

June 27, 2001

The Honorable Rodney S. Melville
Presiding Judge, Santa Barbara Superior Court
312-C East Cook Street
Santa Maria, CA 93456-5369

William L. Cathey, Grand Jury Foreperson
1100 Anacapa Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

RE: **RESPONSE TO FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED IN THE 2000-01 GRAND JURY REPORT:
JUVENILE PROBATION**

Dear Judge Melville and Grand Jury Foreperson Cathey:

NON-INSTITUTIONAL (FIELD SERVICE) JUVENILE HOUSING (Page 7)

FINDING 5: Many of the issues that lead to delinquent behavior among female offenders – for example, high rates of physical and sexual victimization – are not effectively addressed in coeducational or English-only settings.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT RESPONSE: *Disagree partially.*

Coeducational and English-only settings are not as effective as single gender presentations due to the discomfort some young people feel in discussing personal issues in the presence of the other sex.

However, there is a great deal of physical and sexual victimization prevention activity offered to young children. Child Abuse Listening Mediation (CALM) and the North County Rape Crisis and Child Protection Center provide Child SAFE programs teaching child abuse prevention and personal safety skills to children, kindergarten through college level in schools throughout Santa Barbara County. CALM provides a two-day program in all south county public schools. The North County Rape Crisis Center provides a three-day in all north county schools. Each agency can provide Spanish classes and allows private time for disclosure. Each agency gives pencils or cards with hot line numbers where children may call confidentially for assistance. The classes provided are:

- Santa Barbara – CALM provides classes to kindergarten, 4th and 7th graders
- Goleta – CALM with school nurses provides two-day programs to kindergarten, 1st, 3rd, 4th and 7th graders
- Santa Ynez Valley – Rape Crisis provides three-day classes to 1st, 4th, 7th, and 9th graders
- Lompoc – Rape Crisis provides three-day classes to kindergarten, 2nd, 4th, 7th, and 9th graders
- Santa Maria, Orcutt & Guadalupe – Rape Crisis provides three-day classes to 1st, 4th and 7th graders
- In addition, self defense and sexual harassment classes geared to teens are available by request.

FINDING 6: More placement and treatment programs – particularly female-specific programs – are needed for female juveniles in view of the increased numbers of female juvenile offenders.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT RESPONSE: *Agree.*

The Juvenile Probation New Vistas Challenge II grant includes two Public Health Nurses (PHNs) for the expressed purpose of case managing female clients, who often need assistance with reproductive health issues, pregnancy, and sexually transmitted disease prevention, and other gender specific health concerns. More programs like New Vistas are needed.

RECOMMENDATION 3B: The Probation Department should continue collaborations with professionals in the County Departments of Public Health, Social Services, and ADMHS, as well as County and municipal schools and community-based non-profit organizations, to develop and enhance female-specific programs.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT RESPONSE: *Implemented.*

The Public Health Department is committed to working with our other County departments and community based organizations to enhance female-specific programs for at-risk youth. The Public Health Department provides family planning and sexually transmitted disease treatment services in the Probation Institutions and collaborates with Probation through a variety of programs including New Vistas, the Multi-agency Integrated System of Care (MISC) and the Office of Child Abuse Prevention (OCAP) grant.

RECOMMENDATION 4: In view of the increased numbers of female juvenile offenders, the Probation Department should develop more female-specific placement and treatment programs.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT RESPONSE: *Requires further analysis over the next six months.*

The development of treatment and placement resources for female juvenile offenders is the responsibility of the Probation Department. Over the next six months, the Probation Department will be studying the need, funding, and feasibility of expanding services to female juvenile offenders.

RECOMMENDATION 5: The Probation Department should establish and maintain links with female-specific community-based services for non-English-speaking female juveniles.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT RESPONSE: *Implemented.*

The Probation Department is an active participant in multiple inter-agency collaborative grants and organizations and has established links with various community-based services, including but not limited to the Community Action Commission, the Family Service Agency, Santa Maria Valley Youth and Family Center, and Catholic Charities.

However, it is important for the Probation Department to maintain and build upon these relationships.

INSTITUTIONAL JUVENILE HOUSING (Page 8)

FINDING 10: All food preparation for juveniles is contracted for and prepared off-site.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT RESPONSE: *Disagree partially.*

All hot food is contracted and prepared off-site. Cold snacks for diabetics are kept on location.

RECOMMENDATION 10: A dishwashing machine should be acquired to enable the existing kitchen facilities to be utilized for vocational training of the juveniles.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT RESPONSE: *Disagree.*

The Juvenile Institutions do not meet the standards and requirements for a Health Permit to serve food. The addition of a dishwasher might give the impression that food preparation is acceptable. A dishwashing machine is not warranted.

FINDING 12: The industrial kitchen is a resource that could serve for emergency meal preparation for staff and residents in this facility, in the nearby La Morada Sheriff's facility, and in the Santa Barbara Main Jail. Emergency food supplies are available at the Food Bank of Santa Barbara County, a short distance from the Santa Barbara Juvenile Hall.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT RESPONSE: *Disagree.*

Most of the equipment in the industrial kitchen has been removed or is inoperable. While the Public Health Department would not have a problem with the kitchen being used in the event of a disaster for food distribution, food can not be cooked at this facility. The Department does not support the restoration of the kitchen unless the Probation Department intends to serve hot food and obtains the necessary Health Permits to operate a kitchen.

FINDING 15H: No air quality assessments were done, nor were mitigation concerns formulated, for the additional traffic and the new barbecues planned for the First Crossing site.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT RESPONSE: *Disagree.*

The Air Pollution Control District is responsible for monitoring air quality, not the Public Health Department.

Sincerely,

Roger E. Heroux, MPA
Director