

VALLEY STATE PRISON

P.O. Box 99
Chowchilla, CA 93610-0099



March 3, 2021

Presiding Judge Michael Jurkovich
Madera County Superior Court
300 S. G. Street
Madera, CA 93637

Madera County Grand Jury
P.O. Box 534
Madera, CA 93639



This is in response to your Findings and Recommendations contained in the 2019-2020 Madera County Grand Jury report, dated December 21, 2020, regarding Valley State Prison (VSP).

Findings:

1. The MCGJ finds the inmate population exceeds state mandates.

I disagree with this finding.

2. The MCGJ finds there are adequate educational and vocational opportunity programs for inmates.

I agree with this finding.

3. The MCGJ finds there is lack of mental health treatment options available for inmates.

I disagree with this finding. Inmates are provided access to Mental Health Services Delivery System (MHSDS) at any time by submitting a referral for services. Inmates that are part of the MHSDS at the level of Enhanced Outpatient Care (EOP) and Correction Clinical Case Management System (CCCMS) level of care are provided adequate care consistent with their severity of mental illness and overall functioning. In addition, VSP is currently fully staffed in the Mental Health Department. There are regular audits to ensure quality care is being provided for the inmates. VSP has routine treatment team meetings to ensure that inmates are at the appropriate level of care.

4. The MCGJ finds the inmates were well behaved, polite, proud of their accomplishments, and willing to answer questions.

I agree with this finding.

Recommendations:

1. The MCGJ recommends that the CDCR continue to work at the state level, specifically California State Legislative Analyst Office (LAO), to assist in resolving overcrowding issues.

This recommendation has been implemented in 2019. The inmate population was 2906 however, with the Implementation of Propositions 47, 57 and AB 109 the population has continued to reduce the number at VSP to 2755.

2. The MCGJ recommends that the CDCR continue providing well-rounded offerings of educational and vocational training with post release employment opportunities.

This recommendation has been implemented with advanced education with Merced College and educational, vocational job placement, which has led to 157 AA degrees, 240 GED's and 37 high school diplomas between, 2017-2020.

3. The MCGJ recommends that the CDCR investigate an outsourcing option for Mental Health Services or jointly utilize the Mental Health Services available at the Central California Women's Facility.

As mentioned above, VSP's Mental Health Department is fully staffed to provide services to the inmate population in all levels of care.

4. The MCGJ commends the CDCR staff for maintaining a positive and supportive environment.

Thank you.

Should you have any questions or concerns regarding this matter, please contact David Barksdale, Administrative Assistant/Public Information Officer, at (559) 665-6500, extension 5509.


R. FISHER, JR.
Warden
Valley State Prison