



TUOLUMNE COUNTY PROBATION DEPARTMENT

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Superior Court of California
County of Tuolumne

BY 
Clerk

September 5, 2013

The Honorable Judge Donald Segerstrom
Tuolumne County Superior Court
60 North Washington Street
Sonora, CA 95370

Re: Probation Department Response to 2012-13 Grand Jury Findings & Recommendations

Dear Judge Segerstrom:

The following is the response related to the Probation Department section of the 2012-13 Grand Jury Report as requested and required pursuant to Penal Code Sections 933 and 933.05. Below you will find listed each Grand Jury finding or recommendation followed by my response to each.

Grand Jury Findings:

1. Under AB109, offenders are classified only by the present committed offense, meaning that it is possible that a person with a history of violent, serious, or sex offenses – or even a lengthy criminal history – may technically qualify as a “non-non” offender.

Response: Agree.

2. The number of Post Release Community Supervision cases expected to be released from state prison to local facilities was significantly underestimated.

Response: Agree

3. The Tuolumne County Jail facility is operating at maximum capacity. The facility is old, cramped and poorly designed to meet today's needs. Expansion is not possible and future funding has not been secured for the construction of a new jail facility.

Response: Agree

4. The Community Corrections Partnership (CCP) is a cross-functional team made up of key stakeholders who are collaborating effectively on AB109 implementation. The County, through the CCP, has developed a well thought out and progressive approach to AB109, based on a strategy of treatment versus re-incarceration.

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RE: Probation Department Response to 2012-13 Grand Jury Findings & Recommendations

Response: Agree

5. AB109 state funding fails to recognize the increase in additional demands placed on local law enforcement agencies. The U.S. Supreme Court has mandated that California must reduce its state prison population by 33,000 inmates by the end of 2013. The Probation Department and Sheriff's Department are not adequately funded through AB109 revenues to implement the aggressive time line set by the State of California to complete the goals identified in the Tuolumne County 2011 Public Safety Realignment Plan. Each Departments workload exceeds their capabilities without proper and sufficient funding.

Response: Agree. Probation is inundated with doing our best to implement the reforms brought about as a result of AB109. The Chief Probation Officers organization has been asking for clean-up legislation and additional funding so we can improve our success.

6. Alternatives to Incarceration Programs must be paid through the Tuolumne County Office of Revenue and Recovery before participants are able to enroll and attend. The current Probation Department or Alternatives to Detention Center has no way to accept payment at either facility.

Response: Agree. If the Probation Department had the ability to take credit card payments or participants could submit payment via the county website it would encourage participants to pay. Currently, participants are directed to the Office of Revenue and Recovery to pay fees which often delays program participation.

7. The Superior Court, Sheriff's Office, Probation Department and the District Attorney's Office do not have a coordinated, integrated electronic system to send reports and files to one another. AB109 regulation is increasing staff workload, which currently requires staff to physically drive and hand deliver reports and files, a tremendous waste of taxpayer dollars.

Response: Agree. In August 2013 the Probation Department implemented a new case management system and is working toward electronic submittal of court documents to our criminal justice partners as well as all legal counsel. As the department becomes more proficient in utilizing the new system more reports and department tasks will be completed and submitted electronically.

Recommendations:

- R-4. The Grand Jury recommends that the Community Corrections Partnership continue to work with key stakeholders to identify creative methods for managing the changes that will result from AB109 and develop coordinated responses as needed.

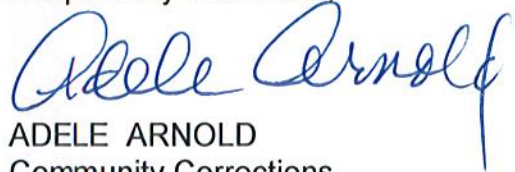
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RE: Probation Department Response to 2012-13 Grand Jury Findings & Recommendations

Response: The recommendation has been implemented and is a regular and ongoing practice of the Community Corrections Partnership. In preparation for the Community Corrections Partnership plan submittal for fiscal year 2012-2013 the partnership met and discussed additional program/service needs. A request for new program/service funding was released to community partners and all proposals were considered by the Executive Committee for inclusion in the new plan. All efforts will continue in this regard.

I hope that the responses provided above are found to be fully responsive to the findings and recommendations contained in the FY2012-13 Grand Jury Report. I responded from a dual perspective as Chair of the Community Corrections Partnership as well as from my position as Chief Probation Officer.

Respectfully Submitted,



ADELE ARNOLD
Community Corrections
Partnership, Chair
Chief Probation Officer