

RECEIVED

OCT 27 2010

September 21, 2010

VENTURA COUNTY
GRAND JURY

J. Matthew Carroll
Assistant County Executive Officer

Paul Dorse
Chief Financial Officer

John K. Nicoll
Human Resources Director

County of Ventura
Board of Supervisors
800 South Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93009

Subject: Approval of Responses to Seven 2009-2010 Ventura County Grand Jury Reports: "Getting Better of the Way to Excellence", "Illusion of Safety, Control Self-Assessment", "Indigent Representation by the Public Defender", "Utilization of the Ventura County Juvenile Justice Facilities", "Ventura County Library System", "Where Are You Sleeping Tonight?", and "Youth in Shadow".

Recommendation:

That your Board approves the responses to the seven subject Grand Jury reports pertaining to County government under your authority for submittal to the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court in accordance with State statute.

Discussion:

Penal Code §933.05 requires that your Board comment on the findings and recommendations of the Grand Jury pertaining to county government under your authority. The 2009-2010 Ventura County Grand Jury issued 10 individual reports, seven of which pertain to County government.

Responses from the Board of Supervisors were required to all seven reports and were prepared on your behalf by the County Executive Office. Responses from appointed officials were required for three of the seven reports and one report required a response from a commission. County government reports are addressed in this letter. These responses have been coordinated through the County Executive Office and are submitted for your approval.

For your reference, the report titles and respondents listed in the Grand Jury Report are summarized in the table below.

<p>Getting Better on the Way to Excellence</p>	<p>Board of Supervisors County Executive Officer (requested, not required)</p>
<p>Illusion of Safety: Control Self-Assessment Auditor-Controller's response is for information only, approval not required.</p>	<p>Auditor-Controller (Copy of response included for information) Board of Supervisors County Executive Office</p>
<p>Indigent Representation by the Public Defender</p>	<p>Board of Supervisors Public Defender (Response from PD would be accepted but is not required. Response provided)</p>
<p>Utilization of the Ventura County Juvenile Justice Facilities Sheriff's response is for information only, approval not required.</p>	<p>Board of Supervisors Sheriff's Department (Copy of response included for information)</p>
<p>Ventura County Library System The VCLC is an independent entity, response is for information only, approval is not required.</p>	<p>Board of Supervisors Ventura County Library Commission (Copy of response included for information)</p>
<p>Where Are You Sleeping Tonight?</p>	<p>Board of Supervisors</p>
<p>Youth in Shadow</p>	<p>Board of Supervisors</p>

The responses that pertain to County government under your control will serve as your Board's response to the subject 2009-2010 Grand Jury Reports to be filed as indicated in the above recommended action along with any additional comments your Board may wish to make.

If your Board does elect to amend responses submitted from agencies headed by appointed officials or if your Board elects to change a responses prepared on your behalf by the County Executive's office, then CEO staff, at your direction, will make such changes or additions prior to submitting the responses to the Presiding Judge.

Board of Supervisors
Responses to Four 2009-2010 Grand Jury Reports
September 21, 2010
Page 3 of 3

As you are aware, elected officials submit their Grand Jury responses directly to the Presiding Judge. Although your approval is not required for responses from elected officials, a copy of the Sheriff's response to the report "Utilization of the Ventura County Juvenile Justice Facilities" and from the Auditor-Controller to the report "Illusion of Safety: Control Self-Assessment" are included here for your information.

Should you have any questions or require additional information, please contact J. Matthew Carroll at 654-2864 or Kathleen Van Norman at 654-2566.



MARTY ROBINSON
County Executive Officer

Attachments:

- Exhibit 1 – Response to "Getting Better on the Way to Excellence"
- Exhibit 2 – Response to "Illusion of Safety: Control Self-Assessment"
- Exhibit 3 – Response to "Indigent Representation by the Public Defender"
- Exhibit 4 – Response to "Utilization of the Ventura County Juvenile Justice Facilities"
- Exhibit 5 – Response to "Ventura County Library System"
- Exhibit 6 - Response to "Where Are You Sleeping Tonight?"
- Exhibit 7 - Response to "Youth in Shadow"

RECEIVED

OCT 27 2010

VENTURA COUNTY
GRAND JURY

EXHIBIT 4

FY 2009-2010 GRAND JURY FINAL REPORT

RESPONSES TO RECOMMENDATIONS

Report Number	Report Title	Respondents
---------------	--------------	-------------

REPORT NO. 04.

