



**JACKSON
COUNTY**
Oregon

MEMO
INTER - OFFICE

**Jackson County District
Attorney**
Criminal

Karen Loomis
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To: 2012 Corrections Grand Jury Report
From: Senior Deputy District Attorney Karen Loomis
Subject: Response to: Recommendations For Future Special Corrections Grand Jury
Date: May 1, 2013

1. *The Jackson County District Attorney should continue to convene a **Special Corrections Grand Jury** to conduct the inquiry. Future special corrections grand juries should continue calling and swearing in witnesses, taking testimony and issuing a thorough report. By such actions, we can ensure the continued integrity of the correctional system.*

Response: agreed to and completed

The Jackson County District Attorney's Office has been fully complying with this recommendation since 2001 and will continue to do so.

2. *The Grand Jury should be allowed free access at all reasonable times to the correctional facilities and juvenile facilities in Jackson County. The Grand jury should be consulted as to the day, hour and length of time necessary to conduct their inquiry.*

Response: agreed to and completed

The Jackson County District Attorney's Office has been fully complying with this recommendation since 2001 and will continue to do so.

3. *Future Special Corrections Grand Juries should have available the past five years of reports prior to the tour of any facility and the response from the affected agency/department. In addition, a summary of specific changes to the facilities, procedures and programs over the last year should be provided.*

Response: agreed to and completed

The Jackson County District Attorney's Office has been fully complying with this recommendation since 2001 and will continue to do so. Specific changes that occurred to facilities, procedures and programs over the last year should be inquired of by the new corrections grand jury during witness testimony from the agency representatives.

4. *Future Special Corrections Grand Juries should have all interviews completed before the touring of each facility to have a better understanding of what issues and areas may need further investigation and review.*

Response: agreed to and completed

At the first session of the corrections grand jury the members are advised that if the grand jury desires to speak to a specific witness that the witness will be contacted and an attempt will be made to arrange for testimony from that witness. We will inform future grand juries that if the

grand jury desires to hear testimony in a specific order, arrangements will be made to fulfill this request.

5. *Future Correction Grand Juries be allowed to voice record interviews and discussions for more accurate reporting.*

Response: agreed to and completed

At the first session of the Corrections Grand Jury the members are advised of their need to take notes of all witnesses for the purpose of writing their report. We will continue to inform future grand juries of the importance of this and provide them with any requested materials.

6. *Interviews should be conducted in the following order: First inmates, Public Defenders, Probation officer/ Police Officers, and District Attorney. Second Correction Facility officials such as, ConMed staff, directors and or program managers, deputies, and staff of each facility.*

Response: agreed to and completed

At the first session of the corrections grand jury the members are advised that if the grand jury desires to speak to a specific witness that the witness will be contacted and an attempt will be made to arrange for testimony from that witness. We will inform future grand juries that if the grand jury desires to hear testimony from specific witnesses, arrangements will be made to fulfill this request.

7. *Future Corrections Grand Juries should tour each correction facility on two separate days. The Jackson County Jail and Juvenile Detention Facility should be visited on one day and the Community Work Center viewed on the second day. This Grand Juries experience was that touring all three facilities in one day was overwhelming.*

Response: agreed to and completed

At the first session of the Corrections Grand Jury the members are advised that three facilities will be viewed. We will inform future grand juries that is they desire to view these facilities in any specific order, arrangements will be made to fulfill this request.

8. *Future Special Corrections Grand Juries should continue to be allowed to interview at least one male and one female detainee from each facility in order to gain perspective on the conditions at each of the three facilities.*

Response: agreed to and completed

The Jackson County District Attorney's Office has fully complied with this recommendation and will continue to do so. We interviewed a male and female inmate from the jail, a minor in juvenile detention and a probationer housed at the Community Justice Transition Center and will continue to do so.

9. *Future Correction Grand Juries review, as a group, past reports before starting the interview process. This would provide a better understanding of the expectations for generating the yearly report.*

Response: agreed to and completed

The Jackson County District Attorney's Office has been fully complying with this recommendation since 2001 and will continue to do so. At the first session of the Corrections

Grand Jury the members are provided a notebook with the complete reports and attachments from the previous Correction Grand Juries for the past five years.

10. The Corrections Grand Jury requests responses to our recommendations.

Response: agreed to and completed

The Jackson County District Attorney's Office has been fully complying with this recommendation since 2001 and will continue to do so.



MEMO

INTER - OFFICE

**Sheriff
Correction**

Lt. Dan Penland

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To: 2013 Corrections Special Grand Jury
From: Lt. Dan Penland
Subject: Responses to recommendations
Date: May 1, 2013

- 1. It is apparent to the Grand Jury that the Jackson County Jail is understaffed, as noted in reports from previous years, and that this is a critical safety issue. This leads to the amount of forced releases. It is our recommendation that the county explores all additional revenue sources to expand the number of beds available with additional staff. It is recommended that the county review the option of additional fees charged to the inmates for housing. Additional sources of revenue must be a very high priority for the county.*

Agreed but unable to implement at this time.

The Sheriff is very concerned about the level of safety in the jail. The Jail currently has staffing that is adequate for a safe operation. The Sheriff has imposed a cap of 230 inmates to ensure the safety of the public, staff, and inmates.

The Sheriff is currently searching for alternate sources of revenue to help staff the Jail. He is looking at grants and the possibility of contracting with other agencies to bring in revenue to increase staffing. The County Commissioners have also put forward the idea of fee assessed to county residents to help fund the jail. This idea is still in its infancy and many details must be worked out before it can even be considered.

