

2019 - 2020 Ventura County Grand Jury



Final Report

Annual Detention Report

April 8, 2020

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Annual Detention Report

Summary

Pursuant to authority granted in California Penal Code Section 919(b), the 2019-2020 Ventura County Grand Jury (Grand Jury) inquired into the conditions and management of the several detention facilities in Ventura County (County). The Grand Jury inspected the following detention centers:

- Ventura County Juvenile Facilities
- Pre-Trial Detention Facility operated by the Ventura County Sheriff's Office (VCSO)
- Todd Road Jail operated by VCSO
- East County Jail operated by VCSO
- Ventura County Sheriff's Office Holding Facility
- All city holding facilities in Camarillo, Fillmore, Moorpark, Ojai, Oxnard, Port Hueneme, Santa Paula, Simi Valley, Thousand Oaks and Ventura
- Ventura Youth Correctional Facility

The Grand Jury concluded that, due to the participation of the Ventura County Probation Agency in the Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative, the Ventura County Juvenile Facilities has significant underutilized space. The Grand Jury also concluded the Pre-Trial Detention Facility and the Todd Road Jail have reduced their respective populations to within normal facility capabilities which is in excess of the State rating. Although expansion of the Todd Road Jail facility to provide medical and psychological treatments during confinement was planned to be completed in 2020, construction had not yet begun. The planned expansion will add 64 beds for chronically and mentally ill adult inmates.

The Grand Jury concluded that County jails and city detention facilities are generally in satisfactory condition, although the detention facilities of the Santa Paula Police Department and the Oxnard Police Department were found to be in need of repair. Through Measure T, the Santa Paula Police Department now has funding to retrofit and expand its holding facility. The Ventura Youth Correctional Facility is operated by the State of California and the Grand Jury concluded the facility appeared generally safe but in need of maintenance and repairs.

There is no uniform policy at VCSO's detention facilities with regard to recording of inmate telephone communications, including communications to attorneys, medical providers and family members. The Grand Jury encourages a uniform policy be developed for all VCSO's detention facilities.

Background

Pursuant to California Penal Code Section 919(b), the Grand Jury is required to inquire into the condition and management of the public prisons within the County. The Grand Jury carried out this mandate by conducting announced and unannounced visits and inspections. All inspections occurred prior to December 1, 2019.

Methodology

The California Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) disseminates regulations for juvenile and adult detention facilities, conducts inspections and administers public safety related grant funding. Prior to each of the inspections, the Grand Jury completed the following tasks to fulfill its mandate:

- Devised a rating sheet for the facilities based on the BSCC Minimum Standards for Local Detention Facilities, California Code of Regulations, Titles 15 and 24
- Conducted witness interviews
- Researched websites
- Reviewed past Grand Jury reports
- Reviewed reports issued by the BSCC, Department of Justice, California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation and the California Division of Juvenile Justice
- Scheduled inspections of the Ventura County Juvenile Facilities (Juvenile Facilities), Todd Road Jail (Todd Road), the Pre-Trial Detention Facility (Main Jail), East County Jail and the Ventura Youth Correctional Facility (VYCF) that included walk-throughs, discussions with staff and review of the documents listed below, followed by a debriefing of all participating Grand Jury members
- Conducted unannounced inspections of the Ventura County Sheriff's Office Holding Facility (VCSO Holding Facility) and all city holding facilities.

The Grand Jury reviewed the following documents during the inspections:

- Average Daily Population Report
- Incident Report Log
- Risk assessment tool and booking procedure criteria
- Classification Plan

- Policy and Procedure manuals
- Most recent inspections from the Fire Marshall and Health Inspector
- Juvenile detention logs and procedure documentation
- Inmate and youthful offender grievance logs

Findings

Ventura County Juvenile Facilities

The Juvenile Facilities are operated by the Ventura County Probation Agency (VCPA). Construction was completed in 2003. Renovations have occurred and currently the facility is in excellent condition. It sits on a five-acre parcel in the community of El Rio. The Juvenile Facilities were designed to house male and female juvenile offenders over the age of 11 years, as both a short term (Detention) and long term (Commitment) facility. The following describes the differences between these two types of confinement.

	Detention	Commitment
Function	Provides temporary custody for those in need of short term removal from the community and/or are awaiting transfer to another location or to another jurisdiction	Court ordered commitments up to one year
Population capacity	240	180
Average population	31-40	77-88
Education available (Providence High School)	Classes held in residential units; no co-ed	Co-ed classrooms
Living quarters	Separate dorms for male and female; housed with gender of self-identification	Separate dorms for male and female; housed with gender of self-identification

Since 2002, VCPA has participated in the Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative through a grant funded by the Annie E. Casey Foundation. In collaboration with the juvenile court judges, local law enforcement, public defender and district attorney's office, the detainee population was reduced utilizing risk-based criteria for booking and detention alternatives including community confinement, home supervision and electronic monitoring programs.

While in custody, detainees are provided academic classes through Providence High School, a fully accredited high school where a high school diploma can be obtained and/or credits can be earned that will transfer to other educational institutions. Detainees are provided coursework that tracks their appropriate middle school or high school curriculum, as well as career training.

In addition to the core academic courses, Commitment youths may participate in an array of vocational and personal interest programs, including art, computer, silk screening, broadcasting, construction, music, dog training, sports, yoga, chess, and landscaping. The programs are used as an incentive as opposed to being punitive. For each detainee, there is a weekly meeting with representatives of Ventura County Behavioral Health, VCPA and school staff to discuss progress and programs. There is also a transition specialist who works with each youth leading to transition to outside school or employment. The teacher to student ratio is a maximum of 15, often being no more than one to eight.