Title: Utilization of the Ventura County Juvenile Justice Facilities

Required

Respondents: Board of Supervisors (R-01 thru R-09, R-11 & R-12)
Sheriff's Department (R-10)



**Response to the 2009-10 Grand Jury Report
"Utilization of the Ventura County
Juvenile Justice Facilities"**

from the County Executive Office on behalf of the Board of Supervisors

REPORT FINDINGS:

Response: Concur with all findings.

REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS:

R-01: The Probation Agency should establish a definition for recidivism and measure juvenile recidivism yearly within the County.

Response: This recommendation has been partially implemented and will be further implemented as follows:

The Probation Agency (Probation) already tracks recidivism through a number of grant funded and specialized programs. The provisions of the grant usually set forth the standard for defining recidivism, and these standards often vary among different grants. Whereas, there is not a universally accepted standard definition for recidivism; we will direct Probation to develop a definition that can be applied to the broader population housed at the Juvenile Justice Facilities (JJF). We will continue to direct Probation toward tracking a broader number of juvenile offenders to improve the effectiveness of its programs.

R-02: The Probation Agency should conduct a comprehensive study of the effectiveness of JDAI in the County which should include input from police departments and the Sheriff's Department.

Response: This has already been implemented by an outside party. Probation will continue to improve in obtaining input from law enforcement as noted.

The Annie E. Casey Foundation prepares an excellent comprehensive annual report for each JDAI site, which includes input from law enforcement, and there is no need to duplicate this effort. This report has been shared in the past with the JDAI Executive Committee, which includes representatives from the Sheriff's Department, Oxnard Police Department and Ventura Police Department. In the future, this report will be disseminated to all local police agencies.

R-03: The Probation Agency should monitor success rates for all juvenile justice programs in the County on a yearly basis.

Response: This will be implemented as funding allows.

We agree with this recommendation, but acknowledge there will be some budget limitations to achieving this for all juvenile justice programs in the County at this time. Probation has a shortage of programming staff to develop additional data

analysis functions. We will continue to direct Probation to develop greater outcome tracking in the future as the budget allows. However, some grant programs such as the Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act (JJCPA) and Youth Offender Block Grant (YOBG) already have outcome tracking measures to determine their effectiveness. Additionally, the COMPAS assessment tool reassesses a minor every 90-180 days, which is used to evaluate how successful a minor is on probation.

R-04: The Probation Agency should perform a cost-benefit analysis of all juvenile justice programs in the County.

Response: This will not be implemented.

We respectfully disagree with the recommendation. Probation uses multiple methods of evaluating the efficacy of their programs such as program evaluation and utilizes tools based on their research of best practices in other jurisdictions. Probation does not believe cost-benefit analysis, in and of itself, is an appropriate tool for evaluating their programs because the nature of interventions with minors is a long-term endeavor. Probation has achieved much progress in addressing the needs of a very dynamic juvenile population; thus, we support their efforts and professional judgment to improve all programs. The CEO will continue to provide oversight.

R-05: The Probation Agency should use data gained from program evaluation and cost-benefit analysis to guide decisions regarding the utilization of the JJF.

Response: The recommendation is already implemented for program evaluation, but cost-benefit analysis will not be utilized.

We partly agree with the recommendation. Probation already conducts an effective program evaluation and screening to determine the placement of minors whether it is in the JJF or other alternatives. Probation employs a collaborative process in determining the placement of a juvenile offender which involves all members of the criminal justice system and community organizations. The Board acknowledges that Probation has achieved success in developing innovative programs in the treatment of minors for which they have received statewide recognition for their outcomes and ability to gain broad cooperation within the entire juvenile justice system. We will continue to encourage improvements in such a process.

