

**The Sutter County
Board of Supervisors' Response to the
2021-2022**

**Sutter County Grand Jury
Final Report**

ENDORSED FILED

SEP 22 2022

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF BUTTER
CLERK OF THE COURT
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SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF BUTTER



County of Sutter
Office of the County Administrator

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September 13, 2022

The Honorable Susan E. Green
Presiding Judge of the Sutter County Superior Court
1175 Civic Center Boulevard
Yuba City, CA 95993

Dear Judge Green:

On behalf of the Sutter County Board of Supervisors, I am herewith submitting its response to the findings and recommendations of the 2021-2022 Grand Jury Final Report on the following:

- Sutter County Corrections and Rehabilitation Reform:
Great Progress, Headed in the Right Direction
- Sutter-Yuba Behavioral Health: Behind the Times

The Sutter County Board of Supervisors and administration thanks the Grand Jurors for their service to the citizens of Sutter County. Grand Jury service requires a great amount of time and effort and each juror's dedication is truly appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "S.M. Smith".

Steven M. Smith
County Administrator

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Sutter County Corrections & Rehabilitation Reform: Great Progress, Headed in the Right Direction

The Sutter County Board of Supervisors and the Sutter County Sheriff are required to respond to this report. A response from the Sutter County Sheriff is attached.

FINDINGS

Grand Jury Finding #1:

“F1: The Sutter County jail and Tri-County Youth Rehabilitation Campus staff work hard to ensure the safety and well-being of their adult inmates and youth.”

Grand Jury Finding #2:

“F2: The Sutter County jail and Tri-County Youth Rehabilitation Campus provide inmates and youth with programs and opportunities.”

Grand Jury Finding #3:

“F3: Drugs are still getting into the Sutter County jail.”

Grand Jury Finding #4:

“F4: The Sutter County jail is under-staffed.”

Grand Jury Finding #5:

“F5: Sutter County Sheriff's Office staff are underpaid, which can lead to low morale and high staff turn-over.”

Response from the Board of Supervisors:

F1: The Board of Supervisors was not asked to respond.

F2: The Board of Supervisors was not asked to respond.

F3: The Board of Supervisors was not asked to respond.

F4: The Board of Supervisors was not asked to respond.

F5: The Board of Supervisors agrees with this finding. Due to limited resources and higher salaries in other counties and cities, Sutter County has found it difficult to stay competitive in the market for employees across the board. While prevalent in all departments, this problem is especially persistent in the Sheriff's Office. In February 2022, the Board of Supervisors approved a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Sutter County Peace Officers Association, representing sworn law enforcement

personnel. The MOU provided ongoing raises in 2022 of an average of 14.73% (low of 9.2%; high of 23.6%) that brought salaries for sworn positions closer to market parity. Subsequent to this increase other jurisdictions provided across the board raises of five to eight percent, exacerbating the County's inability to recruit and retain qualified employees. Over the past 10 years, Sutter County has supported public safety at an increasing rate, which takes resources away from other vital County functions. The County has little ability to raise revenue to support the anticipated rise in public safety costs. This is the reason that the Board of Supervisors voted to place a sales tax measure on the ballot for voter consideration. Without additional revenue, the Board will have to decrease service levels in order to remain competitive in the market for employees, especially those who provide crucial public safety services.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Grand Jury Recommendation #1:

"R1: Sutter County should invest in a drug-sniffing dog for use in the jail (in response to finding F3)."

Grand Jury Recommendation #2:

"R2: Sutter County should follow the recommendations presented in the Sutter County Sheriff's Office Organization Assessment and Staffing Study regarding the hiring of additional jail staff (in response to finding F4)."

Grand Jury Recommendation #3:

"R3: The excellent, in-depth report by Management Partners on the Sutter County Sheriff's Department budget should be a cause for action for the Sutter County Board of Supervisors (in response to finding F5)."

Response from the Board of Supervisors:

R1: The Board of Supervisors was not asked to respond.

R2: The Board of Supervisors was not asked to respond.

R3: The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable. Prior to the release of the Grand Jury report, the County had concluded negotiations with the Sutter County Peace Officers' Association and had approved a memorandum of understanding that included substantial raises for sworn personnel, so actions were already being taken. The Correctional Sergeant recommended in the report was added in the FY 2022-23 budget adopted by the Board and the County Administrator continues to work with the Sheriff on implementing other recommendations.

