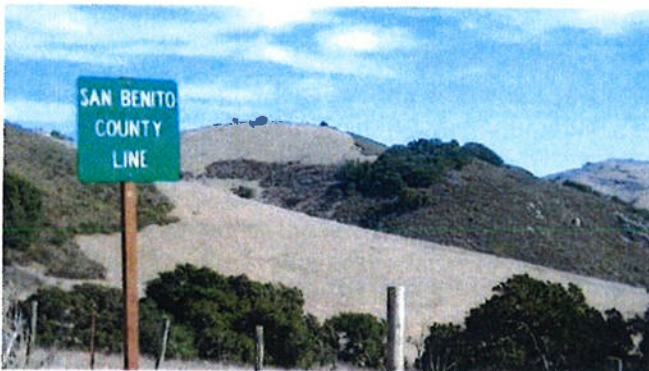


San Benito County Grand Jury Report

2017-2018



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Campos", written over a horizontal line.

John Campos, Foreperson

Date: June 6th 2018

Foreperson Letter

To the Citizens of San Benito County:

On behalf of my fellow jurors, I am pleased to present the 2017-2018 Grand Jury's Final Report. The 19 members of the Grand Jury were comprised of 19 total strangers with varying backgrounds, experiences, expertise, personalities, and social and political viewpoints who came together as a team in order to comprise this report. We hope you will find the report interesting and enlightening.

We all agreed from the beginning that we wanted to make a positive change in the community in which we live, San Benito County. We took to heart our sworn duty to conduct our investigations and to carry out our discharges to the letter of the law. We conducted our investigations with great objectivity and impartiality. We allowed the evidence and interviews to dictate our findings and recommendations in our reports. We also all agreed to conduct ourselves in direct correspondence to the following creed,

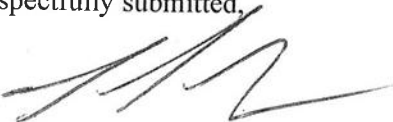
"We live under a government of, by, and for the people, and it is appropriate that the citizens are by law given the opportunity to scrutinize the workings of the public agencies and the conduct of public officers maintained and supported by the taxes of the citizenry. All that the public can expect -- and it is entitled to no less -- is that Grand Jurors shall diligently and impartially perform their duties, to the best of their ability, dedicating themselves to the furtherance of the general good. You offer no guarantee that you will always be right, but you do have a solemn duty to do your utmost to be conscientious, complete, and correct".

In the beginning, we were surprised by the enormity of challenges and complexities required to conduct investigations. We learned quickly thanks to the free training provided by the California Grand Jurors' Association and with the guidance of jury members who had served on previous Grand Juries. By late fall we had a clear vision as to what was required and were laser focused on accomplishing our goals. With our initial struggles fresh in our mind we set out to leave the future Grand Jurors in a better position to succeed from the start. We accomplished this by paying for their training in advance, putting together an abridged Grand Juror Handbook and most importantly by having a number of Grand Jurors holdover for another term as well as actively recruiting new jurors. We are positive this will allow the 2018-2019 Grand Jury to be even more successful.

We would like to express our appreciation for the support and direction provided by the San Benito County Superior Court, specifically the Honorable Judge Sanders, and his Administrative Assistant Maria Alfaro and Court Executive Officer Gil Solorio. We would also like to express our appreciation to San Benito Deputy County Counsel Shirley Murphy who we leaned on heavily this year. We thank the San Benito County Sheriff's Department for the use of their facility as well as the City of Hollister Parks and Recreation Departments for offering their facility as well.

I want to thank the other 18 members of the Grand Jury for all their hard work and support. I can truly say that it has been an honor and a privilege serving with you. It was refreshing having members who were willing to speak their mind and share their input in order to produce a better product. I would also like to thank those who put in extra effort in order to make this Grand Jury a success. While we started off as 19 ordinary citizens, we now leave with a better understanding of how local government works and with the satisfaction of having been a watchdog for our community the last 10 months. For the majority of us, it was the first time we had served. It was an eye opening and refreshing experience to know that the citizenry of California truly do have a voice and a platform in how government operates and by having such experiences we are 19 better citizens for it.

