



SHERIFF-CORONER DEPARTMENT
COUNTY OF ORANGE
CALIFORNIA

SANDRA HUTCHENS
SHERIFF-CORONER

OFFICE OF SHERIFF-CORONER

August 31, 2011

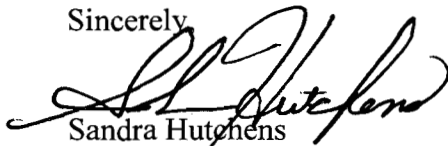
Honorable Thomas J. Borris
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court
700 Civic Center Drive West
Santa Ana, CA 92701

Subject: Response to Orange County Grand Jury 2010-2011 Report, "Inmate Re-Entry Unit."

Dear Judge Borris:

In accordance with Penal Code sections 933 and 933.05, enclosed please find the response to the FY 2010-2011 Orange County Grand Jury Report, "Inmate Re-Entry Unit." If you have any questions, please contact Assistant Sheriff Mike James at (714) 647-4590.

Sincerely,



Sandra Hutchens
Sheriff-Coroner

cc: Jerry L. Powell, Grand Jury Foreman
Members, Board of Supervisors
Thomas G. Mauk, County Executive Officer

550 N. FLOWER STREET, SANTA ANA, CA 92703 (714) 647-1800

*Integrity without compromise. Service above self. Professionalism in the performance of duty.
Vigilance in safeguarding our community*



ORANGE COUNTY SHERIFF'S

DEPARTMENT

GRAND JURY RESPONSE

INMATE RE-ENTRY UNIT



Dear members of the Grand Jury,

The Orange County Sheriff's Department (OCSD) has received and reviewed the Orange County Grand Jury report titled "Inmate Re-Entry Unit". The Orange County Sheriff's Department has reviewed the findings in a collaborative effort with necessary personnel and has prepared the following response.

FINDINGS

F.1

Experienced sheriff deputies are a primary element of the booking and assessment process.

Response: *Agree with Finding*

F.2

Former inmates are identified as "clients" upon entry into the Great Escape Program.

Response: *Agrees with Finding*

F.3

Twenty former Orange County jail inmates participated in the Great Escape Program and were recognized for staying sober and not re-offending for at least a year.

Response: *Agrees with Finding*

F.4

Resources (housing and employment) are barriers to successful completion of the Inmate Re-Entry Program.

Response: *Agrees with Findings*

F.5

The Inmate Re-Entry Unit has contributed to reduce recidivism rates.

Response: *Agrees with Findings*

F.6

Greater public awareness of Orange County Sheriff's Department Inmate Re-Entry Program would provide a realistic view of recidivism.

Response: *Agrees with Findings*

F.7

The Orange County Sheriff's Department Inmate Re-Entry Unit Program was identified as a model by the National Institute of Corrections.

Response: *Agrees with Findings*

Recommendations**R.1**

Continue to seek funding to support the Re-Entry Program.

Response: *Agrees with Recommendation*

In the efforts to secure additional funding for the Re-Entry Program the Sheriff's Department is working on several fronts. The Orange County Sheriff's Department is in the process of applying for assistance from the United States Department of Justice Second Chance Act Grant. This grant funding is available to help local jurisdictions plan and implement programs and strategies to reduce recidivism and ensure successful Re-Entry of adults released from prison/jail back to the community. The Department is partnering with a non-profit organization-Community Solutions Incorporated to collaborate on the Second Chance Act Mentoring Grant. This grant focuses on targeting high risk to re-offend inmates and matches them with trained mentors who work collaboratively through the transition process to successfully transition the inmate back into society. Additionally the Orange County Sheriff's Department has requested a Technical Assistance grant from the National Institute of Corrections. This grant will extend the use of the assistance of experts from the Urban Institute and the National Institute of Corrections to further our efforts in transitioning "clients" back into the community. The Sheriff's Department has also established collaboration with the Orange County Workforce Investment Board for the purpose of applying for the Enhanced Transition Job Demonstration Grant. This grant is to provide employment services to "clients" referred from law enforcement agencies and community partners to enhance the success of these individuals finding employment

R.2

Increase public awareness of the value of programs responsible for recidivism reduction.

Response: *Agrees with Recommendation*

Public awareness for the value of recidivism reduction programs is vital in the efforts to build a safer community; towards this end the Orange County Sheriff's Department has requested a Technical Assistance Grant from the National Institute of Corrections. This grant will assist in developing informational materials which will be used to educate the public about our efforts in Re-Entry. The Orange County Sheriff's Department has had local newspaper articles written, highlighting the Re-Entry efforts the Department has made this far. The Department will continue to engage and educate the public and elected officials, as well as keep the Orange County Criminal Justice Council updated on program progress as recidivism of inmates is reduced and Orange County becomes an even safer place to live, work and play.