Sutter County Board of Supervisors Response to 2021-22 Grand Jury Final Report

The Board of Supervisors has placed a strong emphasis on public safety for decades as indicated by the growth in public safety department operating costs versus non-public safety costs. Over the past 10 years, public safety department operating General Fund cost has risen by 38%, while non-public safety operating cost has risen by only 2.3%. Unfortunately, the County cannot continue to sustain the growth in public safety costs without additional revenue. Sutter County is already staffed at the second lowest level of the 31 California Counties with populations below 200,000, and economic growth in the unincorporated areas is severely limited due to flood restrictions that the Board has no authority to lift. To stay competitive in the labor market, especially for public safety positions, the County will have to reduce services or raise additional revenue. Additional revenue would allow the County to provide more robust public safety, as well as other important services such as those addressing homelessness and the condition of county roads. Before moving forward with additional recommendations contained in the Management Partners report, the County must find a sustainable revenue source to support overall county operations, including public safety.

Sutter-Yuba Behavioral Health: Behind the Times

The Sutter County Board of Supervisors, Sutter Yuba Behavioral Health and Sutter County Health and Human Resources are required to respond to this report. The Yuba County Board of Supervisors, California Department of Health Care Services, Sutter Yuba Behavioral Health Advisory Board and the California Governor's Office were all invited to respond.

Below is the response from the Board of Supervisors, Sutter Yuba Behavioral Health (SYBH) and Sutter County Health and Human Services (HHS). This response was developed in concert with the County Administrator's Office.

FINDINGS

Grand Jury Finding #1:

"F1: The patient rooms at the Sutter-Yuba Behavioral Health (SYBH) Psychiatric Health Facility (PHF) contain multiple Ligature Points. Among staff and administrative personnel interviewed, there was a general awareness of these issues but no apparent sense of urgency to address them."

Grand Jury Finding #2:

"F2: Based on site observations of the SYBH PHF Unit, various doors did not appear secure, leaving certain areas potentially vulnerable to unauthorized patient access."

Grand Jury Finding #3:

"F3: The perimeter fencing at the SYBH PHF Unit's outdoor recreation area is vulnerable to the exchange of contraband, due to easy public access. It creates a sense of being "locked" in, which is not welcoming or comforting for the patients."

Grand Jury Finding #4:

"F4: The perimeter fencing at the SYBH PHF Unit's outdoor recreation area is an AWOL risk."

Grand Jury Finding #5:

"F5: Based on site observations and interviews with staff, the Video Monitoring System at the PHF Unit is an old and antiquated system. Components of the system are non-operational including many of the cameras. Repairs of the current system are either cost prohibitive or not possible due to the age of the system."

Grand Jury Finding #6:

"F6: SYBH use of private security is inefficient and lacks good use of the services."

Grand Jury Finding #7:

"F7: SYBH Policy and Procedure of recording an AWOL and Hazard/Incident Report is antiquated. It lacks sufficient information and structure to monitor and record AWOL incidents in a concise and professional manner."

Grand Jury Finding #8:

"F8: Based on SCGJ observations, the signage at the County's PHF Unit is inadequate, outdated, and in very poor shape."

Grand Jury Finding #9:

"F9: The beds in the Isolation Rooms at the PHF Unit are an old version that leaves the patient in an uncomfortable position if restraint is required."

Grand Jury Finding #10:

"F10: The parking lot at the SYBH facility is in disrepair and a hazard to the public."

Grand Jury Finding #11:

"F11: The building and grounds at the County's PHF Unit show lack of regular maintenance. The vegetation is overgrown. Weeds growing up in sidewalks as well as in large unplanted areas. The exterior walls, concrete walkways, garbage receptacles are dingy or outright dirty. The window information signage is unprofessional in appearance."

Grand Jury Finding #12:

"F12: Based on those interviewed and a review of budgetary documents, it appears some SYBH and Health and Human Services (HHS) management and key fiscal staff lack sufficient knowledge/understanding of the budget practices. This includes MHSA and Realignment funding."

