

***THE SUTTER COUNTY  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS'  
RESPONSE TO THE***

***2009-2010***

***SUTTER COUNTY GRAND JURY  
FINAL REPORT***



Larry Montna  
Stanley Cleveland, Jr.  
Larry Munger  
Jim Whiteaker  
James Gallagher

District No. 1  
District No. 2  
District No. 3  
District No. 4  
District No. 5

*County of Sutter*  
*Office of the County Administrator*

*...established 1850*

September 28, 2010

The Honorable Christopher R. Chandler  
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court of California  
County of Sutter  
466 Second Street  
Yuba City, CA 95991

Dear Judge Chandler,

On behalf of the Sutter County Board of Supervisors, I am herewith submitting its response to the findings and recommendations of the 2009-2010 Grand Jury.

The Board of Supervisors appreciates the dedicated efforts of the 2009-10 Grand Jury in the preparation of its report and the complimentary comments it made with respect to the County and its employees, and trusts that you will find the enclosed material responsive.

I would be happy to meet with the Grand Jury to discuss any or all of these issues.

Sincerely,



STEPHANIE J. LARSEN  
County Administrative Officer

SJL:SMC

***THE SUTTER COUNTY  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS'  
RESPONSE TO THE  
2009-2010  
SUTTER COUNTY GRAND JURY  
FINAL REPORT***

Sutter County Board of Supervisors Response to 2009-10 Grand Jury Report

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

Department of Child Support Services ..... 1  
Sutter County Jail ..... 3  
Yuba-Sutter Juvenile Hall ..... 5  
Sutter-Yuba Mental Health Facility ..... 7

Attachments:

- Attachment A – Response from Sutter County Department of Child Support Services
- Attachment B – Response from Sutter County Sheriff-Coroner
- Attachment C – Response from Yuba-Sutter Juvenile Hall
- Attachment D – Response from Sutter-Yuba Mental Health

**Department of Child Support Services**

Grand Jury Findings:

1. The Grand Jury finds the interview rooms need to be reconfigured to insure the safety of the staff.
2. The Grand Jury finds the sliding glass windows in the reception and “check-in” area are in need of security modifications.
3. The Grand Jury finds the office procedures protect the identity and privacy of clients.
4. The Grand Jury finds the patio area is insecure and a safety concern.
5. The Grand Jury finds the office procedures to be comprehensive, thorough and highly commendable.

Grand Jury Recommendations:

1. The Grand Jury recommends the interview rooms be reconfigured to provide a safety barrier between staff and clients.
2. The Grand Jury recommends replacement of the current sliding glass windows in the reception and “check-in” area with bullet-proof glass for security of the office and staff.
3. The Grand Jury recommends destroying the closed files located in the off-site rental storage.
4. The Grand Jury recommends the patio area be enclosed and secured as a top priority issue.

**Response from the Board of Supervisors and the Department of Child Support Services:**

***The Board of Supervisors supports the response from the Director of Child Support Services and concurs with the recommendations of the Grand Jury.***

***Identified areas of the Child Support Offices were remodeled to ensure safety and security. Individual portions of the remodeling were completed in March and June of 2010.***

***The County is required by law to retain closed case records for a specified period of time; therefore, destruction of the records that fall within that time-frame may not be destroyed. The Department has indicated that it will investigate the possibility of converting closed files to electronic image files, thereby reducing the storage area required, once they have completed the conversion of open files.***

***We have included the response from the Department of Child Support Services as Attachment A.***

## **Sutter County Jail**

### Grand Jury Findings:

1. The Grand Jury finds the need for video surveillance cameras for all squad cars.
2. The Grand Jury finds the need for the purchase and installation of video surveillance cameras in the sleeping areas.
3. The Grand Jury finds the need for additional food storage space.
4. The Grand Jury finds the medical care is sufficient.
5. The Grand Jury finds the Second Chance Program commendable.
6. The Grand Jury finds the minimum security area needs to be upgraded to medium security.

### Grand Jury Recommendations:

1. The Grand Jury recommends the continued search for grants and budgeting to provide video surveillance cameras in all squad cars.
2. The Grand Jury recommends the video surveillance cameras be purchased and installed in the sleeping areas as funds become available.
3. The Grand Jury recommends acquiring additional food storage space to purchase food in bulk quantities.
4. The Grand Jury commends the Sheriff's Department for inmate medical coverage.
5. The Grand Jury commends Captain McElfresh on the new Second Chance Program.
6. The Grand Jury recommends upgrading the minimum security area to medium security by bringing this area up to security and fire codes.