Respectfully submitted,



John Campos

Civil Grand Jury Foreperson

2017-2018

Table of Contents

FOREPERSON LETTER.....	2
2017-2018 SBC CIVIL GRAND JURY SUMMARY.....	4
GRAND JURY MEMBERS.....	4
RESPONSE REQUIRED	4
FORM OF RESPONSES	4
HOLLISTER PARKS AND RECREATION REPORT.....	6
JAIL REPORT	9
JUVENILE HALL REPORT	12
SAN JUAN BAUTISTA AREA SCHOOLS.....	15

2017-2018 SBC Civil Grand Jury Summary

The following is a summary of activities and actions executed by the 2017-2018 San Benito County (SBC) Civil Grand Jury.

GRAND JURY MEMBERS

The following 19 members served on the 2017-2018 SBC Civil Grand Jury:

Maria Alvarado Hernandez, Margie Alvarez, Wendy Bearschild, Scott Brock, John Campos, Carlee Castro, Malissa Claus, Eric Crowther, Don Dixon, Kerrie Fleshman, Natalya Gallion, Alexandria Garcia, Angela Godoy, Tamara Hagan, Ellen Hansen, Erin Kelly, Sharon McCluskey, Rodney Melching, Victoria Moreno, Debra Morris (R)

(R) – Resigned during the term.

The following held GJ officer positions:

Foreperson: John Campos

Pro-Temp: Don Dixon

All reports were passed and adopted by at least 12 Jurors on June 6th 2018.

RESPONSE REQUIRED

A response is required to the reports herein within the time limits and form as prescribed by California Penal Code Section 933. Relevant paragraphs from Section 933 are quoted below for respondents' guidance.

Time Limits for Responses

California Penal Code 933(c) requires that:

No later than 90 days after the grand jury submits a final report on the operations of any public agency subject to its reviewing authority, the governing body of the public agency shall comment to the presiding judge of superior court on the findings and recommendations pertaining to matters under the control of the governing body, and every elected county officer or agency head for which the grand jury has responsibility ... shall comment within 60 days to the presiding judge of the superior court, with an information copy sent to the board of supervisors, on the findings and recommendations pertaining to matters under the control of that county officer or agency head and any agency or agencies which that officer or agency head supervises or controls. In any city and county, the mayor shall also comment on the findings and recommendations. All of these comments and reports shall forthwith be submitted to the presiding judge of the superior court who impaneled the grand jury. A copy of all responses to grand jury reports shall be placed on file with the clerk of the public agency and the office of the county clerk, or the mayor when applicable, and shall remain on file in those offices. One copy shall be placed on file with the applicable grand jury final report by, and in the control of the currently impaneled grand jury, where it shall be maintained for a minimum of five years.

FORM OF RESPONSES

California Penal Code 933.05 requires that:

For the purpose of subdivision (b) of Section 933, as to each grand jury finding, the responding person or entity shall indicate one of the following:

The respondent agrees with the finding.

The respondent disagrees wholly or partially with the finding, in which case the response shall specify the portion of the finding that is disputed and shall include an explanation of the reasons therefore.

For the purpose of subdivision (b) of Section 933, as to each grand jury recommendation, the responding person or entity shall report one the following actions:

The recommendation has been implemented, with a summary regarding the implemented action.

The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future, with a timeframe for implementation.

The recommendation requires further analysis, with an explanation and the scope and parameters of an analysis or study, and a timeframe for the matter to be prepared for discussion by the officer or head of the agency or department being investigated or reviewed, including the governing body of the public agency when applicable. This timeframe shall not exceed six months from the date of publication of the grand jury report.

The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable, with an explanation therefore.

Report Distribution Dates

City of Hollister Parks and Recreation Departments

Responses Due:

*City of Hollister: City Council (response required within 90 days)

*City of Hollister: City Manager (response required within 60 days)

San Benito County Jail Review

Responses Due:

*San Benito County: Board of Supervisors (response required within 90 days)

*San Benito County: Sheriff (response required within 60 days)

San Benito County Juvenile Hall Review

Responses Due:

*San Benito County: Board of Supervisors (response required within 90 days)

*San Benito County: Chief Probation Officer (response required within 60 days)

San Juan Bautista Area Schools Review

Responses Due:

*Aromas-San Juan Unified School District: Board of Trustees (response required within 90 days)

*Aromas-San Juan Unified School District: Superintendent (response required within 60 days)

Send Your Response To:

Honorable Steven R. Sanders, Presiding Judge

San Benito County Superior Court

450 Fourth Street, Hollister, CA 95023

HOLLISTER PARKS AND RECREATION REPORT

Conducted by the Parks Committee

SUMMARY

The San Benito County Civil Grand Jury (SBCCGJ) examined the opportunities for the Hollister Parks and Recreation Departments (P & R) in Hollister to develop and strengthen public image, increase resident participation, explore additional funding opportunities, as well as volunteerism to extend the reach of the Parks and Recreation Departments. The Grand Jury found challenges with Hollister P & R communication with the public in regard to meetings and class scheduling, and distribution of park improvement plans. The Grand Jury found that Recreation classes should be more inclusive, defining inclusive as follows: to provide classes to residents who are developmentally and/or physically disabled. Also, the master plan draft for Hollister should be available to the public for review on the Hollister Parks & Recreation website. Finally, the Grand Jury found limitations in the Hollister P & R Departments' reach due to inadequate funding.

BACKGROUND

The SBCCGJ learned that the Recreation Department provides leisure activities not only to the residents of Hollister but also to Tres Pinos and San Juan Bautista. The residents may enroll in a variety of classes, some are age specific. Hula classes are offered to youth and to adults. YOGA classes are offered to youth and senior citizens. Karate is offered to youth. The Recreation Dept. is planning to offer art classes soon. Currently, the Recreation Dept. does not apply for any grants to support its programs. It does receive support from organizations such as PAL (Police Activity League) and local business such as retail stores and restaurants, etc. There seem to be no classes for youth or adults with developmental and/or physical disabilities. Parks and Recreation funding limits class offerings because there are no funds available for instructors' salaries.

With the increase in Hollister housing development and population growth, the Parks Department's goal is to meet increasing demand for safe, enjoyable, and attractive outdoor space to engage in recreational opportunities for the benefit of all. The SBCCGJ learned that residents have access to three county parks as well as 17 city parks. The parks are well maintained; some have restrooms, some are equipped with BBQ, tennis courts and gardens, but some have few trees and shrubs. There is also a dog park for the four-legged residents. Due to limited funding, improvements to the parks is challenging. Currently, a draft master plan is underway for McCarthy Park paid for by a grant.

The SBCCGJ learned that the Hollister Parks and Recreation Commission was created to serve as an advisory body to the City Council. The Advisory Body consists of 4 commissioners plus 1 county seat chair representative, therefore allowing Districts 1, 2, 3, & 4 to be represented. Its charge is to promote, achieve, and ensure that adequate and comprehensive policies, programs, services, and recreational facilities exist for all its residents. Hollister Parks and Recreation Commission meets the last Tuesday of each month at 6:00 PM.

DISCUSSION

The SBCCGJ found that many residents utilize the park facilities but only a small number participate in meetings regarding park developments and improvements. Communication between the Parks & Recreation Departments and the public appears inconsistent. For example, out of 1,500 homes, only 8 residents attended a

meeting for the Master Plan for McCarthy Park. In the past, on several occasions, Hollister Parks and Recreation Commission meetings have been cancelled due to a lack of quorum with little or no notice to the public. In addition, at another meeting, important decisions could not be made regarding the design of McCarthy Park due to a lack of quorum. Many of the San Benito County residents commute and the 6:00 PM time may be challenging for them.

The SBCCGJ found that information on becoming a volunteer in the Hollister Parks & Recreation Departments is not available on its website. Also missing on the website is the mission statement, master plan draft, and existing parks improvements, for example, additional trees which are needed for relief from summer sun. There seems to be a lack of overall communication.

A major problem facing the Parks & Recreation Departments is funding. Hollister P& R have only 4% of the 2017 City of Hollister General Budget. Fortunately the Parks Department has been able to procure a grant, while the Recreation Dept. has yet to procure any grant funding. So Hollister P & R must find other potential funding mechanisms to supplement the 4% they receive from the general budget. Receiving a grant is one way to fund a program, but there are many other ways that are listed in The Park Facility Master Plan draft that should be investigated as potential funding mechanisms. Furthermore improving communication with the community and overall community involvement could help with this challenge.