Grand Jury Finding #13:

"F13: Based on Sutter County Grand Jury research and those interviewed, there is no regular meeting of key fiscal staff, department heads, and directors to address changing budgetary issues. Currently, this is done once a year or on an "as needed" basis. This has created some issues with timely budgetary reporting."

Grand Jury Finding #14:

"F14: Based on Grand Jury research and those interviewed, the existing SYBH Electronic Health Care Record System is inadequate."

Grand Jury Finding #15:

"F15: Based on site observations, review of county plans for the Gray Ave Building, and SYBH administration interviews, the 1965 Live Oak Blvd Building is no longer adequate to house the Psychiatric Health Facility (PHF) and other SYBH offices/programs."

Response from the Board of Supervisors/SYBH/HHS:

F1: The Board of Supervisors/SYBH/HHS disagrees partially with this Finding. SYBH is aware of ligature points in the facility. Staffing to supervise patients and ligature points is utilized in the facility. Facility-based efforts have been made to address and mitigate these points, such as placing metal plates in bars to prevent clients from tying off to them. Addressing ligature points is an ongoing process. SYBH will continue to work with Sutter County General Services to address ligature points throughout the facility to include shower heads, toilet pipes, doorknobs, and hinges.

F2: The Board of Supervisors/SYBH/HHS disagrees wholly with this Finding. All doors leading to the exterior areas of the PHF are and have been electronically badged via controlled, secure access. Upon the Grand Jury's visit to the PHF, one interior door that leads to the supervised break area did not have an electronic, badged access point. However, this has been addressed with the installation of an electronic, badged access point on this door, preventing access to the break area.

F3: The Board of Supervisors/SYBH/HHS disagrees partially with this Finding. SYBH takes security at the facility seriously while also attempting to create an atmosphere conducive to rehabilitation. The County has received quotes to install new fencing, which has smaller openings to help mitigate the risk of the passing of contraband and may pursue this as funding becomes available. All clients are observed when in the fenced area, and SYBH works consistently through site inspection and client supervision to ensure that contraband is not being exchanged.

F4: The Board of Supervisors/SYBH/HHS disagrees partially with this Finding. SYBH takes security at the facility seriously while also attempting to create an atmosphere conducive to treatment. Individuals admitted to the PHF, per Welfare and Institutions Code 5150, are admitted civilly for treatment, not criminal reasons. Hence, the importance of maintaining a rehabilitative atmosphere is imperative. An AWOL risk assessment is conducted with clients upon admission to the PHF. Those clients that are at risk for AWOL are denied backyard privileges as managed by the discretion of the treating psychiatrist.

The County has received quotes to install an "anti-climb" fence, which has smaller openings to prevent hand and footholds to mitigate risk of AWOL from the facility. SYBH will further investigate and may pursue this option as financial resources allow.

F5: The Board of Supervisors/SYBH/HHS agrees with this Finding. SYBH has been awarded grant funds that will pay for the installation and purchase of new camera equipment. The Fiscal Year 2022-23 budget has sufficient appropriations necessary to cover the expenses of installing the new camera system. A contractor to install the system has been identified and a purchase order completed for equipment and installation. New video camera and affiliated equipment has been ordered as of August 2022 and is scheduled for installation.

F6: The Board of Supervisors/SYBH/HHS disagrees wholly with this Finding. SYBH's primary facility, located at 1965 Live Oak Boulevard, is a multi-use site, consisting of Behavioral Health services and a transitional shelter staffed by Public Health. Private security is provided through a contract approved by the Sutter County Board of Supervisors and managed by Sutter County General Services. The contract calls for "patrol for suspicious activity, trespassing, vandalism, pan-handling, theft of any kind, aggressive and/or violent behavior or any other illegal activity...". The Grand Jury report indicates that SYBH staff felt there was no reason to have security personnel on the PHF as "they felt safe with policy and procedures in place for aggressive or dangerous behaviors." SYBH agrees with staff's assessment and believes that having uniformed security scheduled full time on the PHF would detract from the rehabilitative (rather than correctional) nature of the treatment facility. PHF staff may call security at any time to respond from the campus.