Each housing unit includes a common room where meals are provided as well as a separate sleeping area for each detainee. Assignment to units is based on an assessment at booking for mental health, physical/medical condition and risk of harm to self or others. There are three safety cells that have padded walls and no other contents, to be used when there is a need to isolate a detainee for risk behavior. In the safety cells, a check is made every 15 minutes by staff, with a review of status every four hours. Generally, approximately 50% of detainees are gang affiliated, but there is no separation based on those affiliations. Medical, dental and behavioral health practitioners are on site most times: nurses at all times, a medical doctor four times weekly, a dentist twice weekly, a dental assistant thrice monthly and a behavioral health specialist as needed.

The detainees can have two one-hour visits per week with parents, grandparents or an alternative person who serves as a positive role model. Additionally, twice weekly phone privileges are given based on an account set up by a relative or guardian. A warning at the beginning of the call informs both the

caller and the recipient of the call that their conversation is being recorded. Calls to attorneys, when requested, are free and not recorded.

Pre-Trial Detention Facility

The Main Jail was opened in 1980 and is operated by the VCSO. The VCSO processes more than 29,000 bookings and releases each year. It accepts arrested individuals from every law enforcement agency in the County. The location is adjacent to the Ventura County Government Center Hall of Justice and an underground tunnel connects the two facilities for purposes of moving detainees into the courtrooms.

The facility has four floors. Movement between floors is by elevator and controlled by a deputy. The capacity of the Main Jail is 890 individuals. At the time of inspection the population was 756. Females are booked at this facility and transported to Todd Road for continuing custody. There are three levels of classification of detainees: general, violent and protective custody. There is no special handling of undocumented individuals and no contact with federal immigration authorities.

At the time of inspection, the building appeared to be generally well maintained. It was free of odors, litter, graffiti or unsafe conditions of any kind. Toilets, sinks, bunks, mattresses and other items were in good working order and appearance. Operations overall appeared to be efficient and well-staffed. The lobby is large and serves both the VCSO Holding Facility and the Main Jail itself. The Main Jail portion has a large room with substantial seating to accommodate visitors. The lobby for the VCSO Holding Facility side has a bin for prescription drug drop off, which was locked and required a deputy to unlock for deposits. Signage on the bin, describing the required procedure, is bilingual. Drugs are to be placed in provided plastic bags rather than original packaging. Signage throughout the lobby is bilingual. A bilingual receptionist was available. Other languages can be accommodated for communication with visitors through phone services.

The intake area on the first floor is secure for vehicles arriving with detainees. Upon arrival, detainees are immediately searched in front of a wall and intake paperwork started. Each detainee must submit to a medical review with a nurse and is medically classified by questionnaire. Questioning is in Spanish as well as English or by phone if requiring other languages. Subsequently, body areas are photographed for identifying tattoos, and the detainee is fingerprinted and DNA tested, if not done in earlier bookings. Sections of the intake center are dedicated to body cavity searches, showers and issuance of standard orange jail clothes. Classification of detainees is made by one officer, who then makes

housing assignments based on the level of alleged crime, attitude, risk and health evaluations. An automated external defibrillator (AED) and bleeding control kit were present.

There are multiple cells where detainees are placed during the booking process. Included are sobering rooms which have padded walls, do not have bunks or benches and have a toilet/sink/fountain unit. There are two safety cells that have padded walls but no bunks or furniture. Toilet facilities in the safety cell are simply a grated hole in the corner. If water is requested by a detainee, it is brought to the detainee in a cup.

Deputies behind glass control doors monitor and control doors into and out of all areas, including the elevators. There are several floors with areas of detainment. Each area consists of cells adjacent to a large common room equipped with metal tables and benches. Each cell has two bunks, a toilet/sink/faucet unit and a single concrete round bench. Books are limited to religious material. Television is provided in the mental health common quad. There is one separate room in the jail with a computer, called the legal library, where a detainee can research legal matters. There are shower areas where detainees are required to shower at least weekly.

There are outdoor wire cages on the fourth floor, allowing detainees to get sunshine and exercise for up to thirty minutes per week, based on good behavior. There is a separate area set up for jail visits, equipped with phones on each side of windowed cubicles. Up to two adult visitors and one minor may visit at a time.

Trustees in the facility prepare and deliver food. They also work in the property room and laundry. They do not work outside of the facility. Special meals can be prepared to accommodate food allergies or other health concerns. Otherwise, all detainees receive the same meal.

Educational programs at the Main Jail include English as a Second Language (ESL) classes and high school equivalency courses. Religious services and Narcotics Anonymous and Alcoholics Anonymous meetings are also available.

In the last year there was a report of one death by murder, one death by suicide and one death of a court released detainee. There was one attempted suicide. There were no escapes or attempted escapes.

Several interview rooms are available where the detainee can communicate in private with a bail bondsman or attorney, as well as rooms with phones where calls to bondsmen could be made. There are two large cells, each large cell has

two phones. All calls on these phones are monitored by Securtus, a separate contracted service. Their operators decide whether an attorney call is being made based on a list of approved telephone numbers of attorneys. If the call is to one of those telephone numbers, no recording is made. All other phone calls are recorded. If there is a request for one of those recordings, a person in VCSO listens to the recording. If the recorded call is to an attorney, the call will be erased. A call from the intake phone was made by a Grand Juror, verifying that there is a message heard by both the caller and recipient announcing the fact of recording and monitoring. Additionally, all areas of the jail are under audio-visual recording; the recorded information is stored on disk for two years.

