



2012 – 2013

Madera County Grand Jury

Final Report

Madera County Department of Probation

Administration

Adult Division

Juvenile Division

Juvenile Detention Facility

Juvenile Boot Camp

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Introduction:

The Grand Jury elected to review Madera County Probation Department (MCPD) and the impact AB109 has on the department. AB109 stipulates that offenders who have been sentenced for non-violent, non-sex related crimes will serve their time in the county where sentenced.

MCPD is one component of a complex system of justice. Their mission is to protect the community through assessment, treatment and control of adult and juvenile offenders by providing a range of effective services based on legal requirements and recognized professional standards. Since the passage of AB109 the MCPD case-load has increased.

The Administration Services Bureau (ASB) is a leadership and support arm for all Madera County Probation activities and programs, providing direct services to the Adult and Juvenile Community Corrections and Detention Bureaus.

The primary areas of responsibility handled by ASB include, but are not limited to:

- Administrative Clerical Services
- Automated Systems
- Closed Files
- Fiscal Services (Accounts Payable/Payroll)
- Policy and Procedures
- Professional Standards (Internal Affairs and Background Investigations)
- Reception
- Recruitment
- Special Projects
- Staff Development

The Probation Department is divided into:

- Probation Administration
- Adult Services Division
- Transition Services Center
- Juvenile Services Division
- Mountain Office (Adult and Juvenile)
- Juvenile Detention Facility

- Juvenile Boot Camp (currently located in the detention facility)

Facts:

1. There are a total of 104 funded Probation Department positions.
 - a. 76 positions are funded by the County General Fund
 - b. 28 positions are funded by State grants
2. There are a total of 36 unfunded and unfilled positions.
3. The MCPD has mandated work furloughs.
4. MCPD provides:
 - a. Pre-sentence reports to the Superior Courts
 - b. Prepares juvenile court petitions
 - c. Provides uniformed Detention Officers at the juvenile detention facility
 - d. Provides formal and informal supervision for defendants released on probation
 - e. Provides probation officers to special enforcement units
5. The MCPD partnered with Behavioral Intervention, Inc., providing 24/7 call center services and technical support for electronically monitoring of probationers ordered by the courts.
6. Behavioral Intervention, Inc. and other agencies provide programs for re-entry of inmates into the community.
7. MCPD is a member of the Community Corrections Partnership Committee.
8. The District Attorney's Office does not provide an in house Deputy District Attorney to coordinate cases with MCPD.

Findings:

1. The MCPD has two funded, unfilled adult probation officer positions causing an increased caseload.
2. MCPD has reduced the cost of supervising probationers by contracting with private business.
3. The Juvenile Detention Facility has two funded, unfilled positions to monitor juveniles in custody.
4. The Juvenile Detention Facility administrative segregation unit (isolation) is not utilized due to lack of staffing.
5. An in-house Deputy District Attorney would improve the efficiency of processing reports and cases with the Juvenile courts.
6. The Juvenile Boot Camp Program has been moved into the detention facility limiting the capacity to house juvenile offenders.
7. The MCPD is a well-managed department providing excellent service to the community.

Recommendations:

1. Fill funded positions.
2. Reduce employee furloughs until funded positions are filled.
3. The District Attorney provide an in-house Deputy District Attorney to the MCPD.
4. The Juvenile Boot Camp Program be relocated outside the detention facility.

Respondents:

Madera County Board of Supervisors
200 West Fourth Street
Madera, CA 93637

Madera County Probation Department
Chief County Probation Officer
200 West Yosemite Avenue
Madera, CA 93637

Madera County District Attorney
209 West Yosemite Avenue
Madera, CA 93637

Informational:

Madera County Superior Court
Honorable Joseph A. Soldani
209 West Yosemite Avenue
Madera, CA 93637