F7: The Board of Supervisors/SYBH/HHS disagrees wholly with this Finding. SYBH Policy and Procedures related to AWOL and Hazard/Incident reporting conforms with State and County regulations and guidance. SYBH PHF policies and procedures are reviewed to conform with current best practices and will continue to be reviewed on an ongoing basis.

F8: The Board of Supervisors/SYBH/HHS agrees with this Finding. In recognition of aging signage, eight (8) exterior signs at SYBH have been installed with the County's new logo and an easier to read, blue background.

F9: The Board of Supervisors/SYBH/HHS disagrees wholly with this Finding. SYBH is concerned about the safety and comfort of all patients. Page 86 of the Grand Jury's report provides a pictorial example of a bed appropriate for an isolation room and recommends that SYBH install this type of bed. SYBH notes that the bed pictured in the report and those used by SYBH are identical to those installed in the isolation rooms at the PHF. These beds have been in use by the facility for many years. Additionally, the California Department of Healthcare Services (DHCS), the state body that licenses the PHF, has reviewed the site multiple times and has not required replacement of the beds.

F10: The Board of Supervisors/SYBH/HHS disagrees partially with this Finding. SYBH is concerned about the safety of clients, staff and members of the public that frequent our grounds. The gravel parking lot is occasionally in disrepair due to regular use but is safely accessible with routine repair completed on an ongoing basis. In collaboration with Sutter County Development Services and General Services, the parking lot will be continually evaluated for future maintenance needs, which may include repaving.

F11: The Board of Supervisors/SYBH/HHS disagrees partially with this Finding. Sutter County General Services routinely maintains the property at 1965 Live Oak Boulevard and is responsive to the needs of SYBH when requested. At times, the site vegetation may be overgrown between scheduled lawn maintenance. General Services staff provides maintenance at regular and “as requested” intervals that meet the needs of the facility and which address safety hazards. SYBH agrees that window signage becomes worn over time. SYBH has reviewed and replaced window signage to ensure that currently posted signage is clear, unworn, and easily read.

F12: The Board of Supervisors/SYBH/HHS disagrees partially with this Finding. HHS and SYBH management staff are knowledgeable of budget practices, however, staff will work to increase the general knowledge of managers and supervisors overall as related to fiscal processes, including funding sources for management and supervisory staff related to the programs they are assigned.

F13: The Board of Supervisors/SYBH/HHS disagrees partially with this Finding. HHS and SYBH agree that Department fiscal meetings should increase in frequency. HHS and SYBH management, to include directors, meet to discuss budgetary issues on a recurring basis that may be increased up to once a week as needed. This meeting serves to increase the general knowledge of managers, and non-finance professionals as related to fiscal processes, including funding sources for management staff related to the programs they are assigned to.

F14: The Board of Supervisors/SYBH/HHS disagrees partially with this Finding. SYBH contracts with Kings View Corporation, a third-party provider, to implement its electronic health record (EHR). The Fiscal Year 2022-25 MOU between SYBH and Kings View includes the transition to a new EHR that will provide improved functionality throughout the system, to include inpatient services on the PHF.

F15: The Board of Supervisors/SYBH/HHS disagrees wholly with this Finding. DHCS last visited the 1965 Live Oak Blvd Building, specifically the PHF, on June 30, 2022, as a result of the Grand Jury Report. During this visit, and numerous previous site reviews for outpatient and inpatient services, SYBH has not received feedback from DHCS, the state entity responsible for monitoring SYBH, that the Live Oak building is not an adequate facility to house SYBH services.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Grand Jury Recommendation #1:

“R1: SYBH and the County must take the Ligature Points concerns seriously. SYBH needs to perform a needs assessment to clearly identify the issues and submit a comprehensive request to the County. The County, in turn, needs to share a sense of urgency and prioritize funding as soon as possible. These should be resolved by July 31st, 2022.”

Grand Jury Recommendation #2:

“R2: SYBH needs to perform an assessment of all access points with the PHF Unit and address any necessary modifications to ensure proper security and controls are in place for the safety and well-being of both the patients and the staff while mitigating AWOL opportunities. These should include: the doors leading to the staff break area just south of the nurses’ station inside the PHF unit. The door leading from the breakroom to the south side of the building by the parking lot. The double doors to be replaced at the entrance of the PHF unit. Half “Dutch” door to the medication room.”

