



OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
JACKSON COUNTY, OREGON

MARK HUDDLESTON
DISTRICT ATTORNEY
CRIMINAL DIVISION

February 18, 2010

Sheriff Mike Winters
Jackson County Sheriff's Office
787 West 8th Street
Medford, OR 97501

Shane Hagey
Jackson County Community Justice
1101 West Main Street
Medford, OR 97501

Re: 2009 corrections grand jury report

Gentlemen:

As you know, the 2009 Jackson County grand jury has recently completed an extensive inspection of the adult and juvenile correctional facilities within the county. The grand jury also toured and reported on the Community Justice Transition Center in Talent. The final report of the grand jury is attached. The report contains the findings of the grand jury, along with their specific recommendations and the responses which were prepared by the Sheriff's Office and Community Justice. The grand jury also made specific recommendations for future special corrections grand juries. I consider those recommendations to be agreed to and completed.

As has been the case with previous corrections grand jury reports, the 2009 grand jury noted that the current jail, built in 1981, is now too small to meet current facility demand. The grand jury reported that they were very impressed with the professionalism and commitment to service of the jail and juvenile detention staff. The overall condition of the jail was described as clean and adequate. The juvenile detention center was noted to be modern, clean and easily monitored. The grand jury made seven recommendations relevant to the jail and two each with regard to the juvenile detention center and the transition center.

This report is a public record and you are free to make whatever use of it that you deem appropriate. As I have done in previous years, I am forwarding copies of the report to the Board of Commissioners, the County Administrative Officer and the Presiding Judge. I will also post a copy to the District Attorney's site on Jackson County On Line.

Thank you both for your cooperation and that of your staff members in facilitating the grand jury's inquiry.

Sincerely,

Mark Huddleston
District Attorney

cc: Board of Commissioners
Danny Jordan
Judge Philip Arnold



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MARK HUDDLESTON
DISTRICT ATTORNEY
CRIMINAL DIVISION

**THE CONDITION AND MANAGEMENT
OF
CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES
WITHIN
JACKSON COUNTY, OREGON**

By

Special Corrections Grand Jury

2009

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I. EXECUTIVE REVIEW

The 2009 Special Corrections Grand Jury inspected the Jackson County Jail, Jackson County Juvenile Detention and Shelter Facility, and the Community Justice Work Center. Our recommendations include:

1. Jail staffing levels
2. Jail staff training support
3. Jail Sally Port remodel
4. Jail information systems
5. Interagency communications regarding Jail inmate medications
6. Jail kite/message system
7. Jail inmate recreation
8. Juvenile facility teaching staff levels
9. Juvenile facility gymnasium roof repair
10. Work Center kitchen facilities

II. INTRODUCTION

Oregon Revised Statutes requires that at least once yearly, a grand jury shall inquire into the condition and management of every correctional facility and youth correction facility in the county. On January 4, 2010, four grand juries were sworn in to serve through February 26, 2010. Three juries were assigned to hear criminal cases presented by the District Attorney's office; on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. The fourth jury was assigned to meet on Fridays beginning January 8, 2010 to inquire into the condition and management of the correctional facilities within Jackson County. In this report, the Friday jury will be referred to as the Special Corrections Grand Jury, or simply, the grand jury.

Two correctional facilities are operated within Jackson County. The jail facility is under the supervision of the county sheriff. The Juvenile Detention Facility (JDF) is operated by Jackson County Community Justice. This report details the examination of the facilities and operations of each of these agencies and includes recommendations.

In addition to fulfilling its statutory duties, the jury requested to tour the facility and operation of the Community Justice Work Center. This request was outside the statutory authority of the jury, and this request was granted.

The jury elected to begin its inquiry by receiving testimony on Friday, January 8, 2010 from District Attorney Mark Huddleston, Community Justice Deputy Director John

Watson, Corrections Sgt. Christine Dismukes, and Corrections Sgt. Dan Penland. On Friday, January 15, 2010 the jury toured, and ate lunch at, the main jail facility in Medford. After lunch, the Juvenile Detention Facility was toured, including the shelter. The tour concluded at the Community Justice Work Center in Talent.