Todd Road Jail

Todd Road was constructed in 1995 and sits on 157 acres of agricultural land in a rural area between the cities of Ventura and Santa Paula. It is also operated by the VCSO. The facility is clean, well maintained and includes bilingual signage throughout. The State rated capacity of Todd Road is 796 inmates, but at the time of inspection the population was 846, consisting of 213 females and 633 males. Approximately 112 of those inmates are State prison inmates returned to the County as a result of California AB 109. To accommodate the excess capacity, 60 to 80 beds have been placed in common areas as opposed to in cells.

Todd Road currently is planned to undergo expansion. The \$61 million project will add a total of 64 beds; 32 for chronically ill inmates and 32 for mentally ill inmates. Completion of the project is scheduled for the spring of 2021, but at the time of the Grand Jury inspection, ground had not been broken. Currently, all psychological watch and violent inmates are housed at the Main Jail.

Commitment of sentenced individuals is in six sections, each having four housing units. The housing units have 16 two-bunk locking cells attached to a common area. Each cell has a toilet/sink/fountain unit. Showers are attached to the common room. There are two temporary holding or safety cells, checked every 15 minutes with review by a psychologist every four hours. These cells are padded, without a bench, bed, toilet or water source. There is a drain in the floor. Water is provided on request. Special cells can be set up for those with disabilities. There is also an outside exercise area with basketball hoops.

Todd Road offers vocational training classes including print shop, sewing and computer skills. There is a culinary training program where an inmate may earn a certificate of completion. Programs are geared toward cognitive behavioral restructuring in an effort to reduce recidivism, currently estimated at 50%. Trustee work groups of male inmates are allowed to work in an adjacent citrus

orchard with instruction in landscape and gardening. Women are allowed to work in a packing commissary for the entire County jail system. The trustees also work in the laundry, which provides services for the entire County jail system.

The medical staff is present at all times. Medications and prescription drugs are provided as needed. In spite of search efforts, including the use of dogs, illicit drugs still manage to enter the facility. Most recently digital imaging has been employed but that process is time consuming. When illicit drugs are found, they are handled as evidence, sent to the Crime Lab or Property Division of the VCSO and then ultimately sent for destruction.

East County Jail

The East County Jail is included on the lower level of a VCSO facility in Thousand Oaks, consisting of two units. One unit is for detention of detainees. It has 10 locked cells with bunks and mattresses. Blankets and pillows are supplied when occupied. Each cell has a toilet/sink/fountain unit with hot/cold ability. The cells open to a large common area with tables and chairs. All cells were neat and clean at the time of the inspection.

The East County Jail has a booking area where urine and blood samples are taken and stored, including DNA samples. The booking area also includes a photographing area where tattoos and other body appearances are recorded, as well as a fingerprint area and a reception area where paperwork is done. Jail attire is also provided there. Detainees are transported daily to the Main Jail for the purpose of court appearances. Only two deputies were present at the time of the Grand Jury inspection, neither of whom was bilingual, although they indicated they had some limited knowledge of Spanish. A telephone translation service can be used for other languages if needed.

The second unit of the facility is for housing trustees. They are kept in custody from 7:00 PM to 7:00 AM. During the daytime, the trustees work outside the facility on assigned projects for the VCSO, such as gardening and car washing. There is limited supervision while the trustees are outside working. Trustees do not work outside the facility on Saturdays or Sundays.

The trustee housing unit consists of two bunk rooms, each with 12 bunks. At the time of the Grand Jury inspection, nine individuals were in custody; none were present during the inspection. The unit has a common room with tables, a kitchen, library, exercise equipment and a half-court basketball court. Meals are prepared by the staff at the Main Jail, frozen, then sent to the East County Jail. Two inmates are assigned to the kitchen to heat and serve the meals and keep

the kitchen clean. The common area had a clean and tidy bathroom with sink, toilet and shower. There is a visiting area on this level, with glass between the inmate and his visitor, as well as a phone for conversation. These communications are not recorded. Visits are limited to 20 minutes.

In the first unit there are two cells with a telephone and bilingual signage. There is no signage advising that telephone calls are recorded, but the detainee is given a written bilingual sheet, explaining that calls are recorded, as well as information about charges and use. A pin number is assigned that needs to be entered by the inmate to make calls out and have the call charged to him. The East County Jail personnel declined to assign a pin number to a member of the Grand Jury enabling the use of the phone for an assessment of what message is given on the call to an outside person notifying them the call is being recorded. The Grand Jury was advised the recipient of the call is given a message that the call is from a jail facility and being recorded. The Grand Jury was told all phone calls, including those to attorneys, are recorded.

Ventura County Sheriff's Office Holding Facility

VCSO has a detention facility adjacent to the Main Jail in the Ventura County Government Center in Ventura. The VCSO Holding Facility shares a lobby with the Main Jail and has limited space and facilities. Adult detainees are held very briefly, primarily for investigative interviews, and then walked to the Main Jail for booking.

A receptionist is located behind a glass enclosed desk facing the lobby. As mentioned above for the Main Jail, there is a locked deposit box for disposal of prescription drugs in the common lobby. There is bilingual signage in the lobby and throughout the facility.