Grand Jury Recommendation #3:

“R3: SYBH and the County need to take all necessary measures to ensure constant supervision and safety of the perimeter of the outside fenced in recreation yard on the PHF unit to resolve the potential exchange of contraband. The simple practice of 1:1 of a mental health care worker to a patient is not enough to sufficiently address the situation. Contraband can be placed inside the fence at any time due to the openness of the current fencing system, not just during recreation or fresh air breaks.”

Grand Jury Recommendation #4:

“R4: SYBH needs to address the serious issue of AWOL from the PHF unit by means of the chain link fence recreation area. One option is to remove the chain link fence and replace it with concrete block. This would address the risk of AWOL, reduce the risk of contraband, and create a more welcoming and inviting recreation area for those on the PHF unit .”

Grand Jury Recommendation #5:

“R5: SYBH has identified a replacement Video Monitoring system and submitted its request. This system plays a key role in the faculty’s security, safety, and sense of well-being for both patients and staff. SYBH and the County need to recognize the importance of this system and prioritize funding by July 31st, 2022.”

Grand Jury Recommendation #6:

“R6: SYBH needs to re-evaluate where contracted security services are located on the grounds and the scope of services provided.”

Grand Jury Recommendation #7:

“R7: SYBH needs to update Policy and Procedure of recording of AWOL and related Hazard/Incident Report. They system should include:

- Digitally date/time stamped signatures of any personnel that needs to be included of AWOL and Hazard/Incident Report*
- SYBH should consider a specific time frame for when each personnel needs to sign, review and finalize the AWOL report, no more than 7 days is recommended.*

- *The system should include an “addendum” form, including a digital time/date stamp, if additional information about the AWOL has occurred from the original document time frame.”*

Grand Jury Recommendation #8:

“R8: SYBH and the County need to add to and or replace the facilities exterior building, site and street signage that has appropriate names and lighting.”

Grand Jury Recommendation #9:

“R9: SYBH and the County need to address the importance of ensuring the comfort of patients in need of isolation and possible restraint. SYBH needs to identify and submit a replacement request to the County. The County in turn needs to recognize the importance by prioritizing funding by July 31st, 2022.”

Grand Jury Recommendation #10:

“R10: SYBH and the County need to prioritize the performance of the work needed to complete the parking lot by September 30st, 2022. If funding is still not available, an allocation of funds needs to take priority to ensure this work gets completed.”

Grand Jury Recommendation #11:

“R11: SYBH and the County need to take the initiative to clean up, enhance, and consistently maintain the overall appearance of the SYBH facility.”

Grand Jury Recommendation #12:

“R12: SYBH and HHS need to reevaluate the scope and value of their training program, as well as their outside 3rd party consultant contract(s) to make sure it is being used effectively.”

Grand Jury Recommendation #13:

“R13: SYBH needs to provide proper training and education to ensure sufficient knowledge/understanding of MHSA and Realignment funding in order to maximize the necessary funding required in order to support the county programs dependent upon this funding.”

Grand Jury Recommendation #14:

“R14: SYBH and HHS need to assess its current staff, training and processes related to its budget. They then need to develop standardized processes/procedures to facilitate necessary communication between department heads and key fiscal personnel as it relates to internal reporting, discussion, and evaluation of ongoing budgetary goals and or issues, etc.”

Grand Jury Recommendation #15:

“R15: There should be regularly scheduled meetings between Department Heads, Branch Directors, Administrators, and key fiscal staff. For transparency purposes, these meeting updates should be presented to the Sutter Yuba Behavioral Health Advisory Committee as well as Sutter County Board of Supervisors Meetings.”

Grand Jury Recommendation #16:

“R16: Based on the grand jury’s research, a new Electronic Health Care Record System has been defined and budgeted by SYBH. SYBH needs an implementation plan. The County needs to prioritize and approve funding for a complete EHR for outpatient, inpatient, and PES.”

Grand Jury Recommendation #17:

“R17: The County needs to work with HHS to perform a needs assessment and begin developing a long-term strategy to address the clear need for a new facility for SYBH which includes housing the PHF Unit.”

