



**MADERA COUNTY  
PROBATION DEPARTMENT  
Administration**



**STEPHANIE STOECKEL**  
Deputy Chief Probation Officer

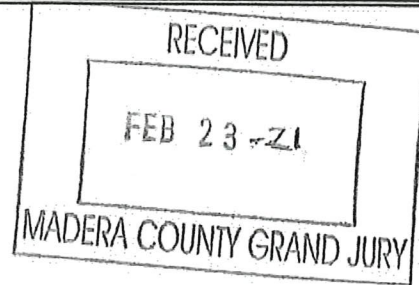
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February 19, 2021

Madera County Grand Jury Foreperson  
PO Box 534  
Madera CA 93637

Attention: Madera County Grand Jury Foreperson



This letter is to serve as a response to the (MCGJ) Madera County Grand Jury findings and recommendations released on December 21, 2020, regarding Madera County Juvenile Detention Facility.

Madera County Probation Department would like to thank the Madera County Grand Jury for their recommendations and comments. The group that toured our facility showed great interest in the education, rehabilitation, and medical efforts that were on display when visiting with the teachers, wards, facility staff and medical staff.

The Probation Department acknowledges the Grand Jury's recommendations and will strive to adopt them into our plan to improve both public safety and rehabilitation efforts of justice involved individuals.

The report noted two (2) findings for Madera County Juvenile Detention Facility and provided two (2) recommendations to address the reported findings. Below you will find both Grand Jury findings and recommendations, and the department's response pursuant to Penal Code Section 933.

**1) Finding, Recommendation and Response:**

*F3. The MCGJ finds that a delay of a 96-hour physical screening endangers the health and safety of other residents and staff.*

*R3. The MCGJ recommends that immediately up admission wards shall be screened for any communicable diseases.*

**Madera County Probation Department Response:**

The Madera County Probation Department partially agrees with the finding and will explain the reasons. The physical screening is a full health assessment conducted by a physician soon as possible and no later than 96-hours of the ward's arrival. Equally, upon arrival to the facility, a ward is also screened by a qualified health care professional between 7am-7pm and no later than the following morning if the

*"The mission of the Madera County Probation Department is to encourage positive change in the lives of offenders through collaborative partnerships, evidence based practices, and corrective services."*

ward arrived after 7 pm. Further, if a ward exhibits any signs of illness, the facility or medical staff will immediately contact the on-call physician who is available 24/7.

The recommendation has been further implemented, with a summary regarding the implemented action. The facility policies and procedures were updated in response to communicable disease priorities identified by the local health officer in March of 2020, at the start of the COVID pandemic. Facility administration, along with medical administration, developed a "COVID response plan" to prevent a communicable disease outbreak. Wards are still screened during the intake process by health care professionals for communicable diseases with the addition of the CDC screening tool and daily health screenings for the first (10) ten days after a ward's arrival.

Lastly, the Madera County Juvenile Detention operational policies and procedures are inspected bi-annually by the Madera County Public Health Officer and the (BSCC) Board of State Community Corrections to ensure the facility meets Local and State standards set for the in California Title 15 Standards for Juvenile Facilities. Please note the facility meets or exceed those standards with the last inspection occurring in November 2019. A report of that inspection is public and accessible on Board of State Community Correction's website.

**2) Finding, Recommendation and Response:**

*F4. The MCGJ finds the wards face a lack of choices after release.*

*R4. The MCGJ recommends that, by the beginning of fiscal year 21-22, the MCDJC connect wards with meaningful community service organizations.*

**Madera County Probation Department Response:**

The Probation Department agrees with the finding. However, the department's recommendation also requires further analysis and additional resources. Community based programs for wards and their rehabilitation have associated costs. The department has recently applied for additional grant funding through Senate Bill 823 for fiscal year 21-22. If awarded, the grant award will be used to augment evidenced-based treatment programs for wards housed in local juvenile detention facilities, as well as wards participating in re-entry programs following their release from custody.

In Closing, Madera County Probation appreciates the effort and time of the Grand Jury to provide the recommendations to the operation of the Madera County Juvenile Detention Facility. Madera County Probation Department Management and Staff will continue to follow all state and county procedures in the daily operation of the Juvenile Detention Facility. Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Cordially,

  
Chris Childers, Chief Probation Officer

cc: Judge Michael Jurkovich