The VCSO Holding Facility has three cells which lock but were set up as small interview rooms, furnished with only a table and chairs. Each table has a ring mechanism to facilitate handcuffing a detainee to the table. At the time of the inspection, the entire facility was clean, well maintained and odor free.

Juveniles brought to the facility are seated at a table in a common room and kept under constant observation. Juveniles are either immediately taken to the Juvenile Facilities or returned to their parents. There were no juvenile detentions in the last year.

The Grand Jury reviewed all required documentation. In the last year there had been no deaths, suicides, attempted suicides, medical events, accidental injuries, escapes or attempted escapes.

While there is bilingual signage within this facility indicating that a detainee would be entitled to telephone communication, it was reported by deputies that adult detainees are not allowed telephone use at this point, but would need to wait until they are booked into the Main Jail.

Camarillo Police Department

The Camarillo Police Department is staffed by the VCSO and the facility serves as both the police department for the City of Camarillo and a VCSO sub-station. The building, grounds and parking are clean and well kept. The Grand Jury inspection found no odors, graffiti or other visual problems with the site. The inside of the building is well maintained. The station business hours are 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM, with a phone located outside for calls after hours to dispatch, with signage explaining the use in English only. The lobby is large, containing comfortable furniture throughout. There is signage in English but little in Spanish. There is an unlocked prescription drug drop-off bin, open to the public, but signage explaining its use and the exclusion of sharps was only in English. A receptionist was not on duty at the front desk but upon approach a person appeared to offer assistance.

Detainees are pre-booked in the detention portion of the building prior to being sent to the Main Jail. The detention portion does not have cells. There is a large room with a bench on one side, allowing for a detainee to be handcuffed to a bench leg. During the Grand Jury inspection, there was one detainee so detained. A booking bench and desk with computer are in the same room. One side of the room has a counter with supplies in cupboards. A bathroom, with shower, is adjacent and a detainee may use these facilities. Detainees will be given water and snacks if requested. An AED and bleeding control kit were present.

The one juvenile detention room is not equipped for the possible use of restraints, but rather for continuous observation by an officer. No pillow, blanket or mattress was observed. It was stated that clothing will be provided if the detainee's clothing was soiled or needed for evidence.

For the second year in a row, documentation for the facility could not immediately be located. Finally, a juvenile log was located and reviewed, showing no juvenile detentions over three hours. Most entries showed juveniles given to the custody of their parents.

A fire report was faxed to the Grand Jury at a later date indicating some signage problem, with a correction order and invoice showing the corrections had been

made. It was indicated that other documentation was at the VCSO, Ventura office. This was later examined at that location and found to be in order.

Being a VCSO sub-station, policies and procedures are available through LEXIPOL, a nationally recommended computer-based set of police procedures that are also available in patrol cars. Representation was made that in the last year there had been no deaths, suicides, attempted suicides, medical events, accidental injuries, escapes or attempted escapes.

A phone is present in the booking portion of the detention center, but there is no signage regarding phone call regulations or notification of recording of calls. If a private conversation is requested, a cell phone may be used.

Fillmore Police Department

The Fillmore Police Department is staffed by the VCSO. The lobby is open during business hours, 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM, with a phone outside for calls to dispatch after business hours. The signage, in English only, provides instructions for use of the phone. The lobby is small, with chairs for waiting patrons; it is clean and free of graffiti and odors. Bilingual signage is not provided in the lobby. There is a depository for disposal of prescription drugs, but a depository for sharps is not provided. The Grand Jury was informed that there are usually bilingual officers and cadets in the station. Adults are usually detained for only a short time, booked and transported by the arresting officer to the Main Jail. Medical needs of detainees are handled at the Main Jail. An AED and a first aid kit were present in the booking area.

The holding cells are two large rooms, one with a bench that is within the booking area. No mattresses or bunks are provided. There is a separate bathroom with a drain. On inspection, these appeared to be well maintained, clean and free of odors and graffiti. There is no separate sobering/safety cell.

Separate cells are not provided for juveniles, but they are kept separated from adults. Juveniles are placed in the conference room where they can be observed at all times. If requested, water and snacks are available. A change of clothes or jail attire is supplied as needed. Any juvenile arrested under the influence of drugs or alcohol is immediately transported to Santa Paula Hospital, an extension of the Ventura County Medical Center (VCMC) and the closest hospital to the facility. Juveniles are usually released to a parent; some are sent to the Juvenile Facilities.

Review of documents revealed a current BSCC report as well as current fire and health inspection reports. A grievance log is not kept. Review of the juvenile log did not show any actual holdings of more than two hours. Department policies and procedures are available through LEXIPOL. Since the last inspection there

have been no deaths, suicides, attempted suicides, medical events, accidental injuries or escapes. There was one attempted escape, but the individual got only as far as the outside door.

There is a phone present in the booking area. Phone calls are not recorded, however, there would be an officer right next to the detainee making the call, providing no real privacy. The sign on the wall of the detention room regarding phone use was in English only.

Moorpark Police Department

The Moorpark Police Department is staffed by the VCSO. The Highway Patrol also occupies the same building and shares the lobby. The reception windows are not clearly identified as to which one is for each agency. The lobby has both chairs and benches and, at the time of the Grand Jury inspection, a receptionist was not present but one could ring a bell for assistance. Some signage in the lobby area is bilingual. The lobby has a prescription drug collection receptacle with bilingual instructions and plastic bags supplied for the drugs to be deposited.