Response from the Board of Supervisors/SYBH/HHS:

R1: This Recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future. SYBH is aware of ligature points in the facility and takes them seriously. As previously noted, addressing ligature points is an ongoing process. As part of this process, SYBH will perform a needs assessment to identify issues of concern and will work with Sutter County General Services to implement recommendations. This will be completed with an estimated date of June 2023. The completion of this item will be dependent on funding, supply-chain issues, labor, and installation availability. Staff supervision of clients and ligature points will be continued per current practice.

The Grand Jury recommends that a needs assessment be completed by July 31, 2022. This Recommendation will not be implemented because it is not reasonable. Given that the County has 90 days to respond to the GJ Report, which was released on June 24, 2022, it is not reasonable to require that this item be completed by July 31, 2022. Despite this, SYBH agrees that this item should be addressed as noted above.

R2: This Recommendation requires further analysis. An internal assessment has been conducted and an electronic badge access point was added to the door leading to the staff break area just south of the nurses’ station inside the PHF unit. As noted previously, an electronic badge access point has always been on the door leading from the breakroom to the south side of the building by the parking lot. An external safety specialist will be retained by SYBH to determine if additional enhancements are needed. The analysis will be completed by December 24, 2022.

The Grand Jury noted that “...there was an AWOL from this access point [referring to the double doors at the entrance of the PHF unit] several years ago due to a malfunctioning, lower-powered magnetic locking mechanism. This has been replaced with new magnetic

hardware.” The new magnets are rated at 1,000 pounds, meaning that 1,000 pounds of energy would be needed to force the doors open. SYBH does not believe that new magnetic locking mechanisms are needed. Additionally, while the double doors could use reconditioning, SYBH does not believe they need replacement. Therefore, this portion of the Recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted.

The portion of this Recommendation to install a half “Dutch” door to the medication room will require further analysis. The analysis will look into whether this style of door will enhance safety without impacting clinical care. The analysis will be completed by December 24, 2022.

R3: This Recommendation will not be implemented because it is not reasonable. “Constant supervision and safety” of the fenced in recreation yard would require 24 hour a day, 7 day a week staffing assigned to the fence to ensure that no contraband is passed through the fence. This is unreasonable. SYBH currently has a policy whereby staff comb the backyard area at the beginning of every shift to ensure that no contraband is in the backyard. Clients are always accompanied in the fenced in recreation area by staff, meaning that no client is ever in the area without supervision. Additionally, the new camera system will provide additional staff oversight of the recreation area and a new alarm system that alerts staff to an AWOL attempt has been installed and implemented.

R4: This Recommendation requires further analysis. It is SYBH staff’s opinion that concrete walls limit visual access to nature and contribute to a feeling of being “locked in” more than a chain-link style fence. Additionally, concrete block walls are typically associated with facilities that serve a punitive purpose, such as jails. Despite this, SYBH will conduct an analysis of the feasibility of a concrete wall which will include costs and client feedback about having a concrete wall versus a chain-link fence. As noted in our response to Finding 3, staff is investigating plans to install an anti-climb fence should our analysis of a concrete wall not be favorable. The analysis will be completed by December 24, 2022.

R5: This Recommendation has not yet been implemented but will be implemented in the future. SYBH has been awarded grant funds that will pay for the installation and purchase of new camera equipment. The Fiscal Year 2022-23 budget has sufficient appropriations necessary to cover the expense of installing the new camera system. A contractor to install the system that has been identified and a purchase order completed for equipment and installation. New video camera and affiliated equipment has been ordered as of August 2022 and is scheduled for installation. Installation of the equipment will be completed by June 2023.

The Grand Jury recommends that a Video Monitoring system needs to be funded by July 31, 2022. This Recommendation will not be implemented because it is not reasonable. Given that the County has 90 days to respond to the GJ Report, which was released on June 24, 2022, it is not reasonable to require that this item be completed by July 31, 2022. Despite this, SYBH agrees that this item should be addressed as noted above.

