

County of Mendocino

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Post Office Box 939

Ukiah, CA 95482

(707) 463-4320

June 29, 2016

The Honorable Judge J. Nadel
Mendocino County Courts
100 North State Street, Room 303
Ukiah, CA 95482

Dear Judge Nadel,

It is my privilege to present you with the 2015-16 Consolidated Mendocino County Grand Jury (GJ) Report, in fulfillment of the Jury's oath and charge. This report contains the results of investigations required by law, suggested by submitted complaints or generated by the jury itself. The topics included in this report are, by order of public release, Proposition 172 Budget Transparency, County Records Retention, Point Arena Code Enforcement, Marijuana Restitution and County Policy 22 use of Email.

The Bronzan-McCorquodale Act of 1991 specifically assigns the role of identifying problems with Mental Health Services to the Mendocino County Behavioral Health Board. The 2015-16 Mendocino County GJ also closely monitored the events surrounding Mental Health Delivery via the Mental Health Services contracts let by the County of Mendocino during this term of service. Specifically the Grand Jury examined the policies and procedures for delivery of 5150 services in the County Jail - a mental health service outside the scope of the recently contracted Kemper Report Mental Health Services Analysis. GJ members attended Board of Supervisors' meetings, Behavioral Health Advisory Board Meetings, and toured the Mendocino County jail facilities. Various County Department Heads and staff members, County Supervisors, local physicians and nurses, the Director of California Forensic Medical Group, and members of the public were interviewed. Although a report was not issued, the GJ will continue to monitor Mental Health Services in Mendocino County.

The GJ conducted inspections of the locked facilities in the county including the Mendocino County Jail, Mendocino County Juvenile Hall, Willits Police Department holding cells, Parlin Fork Conservation Camp, and Chamberlain Creek Conservation Camp. The GJ determined that all of the facilities are in adequate working condition and are able to achieve their stated goals and requirements. It should be noted, however, that the County Jail is frequently at capacity, and occasionally must incorporate additional temporary beds to accommodate inmates. Additionally, a lack of corrections staff in the County Jail forces officers to work mandatory overtime and extended shifts that may lead to personnel fatigue. During the course of inspections the GJ learned that the Mendocino County Juvenile Hall was in the process of finalizing an agreement with Lake County to house the Lake County Juvenile Hall youths. The novelty of the merger did not allow the GJ to draw accurate conclusions about the impact of the merger on the county. The financial aspect at the time of the investigation was unclear because Mendocino County had not yet billed Lake County for costs and expenses for services as defined in the Memorandum of Understanding between the counties. The subsequent GJ may wish to examine the juvenile hall merger agreement and how it has impacted the county financially, as well as the impact on both Mendocino and Lake County youth housed in the facility.

The GJ studied the policies and procedures of the Ukiah Valley Sanitation District (UVSD) and the City of Ukiah Water District. It should be noted that UVSD has filed suit against the City of Ukiah, in Sonoma County Superior court. Each party has set aside significant funds in their respective budgets for Legal Costs. Ultimately if this case is

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not resolved in an amicable manner, the Ukiah Rate Payers will be responsible for the cost of the judgment regardless of which party prevails in court. No report was issued on this topic due to ongoing litigation.

In addition to Proposition 172 funding for County Fire Departments, the GJ studied the extra burdens placed on Coastal Fire Departments, due to increased tourism. These small rural fire departments originally created to protect their neighbors in the community are now faced with a much larger responsibility for the welfare and safety of the coastal tourists. A future GJ may wish to explore additional County funding sources such as the promotional tourism funding and Transient Occupancy Tax revenues to supplement Coastal Fire Department budgets for these rescues.

State law requires K-12 schools to have comprehensive school safety plans for natural disasters and criminal activity. The plans include evacuation routes, emergency supply plans, and other protocols to keep students and staff safe. The plans are to be updated yearly, be readily available to the public at each school and be forwarded to each district office or the County Office of Education. The Mendocino County Grand Jury conducted school site visits at Laytonville, Fort Bragg, Ukiah and Willits to inspect their safety plans and policies. The GJ found these school sites to have the proper safety plan documentation readily available.

The GJ examined the outdated County Emergency Services Plan and update process. Because of mid-year Emergency Services departmental staffing changes, the GJ did not issue a report on this topic.

This report is presented to the Court and to the public in Memory of Al "Crusty" Robinson, who served many terms on the Mendocino County Grand Jury. It has been an honor and my pleasure to serve with the members of this Year's GJ. Individual members dedicated hundreds of hours of their time and expertise in examining the various topics presented to the GJ. On behalf of the GJ, I would like to thank the dedicated employees, Court Staff and other County residents who assisted the GJ in their investigations this year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Katharine D. Wylie".

Katharine (Kathy) Wylie, MS Ed
Foreman