METHODOLOGY

The San Benito County Grand Jury conducted the following investigative activities:

- Reviewed current Hollister P & R minutes as well as past minutes from 2014.
- Interviewed staff in Hollister P & R and Hollister City Human Resources Department.
- Reviewed City of Hollister P & R website.
- Reviewed data on the benitolink.com website and Hollister FreeLance newspaper.
- Reviewed some of the current Park Facility Master Plan draft.
- Reviewed past San Benito CGJ reports regarding parks 2014-5, 2015-6.
- Reviewed budget documents for Hollister Parks.
- Reviewed other park and recreation departments data from other counties as comparisons.
- Toured parks.

FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Findings

1. Based on Hollister P & R Meeting Minutes from 2014 to 2017, few residents have attended Hollister P & R meetings.
2. Park Facility Master Plan draft is not available on the Hollister P & R website. Also, there is no active link for Volunteers on Hollister P & R Website.
3. The Recreation Dept. does not currently offer inclusive classes for developmentally and/or physically disabled residents.
4. Advertising expense is costly considering the results.
5. There is a need to plant additional trees in all city parks.
6. Hollister P & R needs to actively search and procure grants to supplement their budget.

Recommendations

1. Many of the residents commute to work; thus, all meetings should be scheduled at a time that would allow citizens an opportunity to attend such as 7:00 PM. All cancellations or rescheduling should be recorded on the Hollister P & R website calendar.
2. The recommendations made in the draft copy of the Master Plan Funding Mechanisms (pg. 7 of that document) for potential funding needs to be pursued by both Parks and Recreation. To do this Hollister P & R should create Parks & Recreation sub-committees made up of volunteers.
3. Provide residents an Inclusive Recreation Program that will give ALL the opportunity to participate in recreational, educational and leisure classes and activities.
4. When planning events, meetings and/or classes consider using various social media websites, available technology and newspapers at the rates for non-profits/government entities.
5. Plant additional trees in the various parks and do so with the support of the community/volunteers.

<https://benitolink.com/supervisor-medina-seeks-parks-and-recreation-commissioner>
<https://sanbenito.com/2017/08/03/mccarthy-street-park-revitalized/> <https://benitolink.com/news/community-invited-mccarthy-park-improvement-meeting>
<https://sanbenito.com/2017/02/06/neighborhood-meeting-sparks-ideas-mccarthy-park/>
<https://benitolink.com/opinion/opinion-recreation-master-planning-overdue-consolidation> <https://benitolink.com/news/community-invited-mccarthy-park-improvement-meeting> <https://sanbenito.com/2017/08/03/mccarthy-street-park-revitalized/>
<https://sanbenito.com/2017/02/06/neighborhood-meeting-sparks-ideas-mccarthy-park/> <http://hollister.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/Park-Facility-Master-Plan.pdf> <http://sanbenito.com/2017/09/07/city-asks-public-ideas-parks/>
<https://benitolink.com/supervisor-medina-seeks-parks-and-recreation-commissioner>

RESPONSE REQUIRED

The California Penal Code 933(c) and 933.05 requires a response to findings and recommendations made in the final report be delivered to the presiding Judge of the Superior Court. Affected agencies must respond to all relevant findings and recommendations.

The affected agencies are:

- The Hollister City Council
- The Hollister City Manager

SAN BENITO COUNTY JAIL REPORT

Conducted by the Jail/Juvenile Hall Committee

SUMMARY

The San Benito County Civil Grand Jury (SBCCGJ) examined the San Benito County Jail to ensure that the correctional facility is being administered adequately and in a safe and secure manner.

BACKGROUND

The SBCCGJ learned that the Jail is under the administration of the San Benito County Sheriff's Office. It is classified as a type-II correctional facility. It holds inmates who are waiting for their arraignments, having their cases being tried in court, or serving their sentences. The jail is designed to house a total of 142 inmates. The SBCCGJ learned that at the time of the visit, January 16, 2018, there were 122 inmates present. Expansion of the jail will be completed in February or March of 2019. The facility sits on 22 acres.

OVERVIEW

A committee of the SBCCGJ inspected the jail using a check list developed for the prison by the Grand Jury, as well as additional information requested by the committee making the tour. The check list included, but was not limited to the general safety and security of the facility, emergency response procedures, fire safety, housing pods, staff morale, job training requirements for staff, food services, medical services, inmate processing, overall inmate treatment, and inmate life skill opportunities.

