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MEMORANDUM

To: The Honorable Paul Richardson,
Superior Court Judge

From: E.G. Prieto, Sheriff ~ Coroner

Subject: Response to the 2015 – 2016 Grand Jury Report

Date: June 30, 2016

Background:

The Sheriff of Yolo County is responsible for the care and custody of adult inmates that are housed within the County's Jail System. Members of the Yolo County Grand Jury met with the Yolo County Sheriff's Office as part of the Grand Jury's annual oversight function.

Yolo County Sheriff's Office Detention Facility Review

Findings of the Grand Jury:

F1 The Grand Jury found hazards regarding emergency egress practices.

Recommendations of the Grand Jury:

R1 By September 1, 2016, instruct all staff in writing that all emergency exits must be free from impediments at all times.

Response from the Sheriff:

By September 1, 2016, the Sheriff's Office will place signage at each emergency exit stating that the door shall not be blocked.

Findings of the Grand Jury:

F2 Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) are not properly maintained.

Recommendation of the Grand Jury:

R2 By September 1, 2016, all SCBAs must be fully operational. Defective or inoperable SCBA units shall be removed and replaced. Staff must be educated and trained as necessary to ensure SCBAs are operable and secure.

"Service Without Limitations"

Response from the Sheriff:

The Sheriff's Office will continue to inspect the SCBAs on a regular basis and will remove from service those that are inoperable. Staff have been and will continue to be educated and trained on the proper use and inspection of the SCBAs. One SCBA had been designated "for training use only" and is located in the Booking Area. The training SCBA is used to train Correctional Staff in the proper donning and doffing of a SCBA, additionally it is used to train Correctional Staff in the proper inspection procedures. This SCBA will be clearly marked "For Training Use Only."

Findings of the Grand Jury:

- F3 The Grand Jury found poor housekeeping of dental/medical exam rooms and equipment.

Recommendation of the Grand Jury:

- R3 By September 1, 2016, all medical equipment and offices must be cleaned and sanitized to regulated industry standards. Procedures shall be put into place to ensure maintenance and cleanliness is sustained.

Response from the Sheriff:

The Jail is inspected annually by trained and certified employees of the Yolo County Health Department. No notation of such violation has been made in the past. In addition, since this Grand Jury Report was published, the Sheriff's Office asked Dr. Ronald Chapman, the Yolo County Health Officer, to inspect the Dental Office to ensure that it is in compliance with industry standards. His observations were that the staining that was observed by the Grand Jury was cosmetic in nature and would not have an impact on the quality of care.

Findings of the Grand Jury:

- F4 Unlabeled chemical containers were improperly stored in the dental exam room.

Recommendation of the Grand Jury:

- R4 By September 1, 2016, all chemicals must be safely secured, labeled, and with the proper Safety Data Sheets on file. Safety Data Sheets must be accessible to staff.

Response from the Sheriff:

The Sheriff's Office has placed Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) on file and they are available to all staff. All chemicals have been secured.

Findings of the Grand Jury:

- F5** There is no onsite person charged with overseeing the health and safety of the entire facility.

Recommendation of the Grand Jury:

- R5** By January 1, 2017, YCSO should employ or designate a qualified health and safety officer/industrial hygienist to be responsible for the operation, equipment, and training of personnel, to ensure a comprehensive health and safety program.

Response from the Sheriff:

The County of Yolo, Probation and the Sheriff's Office are currently in contract negotiations with California Forensic Medical Group (CFMG) to provide medical/mental health services. A component of the contract is to employ a qualified health and safety officer.

Findings of the Grand Jury:

- F6** Discrepancies in the Inmate Grievance procedure demonstrate a lack of serious attention to resolving inmate grievances by the Detention staff.

Recommendation of the Grand Jury:

- R6** By January 1, 2017, a comprehensive policy, including staff training and an updated inmate handbook, shall be in place to ensure that complete processing and proper attention is given to inmate grievances. This shall include a form that matches both staff and inmate procedures.

Response from the Sheriff:

The Jail is inspected biennially by the Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) per Penal Code Section 6031. This inspection is conducted to confirm compliance with California Code of Regulations (CCR) Titles 15 and 24. This is an in depth process that includes a desk audit of facility policies and procedures manual, reconciling policy content against relevant Title 15 regulations and best practices, a site visit to inspect the physical plant and a review of documentation to verify that practices follow written procedures as well as Title 15. The last inspection prior to this Grand Jury Report was concluded on July 10, 2014 with the Inmate Grievance policy and procedure being in compliance. The latest BSCC inspection occurred on June 24, 2016. Although the inspection report has not been finalized, the inspector advised that we continue to be in compliance.

Recommendation of the Grand Jury:

R7 By September 1, 2017, properly secure all medical records. All medical staff and practitioners shall receive training on the security of HIPAA information. All medical file cabinets must be equipped with an operable lock.

Response from the Sheriff:

The County contracts with California Forensic Medical Group (CFMG) to provide medical/mental healthcare to the inmates confined within the Jail. As part of the contract, the contractor is responsible for the custody of all medical records and shall comply with, and shall ensure that its officers, agents, employees, participants and volunteers comply with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 and its implementing regulations. The contractor will be held to these terms of the contract.

Respectfully Submitted,



E. G. PRIETO
SHERIFF ~ CORONER