The detention center has no locked holding cells, but consists of two small rooms, each with a bench equipped with a metal ring that could be used to secure a handcuff. The booking area is adjacent. An arresting officer remains with any detainee while in the station. Adults are usually detained a short time, booked and then transported by the arresting officer to the Main Jail. If a detainee has medical needs, they are sent to the Main Jail or VCMC.

There is no separate cell for juveniles, but they are separated from adults. Juveniles are seated in a separate room on a chair and are under observation by a deputy. Food, water and extra clothing are available if needed. Juveniles are usually released to a parent; some are sent to the Juvenile Facilities. One incident was described where a juvenile was acting unstable, apparently under the influence of an unknown substance. He was secured by handcuffs and observed. Review of the juvenile log showed one held for 4 1/2 hours. Most juveniles are held for less than two hours. It was noted that documentation was not well organized. For example, single forms were used for multiple dates, making it difficult to determine what information belonged to what date.

The Grand Jury was provided with a current BSCC report, health inspection and fire report. There was no grievance log, however it was indicated verbally to the Grand Jury that a complaint could be filed at the Main Jail, communicated by internet or mailed. Policies and procedures are available through LEXIPOL. Since

the last inspection, there had been no deaths, suicides, attempted suicides, medical events, accidental injuries, escapes or attempted escapes.

Phone calls are normally recorded, but a phone is available that is not recorded if a detainee requests a private communication. There is no signage explaining phone use.

Ojai Police Department

The Ojai Police Department is staffed by VCSO. The Grand Jury was informed at the time of inspection that next year the building exterior is scheduled for painting and landscaping. The station has a small, clean and well maintained reception area, with business hours of 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM. A phone outside the lobby connects to dispatch after hours. No bilingual signage was noted in the building; the receptionist and several officers are bilingual. The lobby contains a prescription drug disposal deposit box.

The holding cells consist of two small rooms each with a bench that could be used to secure a handcuffed detainee. Each cell has its own toilet/sink unit and a drain. No mattresses or bunks are provided. There is no separate sobering cell. Adults are detained for a short time. The booking area is adjacent to the holding cells. Detainees are booked and then transported by the arresting officer to the Main Jail. Medical needs are handled at the Main Jail or VCMC. An AED and first aid kit were present in the detention.

Juveniles are always separated from adult detainees. There are no separate cells for juveniles. They are seated in a separate room on a chair and are under observation by a deputy. Cots, blankets, food and clothes are provided if necessary. Juveniles are usually released to a parent, but some are sent to the Juvenile Facilities.

The Grand Jury was provided a current BSCC report, health inspection, fire inspection and juvenile log. Review of the juvenile log did not show any actual holdings more than two hours. There is no grievance log; the Grand Jury was informed that a complaint by a detainee can be filed at the Main Jail. The policies and procedures of the Department are available through LEXIPOL. Since the last inspection, there had been no deaths, suicides, attempted suicides, medical events, accidental injuries, escapes or attempted escapes.

The detention area has a sign on the wall in English describing phone procedures. Phone calls are not recorded, but there is audio-visual recording of all actions and conversations in the cells and other locations in the building. If a detainee wants personal attorney time, an interview room will be made available and the recording turned off.

Oxnard Police Department

The Oxnard Police Department is independent from the VCSO and maintains its own station and detention facility. The building is well maintained, free of trash, graffiti and odors. The lobby is large with numerous comfortable chairs and has a reception area with personnel behind a glass enclosure. Bilingual officers were present on the premises. The lobby is open 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM. An outside telephone is available with bilingual instructions for contacting dispatch. There are bilingual announcements on boards around the lobby as well as in other areas of the building. Among other displayed pamphlets, the Grand Jury noted a pamphlet for "At Risk/Dependent Person Service". This service allows one to register a dependent person who might wander off and become lost.

The lobby has a receptacle for prescription drug disposal with bilingual instructions. The drugs to be discarded must first be accepted by the desk officer who will open the locked receptacle. Unique to this station is the requirement that prescription drug disposals are accepted from Oxnard residents exclusively, and proof of residency must be shown to the assisting officer.

The detention area consists of six cells for adult detainees, each with a bench and water fountain/toilet unit. Officers reported they have problems with inmates falling off the benches and sleeping under the benches. The floors in two cells were substantially deteriorated. The Department was in the process of making repairs. Upon re-inspection a month later, the floors in both cells had been resurfaced. The detention area otherwise was clean, well maintained, odor free and well lit. An AED and first aid kit were present.

Review of the juvenile log revealed that juveniles averaged one hour holding at the facility with none over six hours. Most are either released to a parent or sent to the Juvenile Facilities. Juveniles are kept separate from adult detainees in a room without restraints and under constant observation by an officer. Kits including food, water and blankets are available, as well as spare clothing if needed.

Documentation was available and appeared to be in order, including the juvenile detention log, fire and health inspection reports, BSCC report and an AED log on-line. There was no grievance log. The Department policies and procedures are available through LEXIPOL. Since the last inspection, there had been no deaths, suicides, attempted suicides, medical events, accidental injuries, escapes or attempted escapes.

Adult detainees are afforded the opportunity to make phone calls, but all calls are recorded and monitored. Juveniles are allowed unrecorded use of a cell phone.