The jury received testimony on Friday, January 22, 2010 from a male prisoner as well as a female prisoner, Jail Nurse Lori Braughton, Corrections Deputy Randy Pollard, Mental Health Specialist Dennis McNamara, and Public Defender Peter Gorn.

In total, thirteen witnesses were called before the grand jury, representing a wide range of individuals whose lives and careers are affected by the operation of correctional facilities in our community. The observations, conclusions and recommendations of this report are based upon the testimony of these witnesses, from the facts and figures they provided, and from observations of the grand jury as it toured the county's correctional facilities.

III. OPERATION OF THE JACKSON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE CORRECTIONAL FACILITY (THE JAIL)

The Jackson County Sheriff's Office (JCSO) operates one of the larger corrections departments in the state. Jackson County has the fifth largest jail population of all Oregon sheriff's offices. The Jackson County jail has a bed space of 291. Due to staffing limitations, the Sheriff's Office has placed a self-imposed cap of 230 inmates. There are currently 40 full-time deputies employed in the jail (6 females, 34 males), six sergeants and one Lieutenant who is the jail commander. The Jail Commander position is currently vacant. There are currently eight openings in the division. Four of these positions will be held as "female" positions. All operations in the facility are under the direct supervision of the sheriff, with the exception of prisoner health care and mental health assessments. A contractor, ConMed, provides health care for the prisoner population as well as mental health assessments and counseling.

A. INMATE CLASSIFICATION

Inmates are classified by the level of security they require (minimum, medium, maximum, or special management). A point system is used to assess an inmate's risk level based on past criminal and institutional disciplinary history.

B. JACKSON COUNTY JAIL

The Jackson County Jail is a medium-security, linear design, indirect supervision facility. The jail has housing units capable of holding adult male and female prisoners, as well as juveniles in exceptional circumstances. The jail has a medical unit that treats trauma and chronic health issues, but is incapable of providing constant care. If a prisoner is in need of constant care, the prisoner must be moved into a medical or nursing facility with a Corrections Deputy posted as a guard.

The jail has both an indoor recreational room and an outdoor area surrounded by cement and wire mesh that inmates have access to for at least 2 hours per week. During inclement weather the inmates do not have to the outdoor area. They also have access to library books, law library, visiting facilities, commissary, and attorney rooms. Telephones are provided in the day room for personal collect calls, and also in the indoor recreation room for direct calls to attorney's offices. Inmates are provided the opportunity for weekly non-denominational religious services. Clergy members of the inmates particular religion are permitted to visit upon approval. Mental Health services are also available upon request.

Persons entering the Jackson County Jail go through an extensive screening process to determine mental health issues, substance abuse issues, prescription medication usage, and the level of security required. Persons who are under the influence of substances and/or are mentally challenged are housed in individual cells or kept in the intake area in holding or detoxification cells. This population is most at risk for suicide and requires closer observation. They are placed on fifteen (15) minute checks as opposed to the normal hourly checks of the general population.

IV. GRAND JURY OBSERVATIONS OF THE JACKSON COUNTY JAIL

The grand jury was very impressed with the professionalism and commitment to service of all the staff that we observed and interviewed. Their ability to perform their duties, given the restrictions of space and design, under-staffing, and severe technological limitations, was commendable. As the facility was toured, the grand jury found the overall condition of the jail to be clean and adequate.

From the records area, the grand jury entered and observed the Sally Port, which is the area where the officers first arrive with the prisoners for processing. Next, we observed the booking area where prisoners enter the facility for initial processing, including medical screening, security assessment, and prisoner clothing issuance. The booking area consists of holding cells, a finger printing room, restraint chairs, personal lockers, and a window with access to the records department.

From there, the grand jury toured the holding and Detox/Suicide cells outside the booking area followed by the female detention area consisting of cells, day rooms, showers, and solitary confinement units.

