a Psychiatric doctor on site for 4 hours 4 days per week.

Recommendations

R4. The Humboldt County Civil Grand Jury recommends the Humboldt County Sheriff's Office request a budget adjustment for the purchase of an X-Ray machine for the Humboldt County Coroner's office. The 2018-19 budget adjustment should occur by September 15, 2018.

Response

The recommendation has not been implemented but will be in the future. The 2018-19 budget has already been approved by the Board of Supervisors. A budget adjustment cannot be made this physical year, due to the Corners office running on a very tight budget. The Sheriff's office will place this item in our 2019-2020 budget year. The portable X-Ray will cost an estimated \$48,500 and this could not be purchased with the existing budget year. Adjustments will be made for the 2019-20 budget to ensure this will be purchased.