



PROBATION DEPARTMENT


COUNTY OF LAKE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA



ROB HOWE

Chief Probation Officer

To: The Honorable Stephen O. Hedstrom
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court

From: Rob Howe, Chief Probation Officer 

Date: July 21, 2014

Subject: Response to the 2013-2014 Grand Jury Report

The following is my response to the Grand Jury's final report for 2013-2014. The portion of the report pertaining to the Probation Department begins on page 59 and continues to page 60. "Juvenile Hall Oversight" is the only area of the Probation Department mentioned in the report.

The Grand Jury's findings were as follows:

- F 1. Juvenile Hall is clean and not over-crowded at the time of the Grand Jury inspection.
- F 2. Juvenile Hall is subject to numerous annual inspections by various agencies.
- F 3. Juvenile Hall has an educational program and facilities, including a separate computer lab and is modern and well-staffed.
- F 4. Juvenile Hall staff has not presently developed a Rules and Regulations Handbook for the juveniles to keep in their cell as reference material. The handbook could also be used as an informational booklet for parents and/or guardians.
- F 5. The Juvenile Hall Superintendent and staff appear to be committed to give the best possible care and direction to their wards, given their budget and personnel resources.

Findings F 1, F 2, F 3, and F 5 were simply statements that I agree with and no recommendations were made.



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Finding F 4 received the following recommendation from the Grand Jury:

R 1. Develop a Rules and Regulations Handbook to be given to a juvenile at intake and available for issuance to the parents and/or guardian. The Handbook should be offered in both English and Spanish language versions. (F4)

Response:

R 1. I understand the Grand Jury's recommendation to develop a handbook, but I believe the Juvenile Hall's current system is adequate, fair and consistent.

As part of the intake process, all juveniles are given a written packet advising them of the rules, regulations and policies of the facility and are then required to sign acknowledgement. Once in the facility, the rules, regulations and policies are posted in the day room where the juveniles have daily access.

Printing handbooks would present additional expense and waste.

The Probation Department was also requested to respond to a recommendation made by the Grand Jury pertaining to the Department of Social Services' In Home Supportive Services (IHSS) Program. The finding and recommendation can be found on page 24 of the report. The Finding is as follows:

F4. Social Services is in the process of hiring a full time fraud investigator specifically for IHSS.

The recommendations (R1) was, "IHSS complete the negotiations with the County Probation Department for the hiring for a fraud investigator. F4"

Response:

R1. Negotiations between Probations and DSS for this position are complete and a full time investigator has been hired. He is currently in the Peace Officer Academy and is due to graduate and assume the duties of IHSS investigator on August 29th, 2014.

LAKE COUNTY PROBATION DEPARTMENT

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