Port Hueneme Police Department

Port Hueneme Police Department maintains an independent police station, housed in the same facility as the Port Hueneme City Hall offices. A common lobby serves both facilities and is open from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM. The lobby area is clean, free of odors and has extensive seating and well-kept floors and walls. The lobby contains two bins for disposal of prescription drugs and sharps. Signage on each is bilingual. Additional bilingual announcements on the walls included, but were not limited to, fraud announcements for seniors, including information on phone fraud, coastal clean-up, human trafficking and pet adoptions for veterans. Bilingual forms for making citizen grievances were also available.

At the time of the Grand Jury inspection, a receptionist was not present. On the lobby wall is a red button that connects to a dispatcher to request police assistance. Instructions for its use were in English. On the date of the Grand Jury inspection, the only employee on site was a dispatcher. The Grand Jury was informed that generally three to four officers, including the dispatcher, are on duty but not necessarily in the station. It was unclear how many uniformed officers, if any, occupy the detention center at any one time. There are bilingual officers, including the dispatcher.

The holding cells consist of three small locked cells. One cell is designated as a safety cell and has padded material on the walls and floor with a single mattress and blanket on the floor. The second cell has no furniture. The third cell has two sets of bunk beds with mattresses. This cell also has bars set back from a door, creating a smaller area. Other than the safety cell, the cells have their own fountain/toilet unit, which operated when tested. All cells have floor drains. In the booking area there is another cell that has a bench with a pole for handcuffing, a reach-through opening for use of a phone, photographic equipment and fingerprinting apparatus. A first aid kit but no AED was present.

Adults are usually detained a short time, booked and transported by the arresting officer to the Main Jail. Water and extra clothing are available in the detention center. Detainees' medical needs are handled at the Main Jail or at VCMC. There was one injury report associated with an ambulance transport.

Juveniles are always separated from adult detainees. They are held in a separate unlocked room furnished with a couch and are under constant observation. If a juvenile requests food during detention, an officer will go to a

fast food establishment nearby. Review of the juvenile log did not show any actual holdings more than 5 hours, 45 minutes. The average juvenile detention time was under an hour; most were released to parents although some were sent to the Juvenile Facilities.

The BSCC, health, fire and safety reports were up to date. Department policies and procedures are available through LEXIPOL. Since the last inspection, there had been no deaths, suicides, attempted suicides, medical events, accidental injuries or attempted escapes.

Phone calls from the detention facility are not recorded, but there is audio-visual recording of all actions and conversations in the cells and other locations in the building. If a detainee wants personal attorney time, he or she is put in the interview room and the recording is turned off. There is a bilingual notice on the wall of the detention facility indicating phone calls can be made.

Santa Paula Police Department

The Santa Paula Police Department is independent from the VCSO and maintains its own station and detention facility in a building separated from other City offices. Overall the building is older than other detention facilities inspected by the Grand Jury. It is generally clean but in poor condition and limited in size. The lobby is very small, contains minimal signage and it was noted the carpeting was frayed, which could be a trip hazard. Decaying wall materials were noted. There was no odor problem. A receptacle for used prescriptions is located in the lobby. Signage on the receptacle explaining its use is in English only. The receptionist was bilingual. Lobby hours are 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM. A phone, with instructions in English only, is present outside the lobby for after-hours contact with dispatch. Many of the officers are bilingual; other interpretive services are available by phone.

Detention cells in the building are locked and contain bunks, mattresses, benches and tables. Cells have an operative sink/fountain/toilet unit. Cells do not have floor drains. An AED and first aid kit were present.

Juveniles are held in a conference room under constant observation by an officer. Unruly juveniles are handcuffed to a chair. Food and water are available. Review of the juvenile detention log showed none were held over two hours. Most were released to their parents; a few were sent to the Juvenile Facilities.

The Department policies and procedures are available through LEXIPOL. The Grand Jury was shown up to date BSCC, health and fire inspection reports. Since the last inspection, there had been no deaths, suicides, attempted suicides,

escapes or attempted escapes. There was one injury report associated with an ambulance transport.

The Department has one resource officer for Santa Paula High School and the middle schools in the City. Officers have engaged in active shooter training with the schools.

The detention area has a sign on the wall in English indicating phone calls can be made. Phone calls are not recorded, but there is audio-visual recording of all actions and conversations in the cells and other locations in the building. If a detainee wants personal attorney time, an interview room will be made available and the recording turned off.

Simi Valley Police Department

The Simi Valley Police Department is independent from the VCSO and maintains its own station and detention facility. Located in the Civic Center area of Simi Valley, it is adjacent to the Ventura County Simi Courthouse and Simi Valley City offices. This facility is of relatively new construction with extensive parking on site. The building has a pleasant lobby with ample seating and wide areas throughout the building. The entire building is well maintained, free of any trash, graffiti or odors. Most signage throughout the building is in English. The office hours are 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM. A receptionist is present and available in the lobby. For after-hours calls to dispatch, a phone is provided with instructions in English.

A slot with a locked door is built into a lobby wall for disposal of prescription drugs. However, because it is locked it is necessary to ask the officer at the front desk for assistance. A plastic bag is provided into which the drugs are transferred prior to putting them into the slot. There are five to 10 bilingual officers on the premises or available by phone. Simi police cooperate with other departments if language services or female officers are needed to assist with detainees.

There are six holding cells with locked doors and a small window and drawer opening on each door. Each cell has a bunk with a mattress. A toilet/fountain unit is provided. There is a drain in the floor. The detention area has a shower. Food is available along with blankets. Clothing is also available if the detainee's clothes are needed for evidence. All cells are well maintained, clean, free of odors and well lit.