From there, the grand jury toured the visiting area, attorney rooms, and release area. Each attorney room contains a table, two chairs and a telephone that the attorneys use to alert deputies when they are finished consulting with clients or if they are in need of immediate assistance.

The grand jury then visited the laundry room where trustees were washing the inmates' laundry.

The grand jury then toured the male inmate tier areas, which included the dorm areas and the outdoor recreation area, law library, library, health clinic, and kitchen.

ARAMARK Inc. provides meals for the Jackson County Jail, Juvenile Detention Center and Shelter, and Community Justice Work Center. We were served a nutritionally adequate lunch by the trustees in the kitchen and proceeded to the multi-purpose room to eat.

The grand jury observed that the jail is in good condition for its age (30 years old) but saw the need for additional housing units.

V. GRAND JURY OBSERVATIONS OF THE JUVENILE DETENTION FACILITY AND SHELTER

The grand jury was very impressed with the professionalism and commitment to service of all the staff that we observed and interviewed. Jackson County Community Justice operates the Juvenile Detention Facility. The current facility was built in 2004 and also houses a 15 bed shelter. The facility is used for the detention of juveniles awaiting disposition on pending charges and/or probation violations by the juvenile court system (pre-adjudicatory). The ages of the juveniles range from 12-18 (in certain cases up to age 25). The facility is used for housing, year-round school program, recreation and medical services. The detention facility has bed space for 55 juveniles in individual rooms in two separate pods.

The jury finds that the Juvenile Detention Center is modern, clean, and easily monitored. The furniture is comfortable and functional. The classrooms are brightly lit with colorful photos and artwork. The teachers appear motivated to provide a positive and individualized educational experience.

The Juvenile Detention Center recently increased the amount of cameras from 77 to 130 and they are digital and can record up to six weeks. They used to only monitor suicide rooms and now they are able to monitor all rooms.

The grand jury observed that the ceiling in the gym area was finished but appears to have some water damage/leakage.

VI. GRAND JURY OBSERVATIONS OF THE COMMUNITY JUSTICE WORK CENTER

In the interest of doing a complete and thorough review, the Grand Jury decided to tour the Community Justice Work Center (CJWC) in Talent. The facility may be described as

a transition center from jail to the community. The building was formerly a jail, but does not currently operate as a lock-down facility. Residents are under direct visual observation. Residents are not restrained and are allowed to leave the program at any time with the understanding that a premature departure will result in a warrant being issued for their arrest.

Residents who are sanctioned to the CJWC by their probation officers may keep their jobs if they are already employed. Residents who are transferred from the jail go through work restitution, formerly known as community service.

Programs at the work center include required daily counseling classes and optional Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous meetings. Life skill classes, continuing education classes, and job skill training are on-going.

VII. GRAND JURY RECOMMENDATIONS

The affected agency/department should respond to the recommendations in the following format. This written response then becomes part of the grand jury report.

A. Agreed and completed. The agency/department affected agrees with and has implemented the recommendation.

B. Partial Agreement and completed. There is partial agreement, which has been completed, and partial rejection. Reasons for and details of this action are solicited.

C. Disagreed and rejected. Reasons for rejection are solicited.

D. Agreed but unable to implement at this time. Reasons for unable to implement are solicited.

E. Unanswered. The agency or department has not responded to the recommendation.

F. Pending. Partial or full acceptance has occurred but implementation is either incomplete or has yet to be initiated.

After a careful and thorough review, the grand jury makes the following recommendations:

A. Regarding Operation of the Jackson County Jail:

The Jackson County Jail was built in 1981 and is now too small to meet current facility demand. Although the jail was originally designed with the potential of adding two additional floors of inmate housing, subsequent changes in building codes and earthquake proofing requirements preclude this option. Other expansion options at the current location are limited. Given the current economy the grand jury realizes that the construction of a new jail is out of the question. We have the following recommendations for the jail at its current location.

