



MONTEREY COUNTY, CALIFORNIA  
**SHERIFF'S OFFICE**  
Keeping the peace since 1850

**STEVE BERNAL**  
Sheriff-Coroner

November 21, 2017

Honorable Mark E. Hood  
Presiding Judge of Superior Court  
240 Church Street  
Salinas, CA 93901

Dear Judge Hood,

Please accept the revised responses below to the Monterey County Civil Grand Jury - "Monterey County Jail Crisis: Our De Facto Mental Health Facility" report.

The Monterey County Civil Grand Jury made the following recommendations related to mental health services in the Monterey County Jail.

R1: The Board of Supervisors should fund the building of a new mental health care facility or study the use of available properties in the county that could be repurposed for mental health facilities. For example

- The soon to be vacant portion of the current jail.
- The soon to be vacant Youth Center.
- The Stockade on the former Ft. Ord and other vacant or underutilized local buildings.

R2: The Board of Supervisors should study the other existing models of integrated mental health facilities within the jail. Examples are: Los Angeles and Santa Clara counties.

The Sheriff's Office response for both above call for further analysis. The Grand Jury rejected the responses as not compliant with Penal Code Section 933.05 (b) (3). 933.05 (b) (3) requires a timeframe for the matter to be prepared for discussion and that the timeframe shall not exceed six months. Neither of these recommendations could be studied within the 6-month timeframe requirement.

The Sheriff's Office revised response to R1 is amended as follows. The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable.

The first recommendation calls for the use of available properties that could be repurposed for mental health facilities, such as: The soon to be vacant portion of the current jail, the soon to be vacant youth center, or the stockade on the former Ford Ord. The only viable option recommended is to utilize a portion of the "soon to be vacant jail."

Starting a new confinement 24/7 custody facility (new or in an existing structure) would create numerous logistical issues, including: Staffing plans for custody, medical, and mental health personnel. Additionally, a remote facility would require a meal plan, maintenance plan, and a need for an entirely separate but complete surveillance system with recording; remote operated security door locks and controls, and all the necessary equipment and infrastructure to support a completely new custody facility.

The jail expansion project is not expected to be complete until the end of 2019. After the facility opens, the Sheriff's Office can consider expanding the types of available housing at that time. At this point, the Sheriff's Office would consider supporting some type of mixed use custody setting if there is a need for secure housing for mentally ill offenders.

The Sheriff's Office response to R2 is amended as follows: The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable, with an explanation therefor.

The jail is already providing integrated medical / mental health services within the facility via contract with a private correctional health care provider. The Jail has added numerous program opportunities for inmates to improve the behavioral health of the inmate population. The Sheriff's Office will continue to work closely with CFMG and the court monitors to expand and behavioral health treatment as needed.

Respectfully,



Steve Bernal  
Sheriff-Coroner