R6: This Recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted. HHS, of which SYBH is a part, cares about campus safety. SYBH’s primary facility, located at 1965 Live Oak Boulevard, is a multi-use site, consisting of Behavioral Health services and

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a transitional shelter staffed by Public Health. Private security is provided through a contract approved by the Sutter County Board of Supervisors and managed by Sutter County General Services. The contract calls for "patrol for suspicious activity, trespassing, vandalism, pan-handling, theft of any kind, aggressive and/or violent behavior or any other illegal activity...". The contractor's scope of services is evaluated based on the needs of the campus.

The Grand Jury report indicates that SYBH staff felt there was no reason to have security personnel on the PHF as "they felt safe with policy and procedures in place for aggressive or dangerous behaviors." SYBH agrees with staff's assessment and believes that having uniformed security scheduled full time on the PHF would detract from the rehabilitative (rather than correctional) nature of the treatment facility. PHF staff may call on-site security at any time to respond from the campus as needed.

R7: This Recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted. SYBH Policy and Procedures related to AWOL and Hazard/Incident reporting conforms with State and County regulations and guidance.

R8: This Recommendation has been implemented. Eight (8) exterior signs at SYBH have been installed with the County's new logo and an easier to read, blue background.

An analysis will be conducted to determine a) the need for sign lighting and b) the fiscal feasibility of installing sign lighting. This portion of the Recommendation requires further analysis. The analysis will be completed by December 24, 2022.

R9: This Recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted. Page 86 of the Grand Jury's Report provides a pictorial example of a bed appropriate for an isolation room and recommends that SYBH install this type of bed. SYBH notes that the bed pictured in the report and those used by SYBH are identical to those installed in the isolation rooms at the PHF. These beds have been in use by the facility for many years. Additionally, DHCS, the state body that licenses the PHF, has reviewed the site multiple times and has not required replacement of the beds.

R10: This Recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted. The parking lot is currently safely accessible with routine repair completed on an ongoing basis for issues that are caused by regular use. In collaboration with Sutter County Development Services and General Services, the parking lot will be continually evaluated for future maintenance needs, which may include repaving.

R11: This Recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted. SYBH remodeled portions of the interior of the PHF facility in 2019. This included new flooring, asbestos abatement, new paint, and the installation of a sprinkler system. Additionally, replacement of many pieces of furniture, such as patient beds, nightstands and chairs in the common area has occurred.

Sutter County General Services routinely maintains the property at 1965 Live Oak Boulevard and are responsive to the needs of SYBH when requested.

R12: This Recommendation has not yet been implemented but will be implemented in the future. HHS staff overseeing behavioral health programs will view “Module 5— Behavioral Health Financing 101”, provided by the California Behavioral Health Directors Association. This course reviews Mental Health Services Act, Realignment and Medi-Cal funding for Behavioral Health programs. Additionally, regular budget meetings, which will include an educational component, will be staffed by HHS administration. Consultant performance via contracts in these areas will be reviewed for effectiveness. These action items will be completed by June 30, 2023.

R13: This Recommendation has not yet been implemented but will be implemented in the future. HHS staff overseeing behavioral health programs will view “Module 5— Behavioral Health Financing 101”, provided by the California Behavioral Health Directors Association. This course reviews Mental Health Services Act, Realignment and Medi-Cal funding for Behavioral Health programs. Additionally, budget meetings, which will include an educational component, will be established by HHS administration. Consultant performance via contracts in these areas will be reviewed for effectiveness. These action items will be completed by June 30, 2023.

R14: This Recommendation has not yet been implemented but will be implemented in the future. More specifically, the areas for improvement identified by the Grand Jury have also been identified by both HHS Administration and County Administration. As such, work has been underway to identify areas for immediate improvement, including identifying additional resource needs, as well as areas for additional communication and training for existing staff. The Grand Jury appropriately recognized, in its background and discussion, that “the funding for county behavioral health is very complex.” The Grand Jury’s observations and resulting recommendations are well taken. It is anticipated that additional work will continue, with the intent that tangible improvements in processes, procedures, and general understanding of the interrelationship of programs and budgets, are recognized and will be completed by June 30, 2023.

