

**Stanislaus County Correctional Facilities Inspection  
Grand Jury Case No. 03-25-AP  
2002-2003**

**REASON FOR INVESTIGATION**

As mandated by Penal Code Section 919 (b), "The Grand Jury shall inquire into the condition and management of the public prisons within the county."

**BACKGROUND**

Stanislaus County Men's Jail located at 1115 H Street, Modesto, CA

The Men's Jail is a maximum-security facility built in 1955. There are three floors, a basement and a roof exercise area. The maximum capacity of the Men's Jail is 396 inmates, and the daily average for 2002 was 371. The inmate population varies from day to day.

**PROCEDURES FOLLOWED**

1. The Civil Grand Jury made an announced inspection on September 30, 2002.
2. Unannounced inspections were made on February 3, 2003 and March 3, 2003.
3. The Civil Grand Jury interviewed several staff members.
4. In addition to inmate housing, the jail provides:
  - a. A secure medical treatment area staffed by California Forensic Medical Group (CFMG) twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week.
  - b. A kitchen facility that receives and processes meals sent from the central kitchen at the Public Safety Center.
  - c. A non-contact visitors room.
  - d. A booking area that includes holding cells and a suicide watch cell for detainees not yet processed.
  - e. An updated law library made available to all inmates upon request.
  - f. Other books are available to inmates.
  - g. An inmate commissary.
  - h. Dental facilities.

**FINDINGS**

1. Maintenance issues are reported to and handled by Stanislaus County Public Works.

2. A secure tunnel runs from the basement of the jail to the basement of the Stanislaus County Superior Court building, which houses a holding cell. Inmates scheduled for a court appearance are transferred through this tunnel. Inmates are held in the holding cell until called into the courtroom.
3. The Men's Jail is an aged building requiring continual repairs to maintain safety.
4. Inmates have use of televisions.
5. Public Health Department does some health training.
6. There is a secure staffed infirmary on site. A two-bed cell is used for crisis cases, but housed the same inmate for more than one and a half years.

## **CONCLUSIONS**

1. All staff members do an acceptable job of performing their tasks within the confines of an aging facility.
2. The jail infirmary was designed as an acute care facility.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. Use existing televisions for educational purposes on a regular basis.
2. Provide regularly scheduled ongoing training including classes on prevention of sexually transmitted diseases, drug and alcohol addiction, anger management and job seeking skills.
3. Limit two-bed infirmary to acute care.
4. Investigate the need for a chronic care facility.

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**BACKGROUND**

Stanislaus County Public Safety Center located at 200 East Hackett Road, Modesto, CA.

The Public Safety Center, built in 1992, is a "direct supervision facility" with minimum to maximum-security female inmates and medium to maximum security for male inmates. The maximum capacity is 542, and the daily average for 2002 was 494.

**PROCEDURES FOLLOWED**

1. The Civil Grand Jury made an announced inspection on September 30, 2002.
2. An unannounced inspection was made on February 3, 2003.
3. The Civil Grand Jury interviewed various staff members.

**FINDINGS**

1. In addition to inmate housing the Public Safety Center provides:
  - a. A secure medical treatment area staffed by CFMG 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
  - b. An updated law library made available to all inmates upon request.
  - c. Non-contact visitor rooms.
  - d. A central laundry facility.
  - e. A central kitchen which prepares meals for:
    - (1) Men's Jail
    - (2) Public Safety Center
    - (3) Honor Farm
    - (4) Contracts to provide meals to Juvenile Hall and Amador County.
2. The kitchen is supervised by uniformed staff.
3. Processed food is sealed, "quick chilled" and moved to cold storage until needed.

4. Food meets guidelines for nutritional needs of inmates.
5. The Public Safety Center is not equipped for chronic medical care.
6. Kitchen noise level was high and not monitored.
7. Kitchen jobs are assigned without considering ergonomic rotation.

## **CONCLUSIONS**

1. The Public Safety Center is a modern facility with up to date equipment.
2. The staff at the Public Safety Center performs its duties in an adequate manner.
3. Kitchen workers may experience problems due to the high noise level.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. Investigate how to best provide for chronic care of adult inmates.
2. Ear protection should be provided in kitchen area.
3. Kitchen jobs should be rotated to prevent repetitious movement injuries.

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**BACKGROUND**

Stanislaus County Honor Farm located at 8224 West Grayson Road, Modesto, CA

The Honor Farm is a male-only, minimum-security facility

**PROCEDURES FOLLOWED**

The Civil Grand Jury made an announced inspection on September 30, 2002.

The Civil Grand Jury interviewed various staff members.

**FINDINGS**

1. The maximum capacity of the Honor Farm is 322, and the daily average for 2002 was 259.
2. In addition to inmate housing the Honor Farm provides:
  - a. A secure medical treatment area housed in a modular building and staffed by CFMG 24-hours a day, seven days a week.
  - b. An updated law library made available to all inmates upon request.
  - c. A modular building for use as a classroom and visitor's area.
  - d. A kitchen facility that receives and processes meals sent from the central kitchen.
  - e. A mess hall for inmate dining.
  - f. A commissary with supplies brought in weekly for inmates who earn purchasing privileges.
  - g. A large workshop for woodworking, welding, repairing vehicles and equipment and wide variety of other handyman projects maintained by inmates.
  - h. A greenhouse, with a variety of herbs, flowers and vegetables maintained by inmates. The central kitchen uses the harvest to prepare meals.

