



May 24, 2011

Honorable Thomas J. Borris
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court of California
700 Civic Center Drive West
Santa Ana, CA 92701

Subject: Review of Orange County Detention Facilities

Dear Judge Borris:

Per your request, and in accordance with Penal Code 933, please find the County of Orange response to the subject report as approved by the Board of Supervisors. The respondents are the County of Orange Board of Supervisors, the Sheriff-Coroner and the Probation Department. If you have any questions, please contact Michelle Zink at (714) 834-7487 in the County Executive Office who will either assist you or direct you to the appropriate individual.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Thomas G. Mauk".

Thomas G. Mauk
County Executive Officer

Enclosure

cc: 2010-11 Orange County Grand Jury

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**2010-2011 Grand Jury Report
Review of Orange County Detention Facilities
Board of Supervisors/Probation Department
Responses to Findings and Recommendations**

Responses to Findings F.3, F.5 and F.6

- F.3** The programs instituted by the Sheriff's Inmate Services Division as well as other governmental entities are attempting to reduce inmate recidivism in Orange County.

Response: Agrees with the finding.

The Probation Department has embarked on several initiatives to reduce recidivism through introduction of "Integrating Effective Probation Practices" (IEPP) at various levels of agency operations, both within institutional services as well as field services. In line with establishing IEPP, recidivism rates are being monitored quarterly and reported annually in the Probation Department Business Plan.

The Orange County Sheriff's Department Inmate Services Division's Correctional Programs and Inmate Re-Entry Units have implemented a variety of programs to directly reduce recidivism rates in Orange County. With the implementation of the PROXY initial screening tool, combined with the validated Wisconsin Risk and Needs Assessment, Inmate Services staff can now target those high risk to reoffend inmates providing them with intensive in-custody programs, discharge plans, and post release services through the Great Escape Resource Center. Also, as one of six counties selected to participate in the "Transition from Jails to Communities" initiative, the Orange County Sheriff's Department has taken the lead in developing collaborations with other key stakeholders in the county such as Probation, Social Services, Health Care, Collaborative Courts, and the Orange County Reentry Partnership (OCREP) with the goal of providing a seamless transition for inmates leaving the county jails and integrating back into the community. Finally, Inmate Services staff is currently working with the Urban Institute to develop better methods of collecting data and tracking recidivism rates.

- F.5** Due to recent implementation of the federal ICE program, the financial impact is too new to be assessed.

Response: Disagrees partially with the finding

Since the 2010-2011 Grand Jury Review was completed on February 18, 2011, there has been data developed to establish the financial impact of the program. The Sheriff's FY 2010-2011 budget for the ICE detainee program is \$21.8 million in revenue. The total revenue billed for services for the period of August 2010 through January 2011 was \$10.1 million. As of January 2011, the ICE revenue fiscal year-end projection is \$21.4 million, which is just 1.8% less than the budgeted amount. Cost and contract obligations will continue to be monitored in future years.

- F.6** The S.A.F.E. Division initiated by the Orange County Sheriff-Coroner in 2010 is an early-warning system designed to enhance sheriff department operations.

Response: *Agrees with the finding.*

With the establishment of the S.A.F.E. Division in 2008, the Orange County Sheriff Department has implemented systems such as the Personnel history Index, Critical Incident Review process and the Force Trends Board which are components to the department's early warning system. These systems have been developed to ensure the department's commitment to accountability, transparency and professionalism promised to the residents of Orange County.

Responses to Recommendation R.2 through R.4

- R.2** Collect and analyze data to evaluate the present financial impact of the ICE program on Orange County.

Response: *The recommendation has been implemented.*

Since the 2010-2011 Grand Jury Review was completed on February 18, 2011, there has been data developed to establish the financial impact of the program. The Sheriff's FY 2010-2011 budget for the ICE detainee program is \$21.8 million in revenue. The total revenue billed for services for the period of August 2010 through January 2011 was \$10.1 million. As of January 2011, the ICE revenue fiscal year-end projection is \$21.4 million, which is just 1.8% less than the budgeted amount. Cost and contract obligations will continue to be monitored in future years.

- R.3** Develop a study to better understand the causes of the reduced inmate population that currently exist in Orange County detention facilities.

Response: *The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable.*

The Probation department has been tracking rates of arrest for juveniles for over a decade. Despite increased population figures for the 12-17 year old group, arrest rates have been steadily falling since 2007. This trend holds true for every city in Orange County, as well as on the state and national level. The department will continue to track arrests on a monthly basis and report findings on a quarterly and yearly basis. Due to budgetary reductions, it is not feasible to conduct a study to determine the cause of the reduced inmate population. The Probation Department does not have adequate funding or staff to conduct a study.

- R.4** Continue to assess and present evidence-based data from the S.A.F.E. Division of the Orange County Sheriff's Department to enhance transparency, provide effective law-enforcement and reduce civil litigation.

Response: *The recommendation has been implemented.*

The S.A.F.E. Division presents quarterly Force Trend Reviews and annual Operational Assessments to all command staff. These analysis and assessments are developed utilizing up to date comprehensive data collection techniques established by the department and insured by proven quality control mechanisms. Representatives from County Counsel and the Office of Independent Review, a civilian oversight committee established by the Board of Supervisors, actively attend and participate during all reviews and assessments. The Orange County Sheriff's Department will continue these reviews and work toward enhancing their effectiveness and utility.