1. It was apparent to the grand jury that the Jackson County Jail is understaffed. We highly recommend increasing staff levels (particularly female deputies and swing/graveyard shifts).
2. Support Deputy Pollard's recommendations regarding additional evaluations by initial Field Training Officer during and beyond the one-year probationary period to lengthen training support.
3. The grand jury recognizes that the jail is in need of an expanded receiving vestibule aka Sally-Port area. The grand jury recommends that the current Sally-Port area be remodeled into a larger, horse-shoe shaped receiving vestibule.
4. The grand jury recommends a thorough review of information systems throughout the jail. The grand jury recommends that all files and forms be converted to digital format and allow for compatible statewide coding procedures as soon as possible. If funding does not allow converting old files to digital format, the jury recommends beginning the digital process, for future files, as soon as possible. Relocate non-essential paper files to an off-site location or a secure, on-site storage container.
5. The grand jury strongly recommends improving communication and establishing a process between the Public Defender, the Medical Director, and the jail nursing staff regarding inmates medications.
6. The grand jury recommends ongoing review of the prisoner kite/message system in order to continually improve the system.
7. The grand jury recommends that inmates in the jail are provided access to the open air recreation area year-round. We also recommend that the basketball hoops are re-installed and instead of playing basketball inmates can play games (such as horse) that minimize injuries. Lastly, we recommend that fewer inmates use the facility at one time in order to lessen aggressions/injuries.

B. Regarding the Operation of the Juvenile Detention Facility and Shelter:

1. The jury found that the operation of the Center is exemplary. However, it was apparent to the grand jury that the classroom is understaffed, especially given the individual attention to each student that is required. We highly recommend adding one teacher.
2. The grand jury recommends that the roof in the gymnasium be repaired.

C. Regarding the Operation of the Community Justice Work Center:

1. The grand jury recognizes the value of on-going rehabilitation services and recommends continued support for the staff in this endeavor.
2. The grand jury observed that the kitchen facilities at the Work Center are not being used. We recommend that these facilities be removed for additional room for housing or training. Perhaps some of this kitchen equipment could be utilized at the Jail facility instead.

VIII. ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The grand jury acknowledges the professional courtesy and cooperation we received from all agency managers, staff and witnesses we interviewed during this inquiry. We appreciate District Attorney Mark Huddleston's help and guidance throughout this process.

IX. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE SPECIAL CORRECTIONS GRAND JURY

1. The Jackson County Circuit Court should continue to convene a *Special Corrections Grand Jury* to conduct the inquiry. Future special corrections grand juries should continue calling and swearing in witnesses, taking testimony and issuing a thorough report. By such actions, we can ensure the continued integrity of the correctional system.
2. The Grand Jury should be allowed free access at all reasonable times to the correctional facilities and juvenile facilities in Jackson County. The Grand jury should be consulted as to the day, hour and length of time necessary to conduct their inquiry.
3. Future Special Corrections Grand Juries should have available the past five years of reports prior to the tour of any facility and the response from the affected agency/department.
4. Future Special Corrections Grand Juries should have as their first witness the county's trained inspector for the Oregon Jail Standards program. The grand jury believes that an overview of how the trained inspectors conduct their facility review would provide essential background to the grand jury on how to format and conduct their own inspection.
5. Future Special Corrections Grand Juries should continue to be allowed to interview a male and a female prisoner in order to gain perspective on the jail facilities. Also, the grand jury recommends that all requested and scheduled witnesses be interviewed in the grand jury room to ensure confidentiality and forthright testimony.

6. The Corrections Grand Jury requests responses to our recommendations.

X. WITNESSES

1. Mark Huddleston - Jackson County District Attorney
2. John Watson – Community Justice Deputy Director
3. Christine Dismukes – Corrections Sgt.
4. Dan Penland – Corrections Sgt.
5. Jean Nicholas – Program Manager, Community Justice Juvenile Detention Facility
6. Tim Brown – Supervisor, Aramark
7. Eric Guyer – Director, Community Work Center/Talent
8. M.P. (female prisoner)
9. M.T. (male prisoner)
10. Lori Braughton - Jail Nurse, ConMed
11. Randy Pollard - Deputy
12. Dennis McNamara - Mental Health Specialist, ConMed
13. Peter Gorn - Public Defender



