

Stanislaus County Detention Facilities Report
Grand Jury Case No. 04-46
2003-2004

REASON FOR INVESTIGATION

California Penal Code Section 919 (b) mandates that the Civil Grand Jury shall inquire into the condition and management of the public prisons within the County.

BACKGROUND

1. The Stanislaus County Honor Farm is located at 8224 West Grayson Road, Modesto, CA. The Honor Farm is a male only, minimum security facility.
2. The Stanislaus County Juvenile Hall is located at 2215 Blue Gum Avenue, Modesto, CA. The Juvenile Hall houses both males and females.
3. The Stanislaus County Men's Jail is located at 1115 H Street, Modesto, CA. The Men's Jail is a maximum security facility built in 1955. It has 3 floors and a rooftop exercise area.
4. The Stanislaus County Public Safety Center is located at 200 East Hackett Road, Modesto, CA. The Public Safety Center was built in 1992, and houses minimum to maximum security female inmates, and medium to maximum security male inmates. The maximum capacity is 542 inmates.

PROCEDURES FOLLOWED

1. Stanislaus County Honor Farm.
 - A. An announced inspection of the facility was made on December 8, 2003.
 - B. The Civil Grand Jury interviewed staff of the Honor Farm.
2. Stanislaus County Juvenile Hall.
 - A. An announced inspection of the facility was made on December 8, 2003.
 - B. The Civil Grand Jury interviewed staff of the Juvenile Hall.
3. Stanislaus County Men's Jail.
 - A. The Civil Grand Jury made an announced inspection on December 15, 2003.
 - B. The Civil Grand Jury made an unannounced follow up inspection on December 29, 2003.
 - C. The Civil Grand Jury interviewed staff of the Men's Jail.

4. Stanislaus County Public Safety Center.

- A. The Civil Grand Jury made an announced inspection on December 15, 2003.
- B. The Civil Grand Jury interviewed staff of The Public Safety Center.
- C. The Civil Grand Jury ate lunch and inspected the kitchen facility.

FINDINGS

1. Stanislaus County Honor Farm.

- A. The Honor Farm as a compound consists of buildings that house the inmates and provide skills training and maintenance, as well as an activities yard.
- B. In addition to housing, the Honor Farm provides:
 - 1. California Forensic Medical Group (CFMG) onsite health services 24 hours a day 7 days a week.
 - 2. Wood, Metal, and Machine shops to give the inmates skills, take care of facility needs, and provide toys for underprivileged children.
 - 3. A law library, which is available upon request to all inmates.
 - 4. A classroom / visitor's center.
- C. The Honor Farm offers the following programs:
 - 1. Substance abuse programs.
 - 2. General Equivalency Diploma (GED) classes.
 - 3. Parenting classes.
- D. Inmates are responsible for the maintenance of the facility and barracks.
- E. Cigarettes and illegal drugs are a problem because of the rural setting allowing for contraband to be thrown into the activities yard and surrounding area.
- F. The nearby river has caused some erosion of the land beneath the Honor Farm, and action has been taken to combat this.

2. Stanislaus County Juvenile Hall.

- A. The Juvenile Hall has 122 beds, but the actual population may run higher than this due to fluctuations in booking levels.
- B. During 2001-2002 the Juvenile Hall had 118 days where the population exceeded the amount of beds.
- C. The Juvenile Hall offers several programs to the inmate population:

1. California Forensic Medical Group (CMFG) provides health services 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
 2. Minors are required to participate in 240 minutes of education five days per week.
 3. Mental health assessment and care.
 4. Social skills education.
 5. Moral reasoning training.
 6. Anger Control Training.
 7. Custody to Campus, which helps minors work towards completing high school and taking college courses.
 8. Victim Awareness Program is an 8-12 week program that teaches juveniles about the impact of crime from the victim's viewpoint.
 9. Boys to Men is a 10-week course intended to motivate minors into positive thinking and future planning.
- D. A typical 15-year-old entering the Juvenile Hall tests 2-5 years behind their grade level in math and English assessment.
- E. Within the facility there are between 30-35 juveniles that are taking psychotropic medication for mental disorders at any one time.
3. Stanislaus County Men's Jail.
- A. During the initial inspection of the Men's Jail the Civil Grand Jury was denied access to portions of the prison housing high profile inmates.
 - B. During the unannounced inspection, the Civil Grand Jury was allowed to view the previously denied areas.
 - C. After this incident the Civil Grand Jury was issued an official apology.
 - D. The Men's Jail appeared tidy, but there was an odor in many areas of the facility.
 - E. There is a no contact visitation room.
 - F. There is a law library available to inmates upon request.

- G. California Forensic Medical Group (CFMG) provides health services 24-hours a day 7 days a week.
 - H. There is a tunnel that runs from the Men's Jail to the Superior Court Building that is only accessible from the 2 buildings.
 - I. There are televisions available for the inmates to view.
 - J. There are telephones available to the inmates.
4. Stanislaus County Public Safety Center.
- A. There is a no contact visitation room.
 - B. There is a law library available to inmates upon request.
 - C. California Forensic Medical Group (CFMG) provides health services 24 hours a day 7 days a week.
 - D. There is a central kitchen which prepares meals for detention facilities within Stanislaus County as well as other Counties.
 - E. There is a central laundry facility which services detention facilities within Stanislaus County as well as other Counties.
 - F. The food production facility is not operating at full capacity.

CONCLUSIONS

1. Stanislaus County Honor Farm.
- A. The Honor Farm is an aging facility.
 - B. The erosion of land beneath the facility is a major concern and must be addressed in a timely manner to avoid serious consequences.
 - C. Contraband remains a problem at the Honor Farm because of the security level and its rural location.
2. Stanislaus County Juvenile Hall.
- A. There is an overcrowding problem at the Juvenile Hall. For nearly half the year the Juvenile Hall was above capacity.
 - B. The programs offered at the Juvenile Hall provide the tools for minors to be productive upon their release.

3. Stanislaus County Men's Jail.
 - A. The Men's Jail is an aging facility in need of refurbishment or replacement.
 - B. Jail supervisory staff is not properly trained on procedure involving the Civil Grand Jury.
4. Stanislaus County Public Safety Center.
 - A. The Public Safety Center is a modern facility with up to date equipment.
 - B. The facility has the capacity to prepare and provide food to detention centers that it currently does not service.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Stanislaus County Honor Farm.
 - A. Regularly monitor the state of land erosion beneath the facility and take appropriate action to combat it.
 - B. The proximity of the activities yard to the public access areas allows for cigarettes and other contraband to be thrown in. Moving the yard or providing some structure such as a wall would help to stop this.
2. Stanislaus County Juvenile Hall.
 - A. Expand the facility to meet the needs of the County.
3. Stanislaus County Men's Jail.
 - A. Communicate policies and procedures regarding Civil Grand Jury visits to supervisory staff of the Men's Jail.
 - B. The County should look at renovation or replacement of the facility.
4. Stanislaus County Public Safety Center.
 - A. The County should look into expanding the food preparation of the facility into areas not currently serviced, as a means of generating revenue.