

Grand Jury Report

REQUIRED RESPONSE FORM

Grand Jury Report Title : MENDOCINO COUNTY JAIL

Report Dated : July 14, 2022

Response Form Submitted By:

Mendocino County Board of Supervisors
501 Low Gap Road
Ukiah, CA 95482 (use address block as inserted on first page)

Response *MUST* be submitted, per Penal Code §933.05, no later than: October 12, 2022

I have reviewed the report and submit my responses to the FINDINGS portion of the report as follows:

- ☒ I (we) agree with the Findings numbered:
F4, F5, F6
- ☒ I (we) disagree wholly or partially with the Findings numbered below, and have *attached* a statement specifying any portion of the Finding that are disputed with an explanation of the reasons therefore.
F1, F2, F3

I have reviewed the report and submit my responses to the RECOMMENDATIONS portion of the report as follows:

- ☒ The following Recommendation(s) have been implemented and **attached, as required**, is a summary describing the implemented actions:
R1, R2, R3, R4
- ☐ The following Recommendation(s) have not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future; **attached, as required**, is a time frame for implementation:

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- ☐ The following Recommendation(s) require further analysis, and **attached, as required**, is an explanation and the scope and parameters of the planned analysis, and a time frame for the matter to be prepared, discussed and approved by the officer and/or director of the agency or department being investigated or reviewed: (This time frame shall not exceed six (6) months from the date of publication of the Grand Jury Report)
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- ☐ The following Recommendations will NOT be implemented because they are not warranted and/or are not deemed reasonable; **attached, as required**, is an explanation therefore:
-

I have completed the above responses, and have attached, as required the following number of pages to this response form:

Number of Pages attached: 3

I understand that responses to Grand Jury Reports are public records. They will be posted on the Grand Jury website: www.mendocinocounty.org/government/grand-jury. The clerk of the responding agency is required to maintain a copy of the response.

I understand that I must submit this signed response form and any attachments as follows:

First Step: E-mail in pdf file format to:

- The Grand Jury Foreperson at: grandjury@mendocinocounty.org
- The Presiding Judge: grandjury@mendocino.courts.ca.gov

Second Step: Mail all originals to:

Mendocino County Grand Jury
P.O. Box 939
Ukiah, CA 95482

Printed Name: Glenn McGourty

Title: Chair, Board of Supervisors

Signed: 

Date: July 11, 2023

**MENDOCINO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS' SUPPLEMENTAL RESPONSE
TO GRAND JURY REPORT TITLED:**

MENDOCINO COUNTY JAIL

Discussion

The Board of Supervisors welcomes this opportunity to respond to the Grand Jury report titled "Mendocino County Jail". Current Grand Jury procedures state: "findings are the conclusions or judgements that logically flow from the verified facts." In that regard, the Board of Supervisors encourages the Grand Jury to focus on verified facts and avoid unsubstantiated opinions that tend to inflame instead of inform discussion of this critical issue.

Pursuant to the request of the Grand Jury, the Board is responding to the following:

- F1. In addition to ADA violations, uneven and dangerous sidewalks on the jail campus expose the County to potential liabilities.

The respondent partially agrees with the finding. At the time of the Grand Jury's investigation, the sidewalks were in an uneven condition that exposed the County to liability. The sidewalks have since been repaired.

- F2. Unfilled positions of maintenance employees within FFD directly contribute to the deferred maintenance on the jail campus.

The respondent partially agrees with the finding. A lack of fiscal resources also contributes to deferred maintenance issues.

- F3. A fully staffed maintenance crew would allow a dedicated worker to focus on the jail.

The respondent partially agrees with the finding. In the last fiscal year 2021-2022, FFD spent 5,003 hours working in the jail. This converts to 2.4 full-time equivalent employees.

This position in GSA is on a rotational basis in order to ensure adequate cross training and backup as to ensure reliable coverage even in the event of turnover within FFD.

- F4. The vacant, dilapidated prefabricated structure on the jail campus continues to deteriorate and is unsafe. Delaying the removal will increase the cost over time.

The respondent agrees with the finding. Access has been restricted to this area and the structure will be removed.

- F5. Due to staff shortages, COs are currently scheduled to work a 60-hour week.

This practice questions safety and efficiency which contribute to officer burnout.

The respondent agrees with the finding.

- F6. Establishing recruitment and retention incentives would aid in hiring and retaining COs.

The respondent agrees with the finding.

Response to Recommendations:

- R1. The BOS ensure that jail maintenance work orders with liability issues for the County be given priority. (F1-F4)

The recommendation has been implemented. This is a standard procedure in the FFD. Prioritization of work orders with liability issues are considered and responded to as quickly as possible.

- R2. The BOS protect County assets by maintaining a fully staffed FFD maintenance crew, which will allow a dedicated worker for the jail. (F1-F3)

The recommendation has been implemented. For at least the last 15 years, at least one FTE FFD maintenance worker has been the standard practice. In the last fiscal year 2021-2022, FFD spent 5,003 hours working in the jail. This converts to 2.4 Full Time Equivalent employees.

- R3. The BOS authorize and fund immediate removal of the dilapidated prefabricated structure on the jail campus. (F4)

The recommendation has been implemented. The removal of the structure has dedicated funding thru ARPA funds and the structure will be removed within the 2022-2023 fiscal year.

- R4. The BOS, as a priority, develop strategies and financial incentives to facilitate hiring and retention of COs for the jail. (F5, F6)

~~This recommendation requires further analysis. The hiring and retention of COs for the jail is of concern and focus. The Sheriff's Office has been actively recruiting with employment fairs in Ukiah, Willits, and Fort Bragg. Recruitment has been ongoing. Financial incentives could be considered as part of negotiations with the Deputy Sheriffs' Association.~~

This recommendation has been implemented as of December, 2022. Human Resources continues to work with the Sheriff's Office to implement the following:

- Out of area exams held at San Joaquin Valley College in Modesto.
- Civil Service rules examined.

- Online testing options rather than hard copy.
- Human Resources and Sheriff's Office attended job fairs and local recruitment sessions were conducted.
- Continuous recruitments are ongoing.
- Board of Supervisors was advised on the County's financial compensation package in closed session and negotiations were settled.