### **Response from the Board of Supervisors:**

***The Board of Supervisors supports the response from the Sutter County Sheriff-Coroner.***

***The Board of Supervisors approved funding in FY 2009-10 to upgrade the***

***minimum-security facility so that it could be used for medium-security inmates. The balance of that project funding, in the amount of \$506,600, has been carried forward to FY 2010-11. The Public Works Department is currently working to finalize the project plans. The plans must also be reviewed and approved by the Correctional Standards Authority. The Department currently expects to complete construction in April of 2011.***

***The Board of Supervisors approved funding of \$27,565 in FY 2010-11 to purchase five new digital video cameras, to be purchased concurrent with the replacement of five patrol vehicles. The Board of Supervisors supports the Sheriff's plan of using grant funds to purchase in-car video cameras with the goal of outfitting each patrol car with a camera.***

***The Sheriff is an independently elected official, and as such, responds directly to the Grand Jury's findings and recommendations concerning his office. A copy of Sheriff Parker's response is included in this document as Attachment B.***

## Yuba-Sutter Juvenile Hall

### Grand Jury Findings:

1. The Grand Jury finds the visitors'/receiving area needs to be updated with added security.
2. The Grand Jury finds the control room needs to be updated.
3. The Grand Jury finds the cell windows are in need of replacement.
4. The Grand Jury finds the cell doors are deeply engraved with graffiti.
5. The Grand Jury finds the walls in the multi-purpose room are in need of repairs.
6. The Grand Jury finds the needed funds for repairs are unavailable at this time.

### Grand Jury Recommendations:

1. The Grand Jury recommends updating the visitors'/receiving area.
2. The Grand Jury recommends updating the control room equipment.
3. The Grand Jury recommends replacing the cell windows.
4. The Grand Jury recommends removing the graffiti.
5. The Grand Jury recommends the walls in the multi-purpose room be repaired.
6. The Grand Jury recommends the continued search for grants.

### **Response from the Board of Supervisors:**

***The Yuba-Sutter Juvenile Hall is a Bi-County Department that serves both Yuba and Sutter Counties. Yuba County is the lead agency for the Yuba-Sutter Juvenile Hall. While not listed as a respondent, the Board of Supervisors has included, for completeness, Superintendent of Institutions Frank Sorgea's response along with a cover memo from the Sutter County Chief Probation Officer as Attachment C.***

***The Board of Supervisors concurs with Mr. Sorgea's response. As stated in the response, many of the items addressed by the Grand Jury are maintenance concerns that may not be addressed immediately due to financial constraints.***

***However, some work has been performed with local funding, and staff intends to correct problems that require immediate attention and which fall within the current budget to ensure the safety and security of the facility.***

**Sutter-Yuba Mental Health Facility**

Discussion:

The Grand Jury conducted an on-site visit of Sutter-Yuba Mental Health Services, and in the Grand Jury's report made no Findings or Recommendations.

**Response from the Board of Supervisors and Human Services Director:**

***While the Grand Jury did not issue Findings or Recommendations regarding the Sutter-Yuba Mental Health facility, the Human Services Director has provided a response to the Grand Jury's discussion as a point of clarification.***

***The Board of Supervisors appreciates the report from the Grand Jury regarding the services provided by Sutter-Yuba Mental Health Services, and supports the response from the Human Services Director. This response is included as Attachment D.***

# **Attachment A**

Response from Sutter County Department of Child Support Services

SUTTER COUNTY



DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES

543 Garden Highway  
P.O. Box 689  
Yuba City, CA 95992-0689

Jamie E. Murray, Director  
Martha G. Patchin, Deputy Director

RECEIVED

AUG 17 2010

COUNTY CLERK  
JULIE COFFINO CLERK  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
SUTTER COUNTY

Telephone: (866) 901-3212  
Facsimile: (530) 822-7170

August 13, 2010

To: Chris Chandler, Presiding Judge, Superior Court of California, County of Sutter

From: Jamie E. Murray, Director of Child Support Services

Subject: **Response to the 2009-2010 Grand Jury Final Report**

The following are the responses of the Director of Child Support Services to the findings and recommendations of the 2009-2010 Sutter County Grand Jury Final Report.