Adults are usually detained a short time, booked and transported by the arresting officer to the Main Jail. Medical needs of detainees are handled at the Main Jail or VCMC.

Juveniles are separated from adult detainees and kept in a cell under audio-visual observation. It has a limited window that would not allow a seated person nearby to see a detainee in the cell. There is a bench next to the officers' desks with a ring for handcuffs that is available if a juvenile is violent. It was indicated that most juvenile detainees spent little time in custody and are released to a parent or sent to the Juvenile Facilities.

Medical needs of detainees are most often handled at the Simi Valley Hospital, which is the closest facility. Otherwise, a person could be sent to the VCMC, 45 minutes away. If food is requested, an officer will obtain it from a vending machine or by a trip to one of the fast food restaurants close by.

The Department policies and procedures are available through LEXIPOL. The Grand Jury was shown up to date BSCC, health and fire inspection reports. All are digitized as well as paper copied. The juvenile report had only two detentions in the last year; one juvenile was a runaway. That individual was held for two hours. The other detention of a juvenile was for 40 minutes and then released to a parent. Since the last inspection, there had been no deaths, suicides, attempted suicides, medical events, accidental injuries, escapes or attempted escapes.

There is bilingual signage regarding placing phone calls. Although there are phones available, detainees are not usually afforded the opportunity to make phone calls. Phone calls are not recorded. For communications with a personal attorney, there is a secure interview room not recorded either by audio or video. There is audio-visual recording of all actions and conversations in the cells and other locations in the building. Officers also have body cameras issued with audio-visual equipment.

An item of note is that the Simi Valley Police Department has held active shooter training sessions not only with the schools but also with religious and community centers as a community outreach.

Thousand Oaks Police Department

The Thousand Oaks Police Department is staffed by the VCSO. The facility serves as both the police department for the City of Thousand Oaks and a VCSO sub-station for areas of the unincorporated County. It contains a jail facility in the basement, earlier described as East County Jail.

The lobby is large, with slat wood benches provided for guests. The area was clean, free of graffiti and odors. The reception desk was not occupied, but on approach an assistant did appear. The lobby has stairs to the lower level

housing the East County Jail, where a visitor can have a conference with an inmate. Signage throughout the building is bilingual. Business hours are 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM with an outside phone for calls to dispatch, including bilingual signage. Inside there is a receptacle for disposal of prescriptions, which is open for deposit. The instructions are bilingual. There is a separate receptacle for proper disposal of U.S. flags. Signage at that receptacle is in English.

The Police Station portion of the building has no actual cells. There are interview rooms which lock, each containing a table where a person could be handcuffed. These rooms have an adjacent bathroom which is locked and requires a deputy to unlock for both entry and exit or to accompany the detainee into the bathroom. There are showers and in the restroom the sink and toilet were operative, clean and odor free. None of the rooms has a bunk, bed, pillow or mattress. There is no separate sobering cell. No water fountains are present, but if water is requested a bottle will be provided. An AED and bleeding control kit were present.

There is one juvenile detention room with a narrow wooden bench and a window allowing an officer at the booking desk to constantly observe the juvenile. No pillow, blanket or mattress is available. Snacks can be provided from the officers' cafeteria area. It was indicated that jail clothing can be provided if the detainee's clothing is soiled or needed for evidence. Most juveniles are returned to a parent.

The BSCC report was reviewed. Documentation of health and fire inspections was requested but not provided. Review of the juvenile log showed one juvenile detainee was held over six hours with an explanation in the log. There were other juveniles held for five hours, and one for five hours and 59 minutes.

As a VCSO sub-station, the facility's policies and procedures are available through LEXIPOL. Representation was made that in the last year there had been no deaths, suicides, attempted suicides, medical events, accidental injuries, escapes or attempted escapes.

No phone is present for detainees to use.

Ventura City Police Department

The Ventura Police Department is independent from the VCSO and maintains its own station and detention facility, sharing a site with the Ventura City Fire Department headquarters. At the time of the Grand Jury inspection, the common waiting room for both departments was found to be clean with adequate seating for patrons. There was no depository for prescription drugs; one officer indicated all patrons wishing to dispose of used prescription drugs

are directed to the VCSO in the Ventura County Government Center. Another officer stated the drugs would be taken by an officer in a clear plastic bag, delivered to the property room and then sent for destruction in bulk. Lobby business hours are 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM. A telephone outside the lobby, with bilingual signage, is provided to contact dispatch after hours. Other than signage outside, no bilingual signage was seen in the lobby or throughout the building.

The detention center includes three small locked enclosures, one of which is a safety or sobering cell with a floor drain but no furniture or sink/toilet unit. A second cell has a metal bunk, without mattress, pillow or blanket. That cell did have a working toilet/sink/fountain unit. A third, larger locked room has a wooden bench with handcuffs on each side. At the time of inspection, the detention cell area was clean, well maintained and free of odors. An AED and first aid were present

There are no separate cells for juveniles. In an area on the second floor, near detective work stations, there is an office with a desk and chairs where a juvenile is held with the door open, under constant observation by an officer. There is a second office with a couch and chairs, usually a victim's room, where a juvenile could also be detained. Both rooms are under audio-visual surveillance. Food and water are made available to detained juveniles. If a blanket is requested, it is taken from a patrol car. The majority of juveniles are held a short period and then released to parents.