R-06, R-07, R-08: (R-06) The Probation Agency should modify the RAI to include the recommendations of police officers and Sheriff's deputies in the decision of whether a juvenile is to be housed at the JJF; (R-07) The Probation Agency should modify the RAI so that any felony or violent misdemeanor offense is sufficient basis for housing a juvenile at the JJF; and (R-08) The Probation Agency should modify the RAI to assign higher point values for multiple repeat offenses.

Response: Recommendation to include law enforcement feedback in the development of the RAI is already partly implemented, and recommendations R-07 and R-08 will be further evaluated by Probation.

We partially agree with the recommendations. We agree the Risk Assessment Instrument (RAI) should include input from other law enforcement agencies. However, Probation has developed and modified the RAI over a number of years with review and approval of the JDAI Executive Committee. Probation has committed to getting more feedback from police officers on the RAI document. In terms of what should be included in the RAI, we again will rely on Probation's professional judgment.

R-09: The Probation Agency should make certain that all police departments and the Sheriff's Department receive information on the criteria for accepting juveniles into the JJF, on the use of the RAI, and on JDAI.

Response: The recommendation will be implemented.

We agree with the recommendation. Probation will be scheduled to make a presentation at the Ventura County Law Enforcement Coordinating Committee regarding the RAI document and JJF booking practices. JJF staff will visit police agencies who express an interest in having presentations made to their command staff or at their shift briefings.

R-11: The Probation Agency should develop a formal procedure to inform police departments and the Sheriff's Department when juveniles with probation histories move into their jurisdiction from elsewhere in the County.

Response: Recommendation will be implemented.

We agree with the recommendation. Probation will be developing an information flyer for distribution to the Sheriff's Department and local police agencies when minors who are a high risk to the community move into their jurisdiction.

R-12: The Probation Agency should ensure that members of law enforcement who deal directly with juveniles in the community have easy, direct, after-hours access to JJF personnel able to answer their questions.

Response: The recommendation is been partly implemented.

We agree with the recommendation. Though there is a current system in place for law enforcement to have direct after-hours contact with JJF staff and the facility Watch Commander 24 hours a day, Probation will develop procedures and work to improve access and communications with law enforcement at the JJF.



BOB BROOKS
SHERIFF
800 S. VICTORIA AVENUE
VENTURA, CALIFORNIA 93009

September 9, 2010

Mr. Henry G. Kelley, Foreman
Ventura County Grand Jury
800 So. Victoria Avenue, L#3751
Ventura, California 93009-3751

Subject: Response to Grand Jury May 11, 2010 Report –
Utilization of the Ventura County Juvenile Justice
Facilities: Recommendation 10

Dear Foreman Kelley & Grand Jury Members:

This letter is in response to the above-indicated report,
Recommendation R-10 : Police Chiefs and the Sheriff should
provide officers with Probation Agency Information regarding the
criteria for accepting juveniles into the JJF, the use of the RAI, and
the JDAI.

**Response: Recommendation 10 will be implemented by
December 2010.**

Responding for the Ventura County Sheriff's Department and the
Chiefs of Police for the contract cities of Thousand Oaks, Camarillo,
Moorpark, Fillmore and Ojai. We are in agreement with the
conclusion that deputies should be provided with criteria that the
Probation Agency uses to accept juveniles into the Juvenile Justice
Center (JJC).

It should be noted however that whether or not juveniles meet
specific booking criteria we believe it is essential that deputies take
into consideration the danger the juvenile presents to the public,
whether the offense is likely to continue, and whether there is a
responsible parent or guardian to take control and responsibility for
the arrested juvenile. We also understand that there is additional

value in understanding the policies and philosophy of the allied agency impacted by our actions.

The Sheriff's Department provides training on the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI) at the Ventura County Regional Training Academy with new officers. We have also provided updated training by the Probation Agency at patrol briefings for experienced deputies, and the Risk Assessment Instrument (RAI) is currently included in our Juvenile Detention Log and readily available at each patrol station.

The Grand Jury Report indicates a need for additional training on this topic. We appreciate the Grand Jury's recommendations and, accordingly, will take the following steps to re-emphasize to our deputies Probation's policies to have a better understanding of the RAI and JDAI. The steps will be completed by December 2010.

1. The Department will provide updated training to patrol deputies at briefings on the RAI and the requirements of lodging juveniles into the JJC.
2. Updated training will be provided by Probation officials to patrol supervisors and managers on the use of the RAI and JDAI.