Jail Tour: All staff members were open and responsive to any and all questions. Further questions were invited and the jury committee was invited to visit any and all areas. The areas the SBCCGJ committee chose to visit included the administration building, the perimeter, the inmate processing area (booking), the Medical Office (health care), an inmate housing facility (pod), the recreation center (also called a yard), the Food Staging Area, the Laundry Area, the Visitor Center and the Command Center.

DISCUSSION

The San Benito County Civil Grand Jury found that

Administration Building – this building was clean and well kept. It contained the offices for the administrative staff, conference rooms, jail records department, and their business office.

Jail Perimeter – the perimeter of the main part of the prison is protected by no climb fencing with razor wire. It is monitored by the Command Center.

Inmate Processing Area - was clean and well kept. It contains a large sobering cell, a small sobering cell and a safety cell. Staff could take the inmate photos, complete a medical evaluations and any other requirements needed depending on the level of the crime committed.

Medical Office – the health care area was clean and well kept. It is designed for minor medical responses like cuts, bruises, headaches, colds, for example. Currently the medical staff is on site only during certain hours. If medical issues requiring a doctor's care, mental health needs or life threatening conditions occur the inmate is transported to Hazel Hawkins for further evaluation.

Inmate Housing Facility (Pods) – the jury observed various pods 1 for gangs, 1 for sex offenders, 1 for general population, and 1 for women. Observations were through one way glass. All the pods appeared clean and well kept.

Recreation Center - the area includes a large concrete pad where the inmates could exercise, play handball and walk. Inmates are granted 1 hour per day within this area.

Food Staging Area - the jail uses an outside service, Aramark that brings in already prepared food to be stored within a large refrigeration unit. There is always 3 days of food in the refrigeration unit. Deliveries are every Monday, Wednesday & Friday. Also Inmates are given the privilege of preparing snack bags that are sold to inmates through the commissary. Currently there are other appliances besides the refrigeration unit but they are not operational.

Laundry Area - was clean, well kept and organized via shelving. Inmates are able to work in the area by performing various laundry duties.

Visitor Center - the area is designed for interactions between inmates and their visitors. There is a glass wall between the inmates and visitors. Communication is via phone lines. There is also a meeting area for the inmates to provide confidential conversations with their attorneys.

Command Center - is within the pods. It has all window view of the pods. Access throughout the jail is controlled by the Command Center. The Command Center is also supported by a camera system and 16 security cameras are being added throughout the jail.

METHODOLOGY

The San Benito County Grand Jury conducted the following investigative activities:

- Interviews with Jail command staff, a Male and a Female Correctional Officer (CO), a Male and Female Inmate, and Medical Staff.
- Tour of the San Benito County Jail
- Review of previous CGJ Reports about the Jail

Conclusion: It was determined by SBCGJ committee members that the Jail is well-run with no major issues discovered. The committee enjoyed the fact that many staff were very willing to speak with jury members.

FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Findings

1. Female inmates are only allowed exercise every other day, while male inmates are provided daily exercise in the yard. With the "Expansion Plan" of the Jail for 2019 currently there is no goal or objective to add additional exercise yard(s).
2. Currently many of the appliances within this full functioning kitchen do not work.
3. There is a staff shortage, often shifts are covered via overtime which cost more money.
4. County does not have enough medical staff to cover a full 24 hour day. Nor does it have the staff to support the mental health needs of an inmate at the jail.
5. Programming like counseling, education and rehabilitation needs to be improved.

Recommendations

1. We recommend that the "Expansion Plan" Committee reevaluate the need for additional exercise yard(s), maybe by creating an exercise yard specifically designated for the female inmates. Our concern is that by the expansion and the increasing of the inmate population, female inmate yard time may be reduced more.
2. Our recommendation is to open the Food Staging Area to a full functioning kitchen, by replacing or repairing non-operating appliances. This will also allow inmates to further develop their skills and possibly offer a Kitchen Work Program.
3. We concur with the Sheriff's Department who expressed the desire for hiring more COs.
4. We encourage the Sheriff's Department to continue its negotiations with Mental Health Services. Furthermore the Sheriff's Department should seek funding sources for full time 24/7 medical staff.
5. Programming like counseling, education and rehabilitation needs to be improved. The Sheriff's Department wants to help inmates develop skills to reduce the recidivism rate. We recommend possibly adding horticulture, canine mentoring, equine therapy, expand the library, more classes and even a transition center.