The Grand Jury inspected the fire and health reports, juvenile logs and BSCC reports which were current. The facility's policies and procedures are available through LEXIPOL. It was represented that since the last inspection, there had been no deaths, suicides, attempted suicides, medical events, accidental injuries, escapes or attempted escapes.

Detainees are not usually afforded the opportunity to make phone calls. They are told they may request a phone call at the Main Jail, which is where detainees are sent after booking. However, phones are available and phone calls made are not recorded. There is an overhead audio-visual system recording all actions and conversations in cells and throughout the detention center. All officers wear body cameras with the same capability.

Ventura Youth Correctional Facility

The Grand Jury also inspected the Ventura Youth Correctional Facility (VYCF), which is a State operated commitment facility for youth between the ages of 16 and 25 years, located in Camarillo, California. Most of the youths at VYCF are from Los Angeles, Riverside and San Bernardino counties. The usual

commitment is about 20 months. This facility is currently under the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, but as of July 1, 2020 will be the responsibility of the California Health & Human Services Agency. The goal is to prepare the youth for a successful re-entry into the general outside population. Each youth is given a plan for the commitment which leads to re-entry, involving parents and counseling whenever possible.

The VYCF campus is over 110 acres and includes 12 housing units of which eight are currently in use. A ninth housing unit will soon be opened to allow an increased population to 300 youths. The grounds reflect the age of the facility and lack of maintenance. The walkways are cracked and lifted. There is an unused fenced area that appears to have been a basketball court. The Grand Jury was informed that the pool is no longer in use because of cracks, deteriorated surface and old mechanical equipment.

Currently there are 240 youths, of which 30 are females. With a staff of about 400, this VYCF campus is the only state youth facility in Southern California. Two additional facilities are located in Northern California. An intake unit is being readied for use, which will allow intake of some youth residents who will eventually be sent to a Northern California facility.

At intake, youths are evaluated for medical issues, mental health, education, and risk. The facility has full medical, dental, ophthalmology, and psychological services for the youths. The goal is to maintain routine health as well as treat acute illness and injury. A full time pharmacist provides needed medication, including psychotropic medications for treatment of mental illness. There is a service for tattoo removal. While rare, pregnant females can be cared for, however at birth they are separated from their child.

After intake a youth is assigned to a core group, based on mental condition and possible behavior problems. There are three designated core groups for behavior problems and two mental health units. All females are in one unit.

Each housing unit consists of a common area and multiple individual locking cells set out in long rows. The common area has couches, chairs and tables where residents can co-mingle. The housing units, common areas and school area are generally in satisfactory and clean condition, though the buildings show some wear and tear. The Grand Jury noted that in several housing units there were areas of floor and ceiling tiles stained or damaged. In some places the junction boxes were missing covers.

Inspection of the female housing unit showed a treatment room set up like a living room with couches, rugs and art work on the walls. The actual locked cells, one per female resident, had a solid concrete raised bed area with

mattress, pillow and bed clothes. Each unit had its own sink/toilet unit and a set of shelves for storage of clothes or materials. The residents are locked in their rooms from 9:30 PM to 6:30 AM. For good behavior or accomplishments, a resident could earn a weekend in an honor room equipped with a computer. There is also a set of safety or crisis rooms with only a raised concrete bed and mattress.

During the day each resident has a full schedule for schooling, medical treatments, counseling, exercise and social activities. The residents under the age of 18 that have not earned a high school diploma are required to attend the Mary B. Perry High School, a fully accredited high school. In addition to the core classes, primary and secondary computer coding classes are available with multiple sets of computers and monitors. The students are able to confer remotely with coding mentors and class members from the adult prison system.

There are additional programs supportive of residents, including religious services and physical activities such as visits from the Rams, Lakers and other outside groups. A chef provides cooking classes, as well as trips to events like restaurants where residents assist in meal preparation. Parents and close family are encouraged to visit daily. Free phone calls can be made to attorneys or family, unrecorded and allowed in private settings.

All staff encountered by the Grand Jury demonstrated a positive attitude in regards to the work they were doing with the residents. Through counseling rather than confrontation, their efforts focus on teaching the residents life skills, adaptive skills and development of an attitude affirming their ability to succeed upon release.

Grand Jury Comments

All County detention facilities inspected appeared safe, clean and in satisfactory condition. VYCF, while in need of maintenance and lacking cleanliness throughout, appeared generally safe.

The detention facilities were inconsistent regarding the policy of allowing detainee telephone use and the monitoring and recording phone conversations.

The Grand Jury encourages the City of Santa Paula to make further progress in either renovating the facilities of the Santa Paula Police Department or move the facility to a location more suited to the detention needs of the Department.

The Grand Jury encourages VCSO to develop and institute a uniform policy for telephone access for detainees.

The Grand Jury encourages VCSO to develop and institute a uniform policy regarding monitoring and recording of telephone conversations, allowing for privacy of conversations between detainees and attorneys or medical providers.

Glossary

<u>TERM</u>	<u>DEFINITION</u>
AED	Automatic External Defibrillator
BSCC	Board of State and Community Corrections
County	Ventura County
ESL	English as a second language
Grand Jury	2019-2020 Ventura County Grand Jury
Juvenile facilities	Ventura County Juvenile Facilities
State	State of California
VCMC	Ventura County Medical Center
VCSO	Ventura County Sheriff’s Office
VYCF	Ventura Youth Correctional Facility