

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
COUNTY OF MADERA

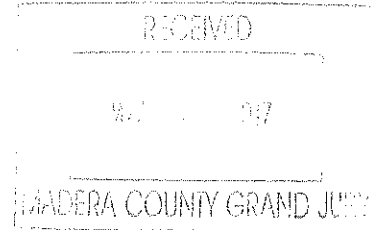
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HUBERT "HUB" WALSH, INTERIM Director

An Equal Opportunity Employer

May 2, 2017

Presiding Judge of the Superior Court
Madera County Superior Court
200 S. G Street
Madera, Ca. 93637



RE: *Response to 2016-17 Madera County Grand Jury Public Guardian/Conservator/Public Administrator, Final Report*

Dear Honorable Presiding Judge:

In accordance with California Penal Code § 933.5(a) and (b), this letter addresses all **Recommendations** in the above-referenced report which address subjects under the control of the Department of Social Services.

The Grand Jury's Final Report contains Findings with subsection findings therein. This letter provides a response to each of the Grand Jury's Recommendations. Wherever disagreements are found, descriptive analyses explain therefor.

Grand Jury Recommendations:

1. That the Madera County Public Guardian remain under the management of the Department of Social Services.

Department of Social Services response: The Department of Social Services agrees with the recommendation.

2. That the Madera County Board of Supervisors fund the current unfunded permanent position in the 2017-2018 budget to add another Deputy Public Guardian to handle casework.

Department of Social Services response: There are currently no unfunded positions within the Public Guardians office. However, the Department of Social Services is supportive of pursuing discussions with the County Administrative Office and the Board

of Supervisors on reviewing this potential option.

3. That Human Resources complete the recruitment process to fill the clerical position funded by Behavioral Health in the 2016-2017 budget.

Department of Social Services response: The Department agrees with the recommendation and has begun the recruitment process to fill the clerical position vacancy as of April 2017.

4. That the Public Guardian review the Policy and Procedure Manual by the end of this 2016-2017 fiscal year and update as needed.

Department of Social Services response: The Department assigned an Administrative Analyst II, as of March 2017, who will be updating Public Guardian policies as needed. This will be an ongoing process, and not likely completed by 2016-2017 fiscal year.

5. That the Public Guardian review the fee schedule for services by the end of this 2016-2017 fiscal year and update as needed.

Department of Social Services response: The Department agrees to begin updating the fee schedule in Fiscal Year 2017-2018. This task has previously taken the Department twelve months due to the fact that there are many factors to be considered.

6. That the Public Guardian staff be commended for diligent and compassionate case management.

Department of Social Services response: The Department and the Board of Supervisors will publically recognize the service the staff of the Public Guardian's office provides to the community through a proclamation in June. The Department also recognizes the Public Guardian's office work through internal processes and hosts a staff appreciation in June.

The Department of Social Services would like to thank the Grand Jury for their review of this critical service.

Sincerely,



Hubert "Hub" Walsh, Interim Director
Madera County Department of Social Services