

# **YOLO COUNTY JUVENILE DETENTION FACILITY**

## **SUMMARY**

The Grand Jury found the Yolo County Juvenile Detention Facility (YCJDF) to be appropriately staffed, clean, well maintained, with good medical care and accessible educational programs. A well-maintained library provides a variety of appropriate reading materials. The sports and exercise area is above average and is an important part of the YCJDF facility. The YCJDF has in place a set of rules to encourage the incarcerated minors to cooperate. They are given the opportunity to receive various privileges during their detainment when they comply with the rules.

## **REASON FOR VISIT**

Pursuant to Penal Code section 919(b) "The Grand Jury shall inquire into the conditions and management of the public prisons within the county."

## **ACTIONS TAKEN**

The Grand Jury inspected the YCJDF, located in Woodland, in October 2011. The Grand Jury met with management, obtained background information, discussed policies and procedures, and were given an overview of how the staff handles various situations. While touring the facility the Grand Jury had the opportunity to meet with and ask questions of custodial, clinical and educational staff.

## **WHAT THE GRAND JURY DETERMINED**

### *Staff*

The management and staff were enthusiastic, dedicated, and proud of their work. Many of the staff members are bilingual, mainly in Spanish. The staff is required to be physically fit and complete peace officer training. The management and staff appeared to be dedicated to helping the detainees improve their lives through educational opportunities, behavior modification and special programs. Management and staff meetings are held regularly to go over the problems and needs of the staff and detainees.

## *Facility*

The Grand Jury determined that the facility was clean, well maintained and temperature comfortable. The facility has a capacity of 90 detainees. There are three housing units called pods: A, B and C. Pod C is currently used as a library instead of a housing unit. The Grand Jury toured pod A where females, younger males, and the “less sophisticated” federal juvenile detainees are housed. Pod B is used to house the more serious offenders, some of whom are facing charges as adults in Superior Court.

The YCJDF opened in 2006 and was designed to have four pods, however, only three have been built to date. Each pod includes 18 rooms, consisting of six single and 12 double detainee rooms. There are classrooms with computer stations in each pod. In addition there is a supervised common area where detainees have an opportunity to watch television and eat their meals together. Showers are adjacent to the common areas.

The Monroe Detention Facility, located next to the YCJDF, provides the meals and most of the laundry service. However, some of the laundry needs are taken care of at the YCJDF. The food is nutritious and special diets are provided for detainees with special needs.

The sports and exercise area is an important part of the YCJDF facility. The exercise yard has new artificial turf that was installed in 2011 and is used for a variety of supervised games including football, soccer, etc. Courts are available for basketball and volleyball.

## *Security*

The federal government considers YCJDF the only high security level facility for juveniles in Northern California. It has a modern central control room that electronically monitors all movement throughout the interior and outside perimeter.

## *Population*

The Grand Jury determined that there are three pods with the capability of housing a maximum capacity of 30 detainees in each pod. Only two of the pods are being used at this time. There were an estimated 59 detainees at the time of the tour. Detainees have either been accused of felonies and/or are being detained by federal immigration authorities. YCJDF houses a population of juvenile offenders from across the nation, awaiting resolution of their immigration issues. The County has a contract with the Federal government to house these detainees. Tuolumne County also contracts with Yolo County to house their juvenile offenders. Juveniles that are not federal detainees with minor offenses are booked and released or placed on probation. The following is an approximate breakdown of the population during the month of September 2011:

- Yolo County Detainees – 26 (44%)
- Federal Detainees – 27 (46%)

- Tuolumne County Detainees – 6 (10%)

The overall budget for the Yolo County Juvenile Detention Facility also includes the budget for the Work Alternative Sentencing Program and Transportation Unit as reported by the Yolo County Budget Report for 2011-2012. This budget includes the following revenue sources:

General Fund	\$ 991,868	15%
Public Safety	\$1,717,123	26%
Federal/State Government	\$ 149,665	2%
Contract Fees (Federal and Tuolumne)	\$3,853,415	57%
Total	\$6,712,071	

### *Programs and Activities*

The Grand Jury determined that detainees are evaluated for math, English, and reading skills. They are advised of policies, disciplinary procedures and due process rights. They are allowed contact with their families, when appropriate, through mail and weekly visits.

Educational, tutoring and literacy services are provided. There is an onsite school, Dan Jacobs School, operated by the Yolo County Office of Education. Detainees, upon request, may receive testing for a General Equivalency Diploma (GED). A number of classes are offered to keep them on track to obtain their high school diploma or GED. Seventy-one detainees have received their GED since 2004.

The Grand Jury determined that a medical professional is on site during the day and on call at night. A physician is on call 24/7. Medical evaluations are done within 96 hours of booking. However, if it appears there is a serious health risk, detainees are taken to the hospital for evaluation. Mental health services are available through the Yolo County Department of Alcohol, Drug and Mental Health. Psychiatric services are available via video conferencing and are not done face to face.

Community participation by local volunteers is important. According to staff, “We could not do what we do without them.” Volunteers and grant funding provide:

- mentoring programs
- spiritual services
- teen parenting skills
- coping skills

- Aggression Replacement Training
- Alcoholics Anonymous
- Narcotics Anonymous

The behavior modification process encourages better behavior through the use of rewards. Examples of the rewards would be to watch television and eat in the common area with other detainees.

## **FINDINGS**

- F1.** The YCJDF is clean and well maintained.
- F2.** Medical care meets mandated requirements and is available as needed.
- F3.** The educational programs are a valuable resource for the detainees.
- F4.** Management and staff are dedicated, enthusiastic, and well trained.
- F5.** Outside contracts with the Federal Government and Tuolumne County represent 56% of the population and 57% of the budget.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

None

## **REQUEST FOR RESPONSES:**

None