**Department of Child Support Services (pages 9-10)**

**Findings:** *The grand Jury finds the interview rooms need to be reconfigured to ensure the safety of the staff.*

*The Grand Jury finds the sliding glass windows in the reception and "check-in" are in need of security modifications.*

*The Grand Jury finds the office procedures protect the identity and privacy of clients.*

*The Grand Jury finds the patio area is insecure and a safety concern.*

*The Grand Jury finds the office procedures to be comprehensive, thorough and highly commendable.*

**Recommendations:** *The Grand Jury recommends the interview rooms be reconfigured to provide a safety barrier between staff and clients.*

*The Grand Jury recommends replacement of the current sliding glass windows in the reception and "check-in" area with bullet-proof glass for security of the office and staff.*

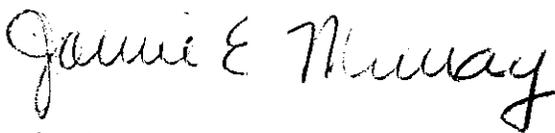
*The Grand Jury recommends destroying the closed files located in the off-site rental storage.*

*The Grand Jury recommends the patio are be enclosed and secured as a top priority issue.*

**Response:** The Department of Child Support Services concurs with the findings of the Grand Jury. The following recommendations have been implemented:

- Two of the three interview rooms have been remodeled to provide a safety barrier including tempered glass with a speaker between the Child Support Services staff and clients. The third interview room remains in original condition to allow for phone access for clients and staff to utilize the language line interpretative services. This remodel was complete June 18, 2010.
- The three panels of glass in the reception area which included two sets of sliding glass doors have been replaced with solid tempered glass and speakers on each end of the counter. This work was complete June 18, 2010.
- The back patio has been enclosed with cyclone fencing and a locking gate. There is an emergency release bar on the interior side of the gate to allow staff to exit in the event of an emergency. We have also added a lunch table and chairs for staff to now enjoy the secure patio area. This was completed in March 2010.
- The Department of Child Support Services currently houses closed files in an off-site storage unit. We are required by State and federal law to retain these records for four years and four months CCR § 111450. We are currently in the process of imaging our open case files. Once this effort to image the open files is completed we may look into imaging of the closed files as funding and resources allow. At this time we currently store closed files off-site for the years 2009, 2008, 2007, 2006 and 2005.

Respectfully submitted,



Jamie E. Murray

Director, Sutter County Department of Child Support Services

Cc: Sutter County Board of Supervisors

Stephanie Larsen, County Administrative Officer

# **Attachment B**

Response from Sutter County Sheriff-Coroner



**SUTTER COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT**  
J. PAUL PARKER  
SHERIFF - CORONER

June 23, 2010

**RECEIVED**

JUN 30 2010

Office of the County Administrator  
Sutter County

Chris Chandler - Presiding Judge  
Superior Court of California  
County of Sutter

**RE: Response to the 2009-2010 Grand Jury Final Report**

The following are the responses of the Sheriff-Coroner-Public Administrator to the findings and recommendations of the 2009-2010 Sutter County Grand Jury Final Report.

**Operations**

**Findings:** *The Grand Jury finds the need for video surveillance cameras for all squad cars.*

**Recommendations:** *The recommendations include continuing our efforts into researching grants to assist in funding car cameras for each of our patrol cars.*

**Response:** The Sheriff's Department **concurs** with the findings of the Grand Jury. For the past several years, the sheriff's department has been using grant funds to purchase in car video cameras with the goal of outfitting each patrol car with a camera. The sheriff's department will continue looking for funds to purchase additional cameras.

**Jail**

**Findings:** *The Grand Jury finds the need for the purchase and installation of video surveillance cameras in the sleeping areas.*

*The Grand Jury finds the need for additional food storage space.*

*The Grand Jury finds the minimum security area needs to be upgraded to medium security.*

**Recommendations:**

1. *The Grand Jury finds the need for the purchase and installation of video surveillance cameras in the sleeping areas.*

**Response:** The Sheriff's Department **concurs** with the recommendation. The Jail has budgeted \$10,000 from the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP) grant fund to purchase cameras to be placed inside the sleeping rooms.

**Recommendation:**

2. *The Grand Jury recommends acquiring additional food storage space to purchase food in bulk quantities.*

**Response:** The Sheriff's Department **concurs** with the recommendation. The goal of this recommendation is the ability to save overall cost by being able to purchase foodstuffs in bulk, thus saving money. The caveat to this project (to increase foodstuff storage) is that it comes at significant cost to the County and at this point would require general funds to finance. The sheriff's department believes that if the project was funded at this time, the break-even point for any cost savings realized in bulk foodstuffs vs construction costs would take many years if not decades to be realized, perhaps beyond the anticipated life of the building.

In 2008/09 fiscal year, a grant was submitted requesting the State of California fund a construction project which would have included the expansion of our dry goods storage area and a cooler. Sutter County was unsuccessful in their bid for the grant. We assure the Grand Jury that we will continue to explore other and perhaps less costly means for the storage of bulk foodstuffs as well as continuing to seek grant funding for this project. Until that time, we are forced to maintain our "just in time" inventory methods.