RESPONSE REQUIRED

The California Penal Code 933(c) and 933.05 requires a response to findings and recommendations made in the final report be delivered to the presiding Judge of the Superior Court. Affected agencies must respond to all relevant findings and recommendations.

The affected agencies are:

- The San Benito County Board of Supervisors
- The San Benito County Sheriff

JUVENILE HALL REPORT

Conducted by the Jail/Juvenile Hall Committee

SUMMARY

The San Benito County Juvenile Hall is responsible for providing a safe, secure, and healthy environment for minors while they are temporarily detained at the facility. It also assists the community in the rehabilitation of Juvenile Hall wards (or dependents) through counseling and appropriate programs.

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY

Every year, the Grand Jury performs an inspection of the Juvenile Hall to determine that it is operating effectively, securely, and safely and that the staff treats Juvenile Hall wards in a safe and humane manner.

METHODOLOGY

The Grand Jury visited the Juvenile Hall on February 21, 2018, where Grand Jury members took a pre-scheduled tour of Juvenile Hall that was conducted by staff. The Grand Jury members also interviewed Juvenile Hall staff.

BACKGROUND

The Juvenile Hall is a division of the San Benito County Probation Department. The facility is staffed by SBC Probation Department employees. It is not treated as, nor connected with, any jail or other penal institution. Rather, Juvenile Hall is a temporary detention and treatment facility that holds minors who are waiting for a court hearing or for release to a parent, guardian, or another responsible adult. The facility includes a court room where cases can be heard without the need to transport the wards off-site.

OBSERVATIONS

Physical Plant - The Grand Jury's tour of the physical plant included the intake area, recreation/multi-use room, schoolroom, the wards' cells, showers, control room, administrative offices, courtroom, storage rooms, and the grounds.

Indoor Conditions - The inside of the facility was generally clean and well kept, with the exception of floor coverings in some areas, which were clean but badly worn and in need of replacement. For example, the carpeting in the Courtroom was split in several areas and had been repaired with duct tape in order to eliminate trip hazards. The ceiling of the recreation/multi-use room had several missing tiles and a number of sagging tiles that showed signs of water damage. Some of the internal locks are worn and did not open easily. Staff stated that funds have been approved or are being sought for repair and/or replacement of all of the noted problem areas within the facility.

Outdoor Conditions - The exterior of the facility and the surrounding grounds appeared well maintained and clean. The no-climb fences were in good condition. The outdoor exercise area was clean and well kept, however one of the basketball hoops was damaged. There were a number of trip hazards, including potholes in the grass from gopher infestation, and splits along the edge of the asphalt where it meets the grass area. Staff stated that wards are not currently allowed to run on the grass due to the trip hazards. Funds are in the capital budget to

pave the entire outdoor exercise area to eliminate the safety problems and expand the possibilities for the wards to engage in different sports activities.

Capacity - Juvenile Hall has the capacity to hold 20 wards. During the February visit, the facility was in charge of 5 wards. Over the past year, the average length of stay was approximately 25 days, and the facility has not exceeded capacity.

Staffing - There are normally at least three Staff onsite at all times. Bilingual Staff is available on most shifts. Staff is trained on the written procedures that are maintained onsite at all times.

Safety - Wards go through a classification process at intake to minimize problems related to assess each one for gang affiliations, personality differences, risk of suicide or self-harm, etc. while they are housed in the facility. Emergency drills are held regularly so Staff and wards are familiar with procedures to stay safe in emergencies. For example, a fire drill was held on Feb. 5th prior to inspection, and another evening drill was scheduled for Feb. 21st.

Negative Behavior/Violence/Serious Injury or Deaths - Staff reported that violence is rare within the facility, usually no more than one physical altercation per quarter. Staff is trained to watch for signs of escalating situations among wards and steps in to defuse them. Over the last year, there have been a few wards with gang affiliations, but no gang members. There have been no attempted suicides or deaths within the facility in the past year.

Daily Schedule - Juvenile Hall wards follow a daily routine that meets requirements under Title 15 of the State of California. Their day starts between 6 a.m. and 7 a.m. and ends at 9:30 p.m. From Monday through Friday, they receive 4 hours of school in the morning. They also receive at least 3 hours of recreation time, including at least 1 hour of large muscle activity/exercise. On weekends, they receive 5 hours of recreation.

