



OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF YOLO COUNTY

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August 17, 2023

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To: Foreperson, YCGJ
P.O. Box 2142
Woodland, California 95776

To: Honorable Daniel M. Wolk
Superior Court of California, County of Yolo
1000 Main Street
Woodland, California 95695

Re: Meeting Their Obligations? A Report on Yolo County Detention Facilities

Grand Jury Foreperson and the Honorable Daniel M. Wolk:

The following is the response of the Yolo County Sheriff's Office ("Sheriff's Office") to the 2022-23 Grand Jury report titled, "Meeting Their Obligations? A Report on Yolo County Detention Facilities."

FINDINGS

F-1: Opportunities for exercise are limited in the Monroe Detention Facility. Small concrete yards within the pods have very limited equipment, and time allowed in the general exercise yard is minimal. This prevents incarcerated persons from managing stress and aggression in a more positive manner as well as from increasing their overall health.

The Sheriff's Office disagrees wholly with this finding. The Sheriff's Office meets or exceeds the requirements set forth by the State of California under Title 15 and Title 24. Incarcerated persons are provided with exercise equipment that meets the safety requirements for staff and incarcerated persons alike.

F-2: An online RFID system is a technology that could significantly boost the Yolo County Sheriff's Office's ability to further meet the needs of incarcerated individuals while maintaining accountability and helping prevent future lawsuits.

The Sheriff's Office agrees with this finding. The Sheriff's Office agrees an RFID system would be a beneficial technology within the jail. The Sheriff's Office plans to request funding during the mid-year budget process. Project implementation is dependent on funding.

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F-3: Although in-person visiting hours were reinstated in April of 2022, online scheduling for visits (whether virtual or in-person) and remote video visitation on tablets given to the incarcerated persons are still unavailable, even though they would make it easier for family members to schedule and visit with incarcerated persons.

The Sheriff's Office disagrees partially with this finding. On site video visitation began in August of 2022. Online scheduling and video visitation on tablets is in progress with an estimated go-live date of October 1, 2023.

F4: A computerized grievance and tracking system is still not implemented, nor can a final implementation date be determined at this time. Maintaining such a system could increase trust in the system as well as allow trends to be identified and studied so problems can be remedied appropriately.

The Sheriff's Office disagrees partially with this finding. A digital grievance tracking system will be implemented in the coming weeks with an estimated go-live date of October 1, 2023. This is in conjunction with the above referenced online visitation scheduling software.

RECOMMENDATIONS

R-1: The Yolo County Sheriff's Office should develop a plan for improving exercise facilities and availability at the Monroe Detention Facility and the Leinberger Detention Facility (when completed) by January 31, 2024.

This recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted. The Sheriff's Office maintains adequate exercise equipment for incarcerated persons and disagrees with this recommendation.

R-2: The Yolo County Sheriff's Office should further research RFID systems for compatibility with their facilities and, if found to be compatible, by April 1, 2024, submit a request to the Yolo County Board of Supervisors to invest in this technology.

The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future. The Sheriff's Office agrees an RFID system would be a beneficial technology

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within the jail. The acquisition of such a system is on our future roadmap and we will request funding at the appropriate time.

R-3: The Yolo County Sheriff's Office should submit a report to the Grand Jury by January 1, 2024, regarding the status of its full implementation of the JMS and RMS systems, including the online video visitation/scheduling and grievance management systems. The Yolo County Sheriff's Office should send an update report to the Grand Jury every six months thereafter until all systems are fully implemented.

The recommendation has not yet been implemented but will be in the future. Delays of the RMS/JMS project continue due to ongoing vendor issues and remains without a prospective go-live date. The Sheriff's Office understands the importance of improved visitation and grievance management and has worked with the vendor providing video visitation, scheduling, and grievance management to create a workaround allowing these inmate services to go live within the next six months irrespective of the RMS/JMS implementation.

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