**Recommendations:**

3. *The Grand Jury finds the minimum security area needs to be upgraded to medium security.*

**Response:** The Sheriff's Department **concurs** with the recommendation and is working with the Community Services Department and its Engineer to complete this project which has been approved by the County.

Respectfully submitted,

  
J. PAUL PARKER  
SHERIFF-CORONER

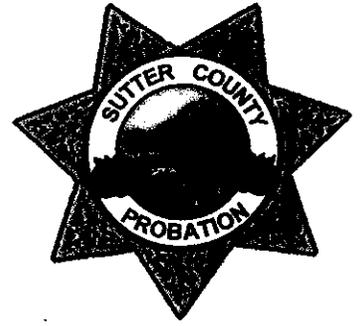
cc: Sutter County Board of Supervisors  
Stephanie Larsen, County Administrative Officer

# **Attachment C**

Response from Yuba-Sutter Juvenile Hall

County of Sutter  
**PROBATION DEPARTMENT**

---



**Debra DeAngelis Campbell**  
Deputy Chief Probation Officer  
Juvenile Division  
ddeangelis@co.sutter.ca.us

**Christine D. Odom**  
Chief Probation Officer  
codom@co.sutter.ca.us

**Leticia Paras-Topete**  
Deputy Chief Probation Officer  
Adult Division  
lparas@co.sutter.ca.us

August 13, 2010

**RECEIVED**

AUG 17 2010

Office of the County Administrator  
Sutter County

To: The Honorable Chris R. Chandler  
County Administrator Stephanie J. Larsen

From: Christine D. Odom, Chief Probation Officer

**Re: Response to Grand Jury 09/10 Report from Bi-County Juvenile Hall and Maxine Singer Youth Guidance Center**

I have reviewed the attached response to the Grand Jury from Bi-County Juvenile Hall Superintendent, Frank Sorgea and I fully concur with Mr. Sorgea's responses. Although many items addressed by the Jury are maintenance issues that may not be able to be addressed immediately for financial reasons, Mr. Sorgea agrees we will attempt to address minor issues that require immediate response and fall within our current budget.

A hard copy version of this correspondence and Mr. Sorgea's response will follow.

Please advise me if you desire further information.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Christine D. Odom".

Christine D. Odom  
Chief Probation Officer

cc Jim Arnold, Chief Probation Officer  
Frank Sorgea, Superintendent of Institutions



YUBA-SUTTER JUVENILE HALL  
CAMP SINGER YOUTH GUIDANCE CENTER

FRANK D. SORGEA  
Superintendent of Institutions



August 3, 2010

The Honorable Christopher R. Chandler  
Sutter County Superior Court  
446 Second Street  
Yuba City, CA 95991

**RE: Response to 2009/2010 Grand Jury Findings and Recommendations**

Dear Judge Chandler:

This letter, provided pursuant to California Penal Code Section 933, is the Yuba-Sutter Juvenile Hall response to the 2009/2010 Grand Jury Final Report – Findings and Recommendations concerning the annual investigation into the operation of the Bi-County Juvenile Hall and Maxine Singer Youth Guidance Center.

I would first of all wish to express my gratitude to the Criminal Justice Committee for their time and their commitment to conducting a thorough investigation. I met with committee members on several occasions and found that they were very interested in both our facilities and programs. I am pleased with the report of their investigation and offer the following in response to their findings and recommendations:

**Finding 1**

*The Grand Jury finds the visitors'/receiving area needs to be updated with added security.*

We agree with this finding

**Finding 2**

*The Grand Jury finds the control room needs to be updated*

We agree with this finding

**Finding 3**

*The Grand Jury finds the cell windows are in need of replacement.*

We agree with this finding.

**Finding 4**

*The Grand Jury finds the cell doors are deeply engraved with graffiti.*

We agree with this finding

**Finding 5**

*The Grand Jury finds the walls in the multi-purpose room are in need of repairs.*

We agree with this finding.

**Finding 6**

*The Grand Jury finds that funds for repairs are unavailable at this time.*

We agree with this finding.

**Recommendation 1**

*The Grand Jury recommends updating the visitors/receiving area.*

The recommendation cannot be implemented at this time due to budgetary restraints.

**Recommendation 2**

*The Grand Jury recommends updating the control room equipment.*

The recommendation cannot be implemented at this time due to budgetary restraints.

**Recommendation 3**

*The Grand Jury recommends replacing the cell windows.*

The recommendation cannot be implemented at this time due to budgetary restraints.

