

NEVADA COUNTY DETENTION FACILITY INSPECTION REPORT

Wayne Brown Correctional Facility



SUMMARY

California Penal Code section 919(b) requires the Nevada County Grand Jury to inquire annually into the condition and management of the public prisons within the county.

A critical part of any such inquiry involves a physical inspection of each facility. This report presents the results of that inquiry and is based on observations and interviews with correctional officers, medical staff, law enforcement officials, and inmates, as well as information obtained from the Nevada County Sheriff's Office and the Board of State and Community Corrections. The Wayne Brown Correctional Facility has a capacity to hold 283 inmates.

Three inmates were selected at random for interviews. One of the inmates stated the Wayne Brown Correctional Facility lacked reentry education programs.

Approximately 67% of inmates are repeat offenders.

GLOSSARY

Grand Jury - Nevada County Grand Jury

WBCF - Wayne Brown Correctional Facility

NCSO - Nevada County Sheriff's Office

Probation - Nevada County Probation Department

AB109 - California Public Safety Realignment Act

MRT - Moral Reconciliation Therapy (a type of psychotherapy)

BACKGROUND

California Penal Code section 919(b) requires the Nevada County Grand Jury (Grand Jury) to inquire annually into the condition and management of the public prisons within the county.

APPROACH

The Grand Jury inspected the Wayne Brown Correctional Facility (WBCF). This inspection included a walk-through of the facility, interviews, and a review of documents.

Interviews conducted:

- Nevada County Sheriff's Office (NCSO) Staff
- Nevada County Probation Department (Probation) Staff
- Correctional Officers
- Inmates
- A representative of the California Forensic Medical Group

Documents reviewed:

- Prior Grand Jury WBCF inspection reports
- Nevada County Jail Inmate Rule Book
- Reports from California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation
- Board of State and Community Corrections inspection report
- California Public Safety Realignment Act, (AB109)
- US Department of Justice reentry program evaluation
- Nevada County's Community Corrections Partnership (CCP) Plan Implementation
- 20-year recidivism results for Moral Reconciliation Therapy (MRT) treated offenders

DISCUSSION

On September 11, 2014, the Grand Jury conducted an on-site inquiry into the condition and management of the WBCF in Nevada City.

The WBCF was dedicated on December 17, 1991. This facility houses those awaiting arraignment or trial, as well as those who have been sentenced. Classification elements used to determine the housing of all inmates include gender, age, criminal sophistication, type of crime, assaultive/non-assaultive behavior, and physical/mental health needs. This classification system provides a greater level of safety for both inmates and staff. Medical services are available twenty four hours a day, seven days a week, provided by the California Forensic Medical Group under contract with Nevada County.

The population at WBCF has increased since the implementation of AB109. Under AB109 realignment, newly-convicted low-level offenders with no current or prior serious or violent offenses remain in county jail to serve their sentence instead of going to state prisons.

The budget for WBCF for the fiscal year of 2014-2015 is \$11,760,000. The staff consists of 31 female and 29 male correctional officers, three administrators, five civilian kitchen staff, and a NCSO Captain who is in charge of the WBCF.

The WBCF has a capacity to hold 283 inmates. At the time of this inspection, the population included 199 males and 52 females ranging in age from 18 to 70. This population included 17 inmates as a result of AB109, 19 inmates from other counties, 15 inmates from U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and five weekend-only inmates. Typically approximately 67% of the inmates are repeat offenders. The cost to Nevada County to house a Nevada county inmate is \$70.00 a day. Nevada County contracts with other counties and the federal government to house their inmates at various rates.

Three inmates were selected at random for interviews. One inmate stated the WBCF lacked reentry education programs. This fact was corroborated during interviews with WBCF correctional staff and probation staff. Other comments included, "It is a decent place to be incarcerated" and "the staff is fair." Although these are opinions of the inmates, it described the climate of the facility during our inquiry.

Moral Reconciliation Therapy (MRT) is a cognitive-behavioral program for substance abuse treatment and for criminal justice offenders and has been proven to reduce recidivism. MRT is a systematic treatment strategy that seeks to decrease recidivism among juvenile and adult criminal offenders by increasing moral reasoning. The US Department of Justice reentry program evaluation and 120 published reports have documented that MRT treated offenders show significantly lower recidivism for periods as long as 20 years after treatment. Studies show MRT-treated, offenders have re-arrest and re-incarceration rates lower than inmates who have not completed MRT.

MRT programs are used in 49 states, District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and four countries.

FINDINGS

F1. The lack of reentry education programs at the WBCF may contribute to the recidivism rate.

F2. WBCF appears to be adequate and well-maintained.

RECOMMENDATIONS

None

REQUEST FOR RESPONSES

Pursuant to California Penal Code section 933.05, the Nevada County Grand Jury requests responses as follows:

None required