- 2. To raise public awareness and support for additional staffing, the Grand Jury recommends that the jail improve documentation statistics regarding forced releases. Statistics should include the rate of forced releases by day/week/month and by matrix categories. Sgt. Penland stated more forced releases at higher matrix risk categories occurred during 2012, but statistics are not easily obtained.*

Pending

Statistical data is very important to the daily operation of the jail. Statistics are becoming more critical for litigation, grant applications, and determining staffing levels. We are constantly working to enhance the information captured to produce these reports. We are hampered in this effort by our current Jail Management System (JMS).

- 3. Collaborate with local hospitals for use of their electronic medical record systems. The Grand Jury notes that both community hospitals are transitioning to Epic, an electronic medical record system with the capability of an internet portal. Communication among medical professionals, continuity of care and safety would be enhanced. This would also computerize inmate medication records.*

Answer: Unanswered

Medical records are the responsibility of CONMED, our medical service provider. They are working to computerize their medical records. This computerization will interface with the EPIC system the local hospitals are using. There is no timeframe yet for implementation by CONMED.

Provided by Mark Orndoff, Director Health and Human Services:

Jefferson Regional Health Alliance has launched a multiple health care provider Health information exchange initiative that will offer opportunities in the coming months/years to coordinate care more effectively. Essentially it will take data from various systems and allow for a more seamless exchange of data to enhance coordination of care ability.

- 4. It is the recommendation of the Grand Jury that the laundry washing and drying equipment within the county jail be upgraded. This is due to testimony that the current equipment fails frequently and needs constant repair. This facility is utilized by each of the three correctional facilities which create an overload on the aging equipment. Due to the equipment failures there is sometimes a shortage of clean clothing and bedding.*

Answer: Pending

The washers and dryers used in the jail are commercial grade appliances. They are on a scheduled for replacement as needed. The cost of these machines is very high. Due to limited budgets we have to make these appliances last until their scheduled replacement. The current machines are approximately 7 years old with a life expectancy of at least 10 years.

Even though the machines do breakdown on occasion the inmate population and Juvenile have the clean clothes necessary to maintain the high standards set. Maintenance is contacted when needed to repair the appliances.

- 5. It is the recommendation of the Grand Jury that the Prisoner Information Manual be reviewed for accuracy and updated for better clarification. The Grand Jury received testimony that there were some contradictions in the manual that need correcting as well as opportunities to clarify rules and regulations.*

Answer: Disagreed and rejected

The prisoner inmate manual is updated on a regular basis. I am unable to answer this completely as I am not sure where the conflict referred to is in the manual.

6. *The Grand Jury recommends that Jackson County contract and cross train additional mental health specialists to provide treatment beyond initial assessment for all of the Jackson County correctional facilities.*

Agreed but unable to implement at this time.

Mental health in the jail is also the responsibility of CONMED. As with the jail staffing levels the cost for mental health workers is not cheap. The Jackson County Sheriff's Department is part of a Mental Health Task Force that is a sub-committee of the Public Safety Coordinating Council. I am a member of the Jackson County Mental Health Advisory Committee. There is an upcoming week long Crisis Intervention training locally that we will be sending several corrections staff members to. The jail is very interested in all assuring the mental health needs of the inmates are met.

Provided by Mark Orndoff, Director Health and Human Services:

Jackson County Mental Health is looking to expand our current capacity to outreach to various parts of our community justice system in the coming months. Along with the efforts of the Public Safety Coordinating Counsel Mental Health task force to coordinate care, we have launched a community wide CIT effort to educate and provide tools to the law enforcement community on more effective ways to interact with the mentally ill population. The goal is to train 100% of all law enforcement personnel in Jackson County in the CIT model in the next three years.

7. *It is the recommendation of the Grand Jury that CJWC and Jackson County explore additional work opportunities within the community. This would generate additional revenue sources for the county and potentially create expanded work skills for detainees upon reintegration into society.*

To be answered by CJWC.

8. The Grand Jury recommends that the Jackson County Jail explore the option of creating a secure phone line between the jail and the Public Defender's office (and or Los Abogados). This would reduce wait time for attorney rooms as well as reduce the demand on the deputies for the movement of inmates.

Agreed and completed:

There may be some confusion on this item. We currently have three phones in the multipurpose room, upstairs that are direct secure lines to the Public Defender's office. These phones are used on a fairly frequent basis by the Public Defender's Office. Arrangements with other attorney

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groups can be made so that the attorney calls in and the phone call is transferred to one of those phones. This reduces waiting time for attorneys and reduces inmate movement.



JACKSON COUNTY

Community Justice

Community Justice
Transition Center

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Program Manager

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May 13, 2013

To the Special Corrections Grand Jury of Jackson County

RE: Grand Jury Recommendations

Thank you again for your commitment to Jackson County and the safety of its residents. I am grateful for your recommendations and insight into the operations of the Community Justice Transition Center.

Recommendation:

“It is the recommendation of the Grand Jury that CJWC and Jackson County explore additional work opportunities within the community. This would generate additional revenue sources for the county and potentially create expanded work skills for detainees upon reintegration into society.”

Response: A. Agreed and completed.

The Transition Center is in agreement that there is a need for increased opportunities for inmates to engage in meaningful work. The Center is committed to increasing the contracts which provide these opportunities and is in the process of finalizing a contract with the Railroad to provide work service there. The Center is also working to find more contracts within the community.

Sincerely,

Eric Guyer
Program Manager