



EL DORADO COUNTY GRAND JURY 2009-2010

EL DORADO COUNTY JUVENILE HALL

Case No. GJ 09-009

REASON FOR REPORT

California Penal Code §919(a) and §919(b) require that grand juries annually inspect any jail, prison, or juvenile detention facility within their respective counties.

BACKGROUND

The El Dorado County Juvenile Hall, Placerville, was built in 1971. Since original construction, the facility has been expanded and now houses a maximum of 40 male and female juveniles. These juveniles become temporary wards of the court pending adjudication. The El Dorado County Probation Department is responsible for the care of the wards as well as the facility and personnel. The El Dorado County Office of Education is responsible for their education. A good relationship between these two departments is necessary for the success of both programs. The wards' health, safety and education are governed by Welfare and Institution Code, California Code of Regulations and Federal and State educational codes.

Programs are in place to educate and support youthful offenders and their families. These programs include counseling, mental health and vocational training. Providing an education to the wards allows them the opportunity to stay abreast of their school work.

METHODOLOGY

The Grand Jury conducted interviews, analyzed documents, and inspected the facility.

Members of this Grand Jury visited the El Dorado County Juvenile Hall, Placerville, on November 11, 2009.

Interviews conducted:

- Superintendent of Juvenile Hall
- Probation Staff and Department of Education Staff
- Juvenile wards

Documents reviewed:

- California Code of Regulations, Title 15, §1029, Policy and Procedures Manual
- California Code of Regulations, Title 15, § 1280, Facility Sanitation, Safety and Maintenance
- California Code of Regulations, Title 17, §§6000-6075
- California Education Code §49068 and §49403
- California Health and Safety Code, §§120325-120380
- California Welfare and Institutions Code, §§850-873
- El Dorado County Health Service Department facility inspection report (2010)
- Title 42 United States Code 5601 §101, Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention Act

Web sites reviewed:

- Department of Education www.edc.ca.gov (February 2010)

FINDINGS

The 2009-2010 El Dorado County Grand Jury has arrived at the following findings:

1. The facility has a new digital video security system. Specific time frames can be downloaded if necessary. This is an upgrade that had been recommended by a previous grand jury.
2. Procedures are in place to handle complaints and are posted in common areas. Complaints are resolved in a timely manner.
3. The Department of Education determines the appropriate level of instruction needed for each ward and prepares individual study plans. All educational materials are contemporary and some are tailored to be used in juvenile correctional facilities. Students who successfully complete a high school education program get a full diploma from a high school that cannot be identified as being part of a detention program. Educational staff are appropriately credentialed and accredited for their positions.
4. Medical facilities are efficient and modern.
5. Wards have access to medical professionals at all times.
6. Food is nutritious and prepared on site.

RECOMMENDATIONS

None

RESPONSES

A response to this report is not required.

COMMENDATION

The 2009-2010 Grand Jury commends the El Dorado County Probation Department and the Office of Education for their outstanding advocacy and rehabilitation programs for at-risk youth and for acting on recommended upgrades to the facility in a timely manner.