3. The following programs are made available to inmates:
  - a. General Equivalency Diploma (GED) classes.
  - b. Men in Recovery-substance-abuse programs.
  - c. Parenting classes
  - d. Transitional Road To After Custody Self-Sufficiency (TRACS)
  - e. Vocational training in small engine repair, landscaping, welding, painting, carpentry, and printing.
  - f. Work detail available only to sentenced inmates.
4. Inmates, with limited staff supervision, maintain the barracks and compound.
5. Due to the rural location of the Honor Farm, contraband of illegal drugs and cigarettes are thrown over the fence into the compound under the cover of darkness.

### **CONCLUSIONS**

1. The staff at the Honor Farm manages an aging facility.
2. Contraband is a problem at the Honor Farm with exposure to the outside world through the Work Detail program and contact visits with friends and family.
3. Inadequate perimeter lighting.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. Improve perimeter lighting to deter the flow of contraband into the facility.

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**BACKGROUND**

Stanislaus County Juvenile Hall located at 2215 Blue Gum Avenue, Modesto, CA.

Juvenile Hall is a secure detention facility that houses both male and female juveniles.

**PROCEDURES FOLLOWED**

1. The Civil Grand Jury made announced inspections on September 30, 2002, January 6 2003, and January 16, 2003.
2. The Civil Grand Jury interviewed various staff members.

**FINDINGS**

1. The Stanislaus County Probation Department is responsible for the administration of Juvenile Hall.
2. Juvenile Hall has been bed-rated for 118 beds throughout calendar year 2002. The average population for inmates in 2002 are as follows:
  - a. January – 96
  - b. February – 98
  - c. March – 123
  - d. April – 116
  - e. May – 119
  - f. June – 123
  - g. July – 114
  - h. August – 119
  - i. September – 127
  - j. October – 136
  - k. November – 130
  - l. December - 119
3. Each juvenile is required to attend on-site classes.

4. The Stanislaus County Department of Education provides on-site instruction and Modesto Junior College also offers televised classes for students who have completed high school or have equivalency certificates.
5. Samples of programs made available to juveniles:
  - a. Substances Abuse Counseling.
  - b. Anger Management.
  - c. Boys to Men.
  - d. Gang Awareness and Prevention.
  - e. Communicable Disease Awareness and Prevention.
  - f. Teen Pregnancy Prevention.
  - g. Victim Awareness.
6. The "Six Pillars of Character," a program designed to promote self-esteem and self worth, is actively promoted and integrated into all activities. Character blocks include trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring and citizenship.
7. A secure medical treatment area is maintained and staffed by CFMG seven days a week from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. A physician is on call 24 hours a day.
8. Every juvenile receives a medical examination within 48 hours of booking. This exceeds the state requirement of examination within 72 hours. A thorough physical is completed once a year.
9. Every minor admitted to Juvenile Hall is also given a mental health evaluation for the purpose of identifying suicide risks.
10. Nutrition and physical exercise are part of the daily routine.
11. Booking, fingerprinting, interview room and clerical staff presently are located in one large, open area.
12. An expansion of the facility was in progress.

## **CONCLUSIONS**

1. The staff appears to be sensitive to the special needs of its charges.
2. The programs at the facility offer youths the tools to be successful upon their return to society and to diminish recidivism.
3. During the last calendar year there were not enough beds for all inmates.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. Complete and open the new wing with all deliberate speed.

**Stanislaus County Coroner Facilities Inspection  
Grand Jury Case No. 03-25-AP  
2002-2003**

**REASON FOR INVESTIGATION**

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***Penal Code 928***

Every grand jury may investigate and report upon the needs of all county officers in the county, including the abolition or creation of offices and the equipment for, or the method or system of performing the duties of, the several offices. Such investigation and report shall be conducted selectively each year.

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**BACKGROUND**

Stanislaus County Coroner's Facility located at 939 Oakdale Road, Modesto, CA.

The Coroner's building was erected in 1979.

**PROCEDURES FOLLOWED**

1. The Civil Grand Jury made an announced inspection on October 21, 2002.
2. The Civil Grand Jury interviewed various staff members.

**FINDINGS**

1. In 2002, it handled an average of 210 reported cases per month.
2. The Pathologist autopsies an average of 52 of those reported cases per month.
3. The Coroner/Public Administrator's Office currently has eight full-time positions with benefits.
4. The Forensic Pathologist position is contracted from Delta Pathology.
5. A single system (HVAC) heats, ventilates and cools the autopsy room and offices. Odors from the autopsy room circulate throughout the entire building.

**CONCLUSIONS**

1. Lab odors in the office area and waiting room are unacceptable.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. Upgrade the HVAC system to two separate units
  - a. one for the autopsy room
  - b. one for the office.