Food services - are provided by Aramark, which also has a contract to serve the San Benito County Jail. Aramark brings in already prepared food to be stored within a large refrigeration unit at the Jail. The meals are transferred to the Juvenile Hall (which is situated adjacent to the Jail) at times appropriate to serve them to the wards at scheduled times during the day.

Medical services - are provided by CF&G. A nurse is on-site for 4 hours during weekdays from 8 AM – 12 PM. Medical coverage at all other times is supported by a shared contract with San Benito County Jail. Narcan is available for emergency treatment of opioid overdose. Medical emergencies are handled by EMS and Hazel Hawkins Hospital.

Mental Health services - are provided by San Benito County Mental Health Services. Juvenile Hall has an agreement with County Mental Health Services that they will respond immediately to the needs of Juvenile Hall for mental health services, since the facility has no Safety Cell. SBC Mental Health Services has been very collaborative, working with Juvenile Hall Staff to reduce the time required for wards to obtain mental health services. Unfortunately, wards must still be transported to SBC Mental Health Services in order to receive services.

Educational services - are provided by trained personnel and overseen by an Educational Director. At the time of our inspection, a substitute Educational Director was on-site and was interviewed by the SBCCGJ. Class was in session during the inspection and the students and Staff were seen interacting in a constructive and engaged

manner. The classroom appeared clean, organized, and well appointed with educational materials and new carpeting.

Youth Programs / Social Interaction Activities – Youth programs include three opportunities per week to mentor with YMCA Staff. There is a program called “T4C” (Thinking For Change) where wards learn skills to help them to think about the consequences of their actions before they act. For wards that need it, a Substance Group is offered to help them deal with addiction problems. Church sessions are offered to wards. During open program/recreation periods, Staff also facilitates programs where wards can learn journaling, life skills, art, debate, and tennis. The San Benito Arts Council rotates three programs including dance, poetry, and mural (painting). The mural program involves the wards in creation of a mural that will be permanently displayed in the Rec. Room when completed.

Planned Improvements - Paving of the outdoor exercise area will allow construction of a full basketball court and a tennis/volleyball/badminton court within the area. There have been discussions to partner with the USTA (United States Tennis Association) to be the first juvenile facility in California that offers a tennis program. Funding to install a new secure gate in the outdoor fencing that will provide access by wards to a currently unutilized outdoor area that will be turned into a garden where wards can learn hands-on about horticulture is being sought by the County.

FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Findings

1. Carpet needs replacement throughout the facility.
2. There are missing or water damaged ceiling tiles in the recreation area.
3. Internal locks are worn and did not open easily.
4. Basketball hoop was damaged.
5. There were a number of trip hazards, including potholes in the grass from gopher infestation, and splits along the edge of the asphalt where it meets the grass area.

Recommendations

1. The SBCCGJ recommends that the San Benito County Board of Supervisors approve the requests for funding by the Juvenile Hall to complete repairs and improvements to the facility that will benefit wards in the future.

In conclusion the SBCCGJ wishes to commend the Management of the Juvenile Hall for working to improve the facility and the services provided therein for the betterment of the wards who utilize the facility.

RESPONSE REQUIRED

The California Penal Code 933(c) and 933.05 requires a response to findings and recommendations made in the final report be delivered to the presiding Judge of the Superior Court. Affected agencies must respond to all relevant findings and recommendations.

The affected agencies are:

- The San Benito County Board of Supervisors
- The San Benito County Chief Probation Officer

SAN JUAN BAUTISTA AREA SCHOOLS

Conducted by the School/Education Committee

SUMMARY

In March 2018 the San Benito Civil Grand Jury's School/Education Committee attempted to conduct site inspections of the San Juan Bautista area schools. The intent of the site inspections was to conduct a simple inspection of the school grounds as well as a walk and talk with the two school principals. The two schools visited were San Juan School and Anzar High School.

The Aromas-San Juan School District Office required that the jurors visiting the schools must contact the District Office prior to their school visits and provide the names of those employees to be interviewed.

The mere discussion of who the witnesses were was not only a violation of the law (929 PC) but, also risked compromising and corrupting the integrity of the investigation. However, the Grand Jury complied in hopes of establishing a better working relationship with the District Office.

During the site visits, there was a misunderstanding between the District Office and the jurors about the interviewing process. Again the Grand Jury, in hopes of furthering the relationship with the District Office, arranged times where all school and District personnel requested were able to appear before the Grand Jury and provide the requested documents.