**Recommendation 4**

*The Grand Jury recommends removing the graffiti.*

The recommendation cannot be implemented at this time due to budgetary restraints.

**Recommendation 5**

*The Grand Jury recommends the walls in the multi-purpose room be repaired*

The recommendation cannot be implemented at this time due to budgetary restraints.

**Recommendation 6**

*The Grand Jury recommends the continued search for grants.*

This recommendation has not been implemented, but will be implemented in the future. As grant opportunities become available, we are prepared to seek supporting funds to implement improvements to our physical facilities.

In February 2007 following a review of our facilities, a comprehensive plan was developed in consultation with KITCHELL Construction Management firm. The plan they developed incorporates all of the modifications addressed within the Grand Jury report. At that time we were anticipating the availability of grant funds administered by the CDCR. After review of the RFP for the grant, it was determined that there were so many restrictions and conditions placed on the grant it was inappropriate for our purpose. We continue to maintain the architectural plan and will continue to pursue grant opportunities as they arise. We have been able to do some of the lower scale work with local funding; however at this time even local funds are remarkably limited.

While the number of findings and recommendations do reflect a building that is showing its age. I feel it important to note that most of the issues are more cosmetic in nature than safety or security related. We feel strongly that the safety and security of our facilities is sufficient to ensure the safety of community, our residents, and our staff.

Respectfully Submitted

  
Frank D. Sorgea  
Superintendent of Institutions

# **Attachment D**

Response from Sutter-Yuba Mental Health



# Human Services Department

**Tom Sherry, MFT, Director**

(530) 822-7327 Office  
(530) 822-7223 FAX  
tsherry@co.sutter.ca.us  
humanservices@co.sutter.ca.us  
www.suttercounty.org

**Administrative Office**  
1445 Veterans Memorial Circle  
P.O. Box 1510  
Yuba City, CA 95992

## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** July 29, 2010  
**TO:** Honorable Judge Chris Chandler  
Presiding Judge  
**FROM:** Tom Sherry, MFT   
Director of Human Services

**RECEIVED**

JUL 30 2010

Office of the County Administrator  
Sutter County

**SUBJECT:** Final Report of the FY 2009-10 Sutter County Grand Jury for the Mental Health Division

I have reviewed the Sutter County Grand Jury findings for the Mental Health Division. I would like to thank the members of the Grand Jury for their efforts on behalf of the citizens of Sutter County and I wish offer the following comments:

Following my appointment as the Human Services Director on December 30, 2009, Dr. Brad Luz, Ph.D. was appointed to the position of Assistant Director of Human Services for Mental Health effective February 27, 2010.

The Division concurs with the Grand Jury's comments that revenues have been severely cut. However, I wish to note a minor revision in your statement in that as of November 29, 2009, Psychiatric Emergency Services, not Mental Health Treatment as referenced, are now newly subject to fees after the initial visit. All other mental health treatment services (inpatient and outpatient) have historically been subject to fees based on a sliding scale.

The Division concurs that Sutter-Yuba Mental Health Services (SYMHS) has 16 beds in their Psychiatric Health Facility (PHF). The average census is nine to eleven patients. The cost per bed is \$726 per day. Inpatient care is for psychiatric patients who are suicidal, homicidal or gravely disabled. The PHF is no longer allowed to admit patients with dementia or Alzheimer's disease. All patients admitted to the PHF must submit to a blood alcohol test.

The Division also wishes to concur with the Grand Jury findings that Sutter and Yuba Counties are partners (through a Joint Powers Agreement) in the Bi-County Mental Health program. The SYMHS

Mental Health	Welfare	Social Services	Employment Services	Public Health	Substance Abuse
(530) 822-7200 Fax 822-7627	(530) 822-7230 Fax 822-7212	(530) 822-7227 Fax 822-7384	(530) 822-7133 Fax 822-7213	(530) 822-7215 Fax 822-7223	(530) 822-3292 Fax 822-3296

The Honorable Judge Chris Chandler  
July 27, 2009  
Page -2-

program offers has a wide variety of treatment, medication and wellness and recovery classes, including a culinary academy. There are also programs available for the treatment of drug abuse, including First Steps which is a program for pregnant women or those with young children.

The Division also concurs with the Grand Jury that that staff are available to translate for the following languages, Hmong, Punjabi, Spanish, Farsi, Korean as well as Tagalog and Hindi.

TS/js

cc: Stephanie J. Larsen, County Administrative Officer  
Brad Luz, Ph.D., Assistant Director of Human Service for Mental Health

