



## SAN BENITO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

2301 TECHNOLOGY PKWY  
PHONE: 831-636-4080

HOLLISTER, CALIFORNIA 95023  
FAX: 831-636-1416

**DARREN THOMPSON**  
SHERIFF-CORONER

October 09, 2019

RECEIVED  
Alfaro

OCT 18 2019

Superior Court of California  
County of San Benito

The Honorable Steven Sanders  
Presiding Judge  
Superior Court of California, County of San Benito  
450 Fourth Street  
Hollister, CA 95023-3833

Dear Judge Sanders:

Please find attached the San Benito County formal response to the Grand Jury Report for FY 2018-2019. The Sheriff's Office is responding at this time to reports addressing the Sheriff's Office Jail/ Corrections Division. This response fulfills Penal Code Section 933 that mandates a response to the Grand Jury Report within 60 days of the report.

Please extend our appreciation to the Grand Jury for their continued dedication and service to the community.

Sincerely,

Darren Thompson, Sheriff-Coroner

San Benito County Sheriff's Office

Attachment: San Benito County Sheriff's Office Responses.

Cc. County Counsel, County Administration

### MISSION STATEMENT

TO SERVE THE PUBLIC BY ESTABLISHING A PARTNERSHIP WITH THE COMMUNITY; TO PROTECT LIFE AND PROPERTY,  
PREVENT CRIME AND SOLVE PROBLEMS

Honorable Steven R. Sanders, Presiding Judge

San Benito County Superior Court

450 Fourth Street

Hollister, CA 95023

October 9, 2019

This attachment contains the Findings and Recommendations of the San Benito County Grand Jury pertaining to the Sheriff's Office Jail/Corrections Division for fiscal year 2018-2019, and the Sheriff's responses to those Findings and Recommendations.

**Grand Jury Findings:**

*F1) The central air conditioning system is not adequate to maintain a safe temperature for the inmates during hot weather.*

We disagree partially with Finding 1. We strongly agree the air conditioning system is inefficient at sustaining comfortable temperature, but we do not agree the temperature is unsafe absent additional evidence.

*F2) The kitchen is not being used to full capacity. The plumbing under the kitchen floor is clogged and the sewer backs up into the kitchen drains. As a result all food preparation is contracted with an outside source.*

We disagree with Finding 2 because as of October 1, 2019, repairs have been made to the plumbing and food is now being prepared in the jail kitchen

*F3) The Jail only has part-time mental and physical health services, sometimes resulting in a waiting period for inmates to get help.*

We agree partially with Finding 3. Our medical nurse is there eight hours per day, seven days per week. Our Behavioral Health services are available at all times, but not housed within the jail. Urgent situations are addressed by a transport to our local hospital. Non-urgent situations do often result in reasonable wait times of less than 24 hours.



**Grand Jury Recommendations:**

*R1) The County should apply for grants and/or the San Benito County Board of Supervisors should allocate funds for needed repairs to the central air conditioning system, so that it will maintain a safe temperature for the inmates during hot weather.*

Response to R1) This recommendation has not yet been implemented. The Sheriff's Office fully supports this recommendation. It is our understanding the County Resource Management Agency – Public Works Department has budgeted \$500,000 in their Capital Improvement Project Budget for FY19/20 to put towards air conditioning in the jail. We hope the County is able to make the repairs prior to summer 2020.

*R2) The San Benito Board of Supervisors should allocate money to fix the plumbing to make the kitchen useable.*

Response to R2) The recommendation was for the San Benito County Board of Supervisors to allocate money for these repairs. These repairs have already been completed and no allocation is necessary.

On October 1st 2019, our newly acquired contract service provider, TRINITY/KEEFE , began preparing fresh food in the kitchen for the jail and juvenile hall inmates. The kitchen at the San Benito County Sheriff's Jail had not been operable in over sixteen (16) years. During this time we contracted with a service provider who delivered pre-made food to the inmates.

In addition to the benefits of fresher food, TRINITY/KEEFE also provides a ServSafe Program for our inmates. This valuable program will both ensure the safety of the food served to our inmates, and provide departing inmates with a certificate of safe food handling practices, which may open employment opportunities outside of custody.

The San Benito County Community Corrections Partnership funded the kitchen repairs (\$132,000) to bring the ServSafe program opportunity to our inmates. We are very pleased to have received this funding, and commend their vision for practical programming.

*R3) The County should obtain additional mental and physical health services in the County Jail, to fill the needs of the inmates.*

Response to R3) Recommendation 3 is in the process of being implemented at this time. In recent months we have increased our contract for services with Wellpath to include eight additional daily hours of on-site medical care, and 40 additional weekly hours of mental health care provided by a Licensed Clinical Social Worker. Those services will begin this fall. We agree there are efficiencies to be gained by increasing the presence of medical and mental health care professionals within our jail, and we are supportive of this recommendation.