R15: This Recommendation has not yet been implemented but will be implemented in the future. More specifically, the areas for improvement identified by the Grand Jury have also been identified by both HHS Administration and County Administration. As such, work has been underway to identify areas for immediate improvement, including identifying additional resource needs, as well as areas for additional communication and training for existing staff, to include topic related communication with other stakeholders such as the Behavioral Health Advisory Committee and Board of Supervisors. The Grand Jury appropriately recognized, in its background and discussion, that “the funding for county behavioral health is very complex.” The Grand Jury’s observations and resulting recommendations are well taken. It is anticipated that additional work will continue, with the intent that tangible improvements in processes, procedures, and general understanding of the interrelationship of programs and budgets, are recognized and will be completed by June 30, 2023.

R16: This Recommendation has been implemented. SYBH contracts with Kings View Corporation, a third-party provider, to implement its electronic health record (EHR). The Fiscal Year 2022-25 MOU between SYBH and Kings View includes funding for and the transition to a new EHR that will provide improved functionality throughout the system, including outpatient, inpatient and PES.

Sutter County Board of Supervisors Response to 2021-22 Grand Jury Final Report

R17: This Recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted. DHCS last visited the 1965 Live Oak Blvd Building, specifically the PHF, on June 30, 2022, as a result of the Grand Jury Report. During this visit, and numerous previous site reviews for both outpatient and inpatient services, SYBH has not received feedback from DHCS, the state entity responsible for monitoring SYBH, that the Live Oak building is not an adequate facility to house SYBH services.

Sutter County Sheriff's Response to Section Entitled
"Sutter County Corrections & Rehabilitation Reform:
Great Progress, Headed in the Right Direction"



SUTTER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
BRANDON BARNES
SHERIFF – CORONER

June 14, 2022

Superior Court of California, County of Sutter
Attn: The Honorable Susan Green - Presiding Judge
1175 Civic Center Blvd.
Yuba City, CA..95993

Please accept this response on behalf of the Sutter County Sheriff's Office regarding the findings of the Grand Jury for FY 21/22. It has been my honor to get to know the Grand Jury members and to provide an overview of the operations of the Sheriff's Office. I want to express my appreciation of the Grand Jury and the role they play in helping to bring deficiencies to our attention. I have reviewed the proposed report and offer the following responses to both the "Findings" and the "Recommendations" suggested by the Grand Jury.

SUTTER COUNTY JAIL

FINDINGS:

F3 Drugs are still getting into the jail.

F3 Response: The Sheriff's Office agrees, and we have made substantial improvements in recent years to help reduce the amount of contraband coming into the jail. To continue to work towards improvements, the Sheriff's Office has taken additional steps to address the issue of contraband.

First, the Sheriff's Office has budgeted for a narcotics detection K9 for FY 22/23 and we anticipate this being approved by the Board of Supervisors. The budgeted amount of this purchase is approx. \$12,000.00.

Second, is adding additional metal screening to the open-air roof of the exercise yard adjacent to the men's dormitory. The Sheriff's Office has found the existing screen is large enough for smaller items (i.e. narcotics in pill form) to fall through to the floor. The additional screen will overlay and greatly reduce the size of the openings covering the exercise yard. This project will be completed the week of June 11-15, 2022, at a cost of approx. \$16,650.00.



SUTTER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
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R2 Response: The Sutter County Sheriff's Office agrees it should follow the recommendations outlined in the Organizational Assessment. However, we believe in a measured approach to filling these positions and we are currently working with the County Administrator's Office on plans for implementation.

As noted in Recommendation #9 of the Organizational Study, it says to add "2.0 FTE correctional officers per shift when the closed control room and related housing unit reopens to ensure the facility has proper resources given staff absences" (Page 34). Post pandemic, the jail population has remained relatively low and the jail's medium facility is still not being used to house incarcerated persons. The Sheriff's Office believes we can work towards additional staffing in future budgets as the jail population gradually increases.

Additionally, the Board of Supervisors has approved the addition of an administrative sergeant position to help with jail oversight and this is also a recommendation outlined in the Organizational Study.

The Sheriff's Office continues to be dedicated to meeting, or exceeding, industry standards for the care and custody of those we supervise. We appreciate the recommendations of the Grand Jury and further thank you for accepting these responses on behalf of the Sheriff's Office.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "B. Barnes", written over a horizontal line.

Brandon Barnes

Sheriff-Coroner