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY

In April 2018, members of the Civil Grand Jury conducted site inspections at the two public schools which serve the communities in and around the San Juan Bautista area. The two schools are San Juan School, which serves grades K through 8, and Anzar High School, which serves grades 9 through 12. The two schools, which educate approximately 700 students, are part of the Aromas-San Juan School District. They are both governed by a locally elected school board, and administered by a superintendent. The reasons for these visits were:

- To assess the general conditions of students' bathrooms;
- To assess the general condition of the schools' grounds;
- To assess the general condition of the playgrounds and athletic fields;
- To assess the maintenance of the schools;
- To assess if the school district had the necessary funding and personnel to maintain a clean and safe environment for the students.

METHODOLOGY

Civil Grand Jury members visited the two aforementioned schools, conducted site inspections and interviewed district and school staff members.

DISCUSSION

The San Juan Bautista area school review and inspections covered the following areas:

- San Juan School cafeteria
- San Juan School grounds
- San Juan School playground
- San Juan School library
- San Juan School student bathrooms
- Anzar High School grounds
- Anzar High School student bathrooms and locker rooms

Findings:

The site inspections took place after 2 consecutive days of heavy rains.

1. The San Juan School Cafeteria which provides all the meals for San Juan School as well as Anzar High School was well organized and extremely clean with not a single speck of mud visible as one might expect due to the recent rains. The kitchen area was clean and orderly despite the fact that the kitchen personnel were actively preparing lunch for the day.
2. The San Juan School grounds which are maintained by 2 full time custodial personnel and the district landscaping crew were extremely well maintained and there was not a single item of trash visible anywhere on the school grounds.
3. The San Juan School playground was well maintained, there were no safety concerns visible and students were well supervised.
4. The San Juan School library was well maintained and clean. The library itself was well lit and there were an impressive amount of computer stations. The library, which is well organized, emphasizes reading by utilizing competitive learning programs. The library has an email system which allows students to communicate via email with students from sister schools in foreign countries.
5. The San Juan School student bathrooms were well maintained, clean and despite the weather conditions the floors were very clean. We did learn however, that the drinking fountains were turned off all year due to an unknown water issue and bottled water was being provided for the students. The Grand Jury has subsequently learned that the water problem has since been corrected and the water fountains have been turned back on.
6. The Anzar High School grounds, which are maintained by 2 full time custodial personnel and the district landscaping crew, were extremely well maintained and there was not a single item of trash visible anywhere on the school grounds.

7. The Anzar High School student bathrooms and locker rooms were clean and once again despite the wet weather conditions void of mud. What was even more impressive was the fact that the head custodian was out sick and had been for 2 days.
8. The Grand Jury concurs with the School District that an additional full time landscaping employee would be helpful to accommodate weather events such as downed trees and preventive maintenance.
9. The District representative misunderstood the Civil Grand Jury Process for San Benito County, when conducting interviews with employees/witnesses. If a principal is available on the day of a site inspection no District representatives are required to accompany members of the Grand Jury and all employees are welcome to answer questions if time allows during the visit.
10. The site inspection revealed that both schools are better maintained now then they had been in the past. It is evident that both school personnel and the students take great pride in their schools. This is a direct reflection on the outstanding leadership provided by both school principals, their custodial personnel as well as the District Office. The inquiry revealed that school personnel feel that there is an open door policy between the custodial personnel, the school principals and the District. They feel that this openness is what has resulted in an improved and healthy environment for the students and the staff at their respective schools. It is also obvious that the school principals and their custodial staff understand the Grand Jury process and/or are willing and open to cooperating with the grand jury process.

Recommendations

1. The Grand Jury recommends that the Aromas-San Juan Unified School District Office should take advantage of the training material provided by the Grand Jury in order to better understand the Grand Jury process.
2. The Aromas-San Juan Unified School District Office should contact other school districts in San Benito County in order to familiarize itself with how they comply with the Grand Jury process.

RESPONSE REQUIRED

The California Penal Code 933(c) and 933.05 requires a response to findings and recommendations made in the final report be delivered to the presiding Judge of the Superior Court. Affected agencies must respond to all relevant findings and recommendations.

The affected agencies are:

- The Aromas-San Juan Unified School District Board of Trustees
- The Aromas-San Juan Unified School District Superintendent