MEMO

INTER - OFFICE

Sheriff's Office
Corrections Division

Christine Dismukes
Administrative Sergeant

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To: Mark Huddleston
From: Sgt. Dismukes
Subject: Grand Jury Response
Date: February 4, 2010

1. Staffing: Pending. We are continuing monthly testing to fill open positions in the agency. We have hired three people for the jail who will start on March 1, 2010. During our last testing, approximately fourteen people passed the testing phases and have moved to the screening questionnaire.
2. Field Training Officer evaluations: Partial Agreement. We are reviewing the current training manual and will look at adding additional during the probationary period. Evaluations are done by the shift sergeants after probation is completed.
3. Sallyport/booking remodel: Pending. The county is starting the bidding process for this project.
4. Information System: Agreed, but unable to implement, based on budgetary issues. Some paper logs are currently being digitally scanned and saved.

During a visit to Multnomah County Jail, I looked at their internal data management system, "KoVis". Once funding is again stabilized and our economic future brighter, this system may offer a viable option to paper management within our facility.

5. Medical communications: Agreed. Deferred to Con-Med Administrator Lori Braughton for viable options.
6. Kites: The recommendation is unclear. We are continuously looking at ways to improve communications between staff and inmates.
7. Recreation Facilities: Disagreed and Rejected. During the winter months, the outdoor recreation areas do not allow adequate protection against the cold, wet weather. In the summer months, when temperatures rise above ninety degrees, the recreation areas are not used due to lack of ventilation and drinking water. Inmates are taken to recreation, one cell block at a time. This eliminates classifications being mixed. Taking less than one cell block at a time would not allow adequate time to offer recreation to the entire facility twice a week. The removal of the basketball hoops have significantly reduces fights and injuries during recreation.



JACKSON COUNTY

Community Justice

**Community Justice
Transition Center**

Eric Guyer
Program Manager

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www.jacksoncounty.org

February 8, 2010

To the Special Corrections Grand Jury of Jackson County

RE: Grand Jury Recommendations

I would like to again commend you for your commitment to Jackson County and the safety of its residents. I am grateful for your recommendations and insight into the operations of the Community Justice Transition Center.

The Grand Jury recommended “that these facilities [unused kitchen facilities] be removed for additional room for housing or training. Perhaps some of this kitchen equipment could be utilized at the Jail Facility instead.”

Response F: Pending

The Grand Jury recommendation is important from two standpoints. One, the recommendation takes into account the scarcity of office and classroom space; and two the recommendation wisely identifies the value to the County of utilizing unused kitchen equipment at the jail. I will schedule a walk-through of the kitchen area with the Jackson County Facilities Superintendant to explore the viability of converting the kitchen area. Pending this assessment, the program will look to implement conversion as funds are available.

Sincerely,

Eric Guyer
Program Manager



JACKSON COUNTY

Community Justice

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February 18, 2010

RESPONSE TO RECOMMENDATIONS OF SPECIAL CORRECTIONS GRAND JURY REPORT OF 2009

A: The Grand Jury feels the staffing levels in the Detention classroom is understaffed, especially given the individual attention to each student that is required.. Their recommendation is that another teacher be added.

PARTIAL AGREEMENT AND COMPLETED

All teaching staff is provided through Medford School District. The number of teachers provided to us is based on the previous year's number of youth provided services while in detention. Our detention classroom has a teacher's assistant. The time the assistant is in the classroom has recently been increased from a half day to the full day (with the exception of the final hour of class). We have also have arranged to have a detention staff member present in the classroom any time a class is in session. This increase in staff presence will increase the individual assistance provided to the youth as well as increasing overall supervision of the classroom.

B. The grand jury recommends that the roof in the gymnasium is repaired.

PENDING

The gymnasium roof has been repaired. A request has been submitted to Facilities for the completion of the cosmetic repairs to improve the ceiling appearance.

Should the panel require more information or clarification, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Thank you for your commitment to ensuring good and appropriate services are provided to the youth we serve.

Sincerely,

Jean L. Nicholas
Program Manager