Respectfully submitted,



BOB BROOKS
Ventura County Sheriff

cc: Honorable Kevin McGee, Presiding Judge
✓ Frank Chow, CEO Analyst

county of ventura

Grand Jury
800 South Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93009
(805) 477-1800
Fax: (805) 477-1810

grandjury.countyofventura.org

August 30, 2010

Sheriff Bob Brooks
Ventura County Sheriff's Department
800 South Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93009

Subject: Response to Grand Jury Report: *Utilization of the Ventura County Juvenile Justice Facilities*

Dear Sheriff Brooks:

Your response to the above report was exceedingly prompt and states your opinion clearly and concisely; however it doesn't follow accepted protocol as outlined in Penal Code §933.05(a-c). Since all responses become a part of the original report and will be published online, it's important that reports and responses are consistent in format to not confuse the casual reader. Your response to Recommendation R-10 and its associated Conclusions should adhere to the following criteria:

For each applicable conclusion in the above Ventura County Grand Jury 2009-2010 report

- State whether you agree with *conclusion*, or
- State whether you disagree wholly or in part with the *conclusion* (specifying the disputed portion and the "reasons therefor")

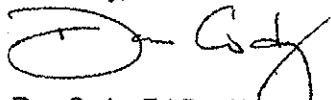
For each applicable recommendation in the above report

- State if it has been implemented (*with a summary of the implemented action*), or
- Will be implemented (*with a timeframe for implementation*), or
- Requires further study (*with an explanation and the "scope and parameters" of the study with a timeframe for discussion*). Note: "This timeframe shall not exceed six months from the date of publication of the grand jury report", or
- Will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable ("with an explanation therefor")

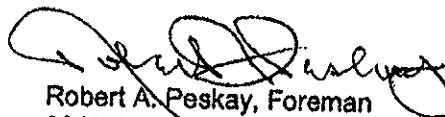
If the response to this request is delegated to another official in your Department, please assure that the respondent states that he/she is acting on your behalf and that of the Board of Supervisors and that you have reviewed the response.

We will appreciate receiving this information within fifteen days of the date of this letter.

Sincerely,



Don Cody, Ed.D., Chairman
Grand Jury Review Committee



Robert A. Peskay, Foreman
2010-2011 Ventura County Grand Jury



BOB BROOKS
SHERIFF
800 S. VICTORIA AVE.
VENTURA, CALIFORNIA 93009

June 10, 2010

Mr. Henry G. Kelley, Foreman
Ventura County Grand Jury
800 So. Victoria Avenue, L#3751
Ventura, California 93009-3751

Subject: Response to Grand Jury May 11, 2010 Report – Utilization
of the Ventura County Juvenile Justice Facilities:
Recommendation 10

Dear Foreman Kelley & Grand Jury Members:

In response to the above-indicated report, Recommendation R-10 in particular, for the Ventura County Sheriff's Department and the Chiefs of Police for the contract cities of Thousand Oaks, Camarillo, Moorpark, Fillmore and Ojai, these jurisdictions currently provide training and information from Probation regarding the criteria for accepting juveniles into the JJC. This information is given through the Ventura County Criminal Justice Training Center (Sheriff's Academy), through Department Youth Officers, and through Probation personnel contacting Sheriff's Department representatives and attending the listed jurisdictions' briefings. Although it is true that particular officers or deputies may not necessarily recall the specific booking or detention criteria of the Risk Assessment Instrument (RAI), it is also not the responsibility of Sheriff's or law enforcement personnel to complete the RAI or to even necessarily consider those requirements when determining whether to book a juvenile at the JJC.

More important criteria for Sheriff's personnel in determining whether to book a juvenile into the JJC include the danger to the public presented by the arrested juvenile, whether the offense is likely to continue, and whether there is a responsible parent or guardian to take control and responsibility for the arrested juvenile.

Probation personnel will ultimately decide, per their criteria and protocols, whether to release a juvenile to a responsible parent or guardian once the juvenile has been booked by law enforcement personnel.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Bob Brooks".

BOB BROOKS
Ventura County Sheriff