

NAPA COUNTY
RESPONSE TO THE GRAND JURY FINAL REPORT ON
NAPA COUNTY JUVENILE HALL

JUNE 21, 2023

Findings

Finding 1: The overall staffing for NCJH has been reduced by 14% rather than 25%. The NCJH has based its staffing levels on Title 15 requirements and other factors and anticipates increasing staff.

The Chief Probation Officer agrees with this finding. Staffing continues to be driven by Title 15 requirements, safety, and programmatic needs within the facility. The staffing percentage fluctuates with staff retirements and departures. The hiring process can take many months to onboard new staff which requires advanced planning. The Juvenile Hall anticipates opening a new camp program in January 2024 which requires vacant positions to be filled to provide intensive services to youth.

The Board of Supervisors agrees with the Chief Probation Officer.

Finding 2: The New Horizons Academy program has been discontinued and a new camp program is in development.

The Chief Probation Officer agrees with this finding. The new camp program is slated to open by January 2024 with the goal of keeping most youth in our community close to their family in lieu of placing them in programs out of the county.

The Board of Supervisors agrees with the Chief Probation Officer.

Finding 3: The Shared Vision consulting firm is currently identifying resources for youths in Napa County and plans to report back with specific recommendations for program development for NCJH. The survey should include measures for program efficacy and evaluation.

The Chief Probation Officer partially agrees with this finding. The Department has contracted with Shared Vision Consulting and is in the process of identifying community programs and resources to further enhance programming and connections for youth including leveraging current resources and funding opportunities. However, Shared Vision Consultants has not been contracted to perform program efficacy and evaluation. This will be completed by the Department in the future outside of the Shared Vision Consulting contract.

The Board of Supervisors agrees with the Chief Probation Officer.

Finding 4: The NCJH is in discussions with the Napa County Library to increase reading resources and services in the NCJH library for the youth.

The Chief Probation Officer agrees with this finding. The Napa County Juvenile Hall, the Napa County Office of Education, and the Napa County Library are committed to continuing to enhance accessible reading materials to youth in Juvenile Hall. We are working together to identify services and equipment to create more opportunities for the youth to grow and learn. The library has offered to bring in new reading materials for all reading levels with enhanced access to assistive technology including audiobooks to increase accessibility to youth with different learning abilities. Additionally, the library has assisted the Juvenile Hall to increase study space for youth, specifically to attend community college classes in the facility.

The Board of Supervisors agrees with the Chief Probation Officer.

Commendations

The Napa County Probation Department appreciates the Grand Jury's recognition of the hard work of County staff to ensure youth and staff were safe in the Juvenile Hall throughout the Covid-19 pandemic.