

WAYNE BROWN CORRECTIONAL FACILITY

REASON FOR INVESTIGATION

California Penal Code Section 919(b) requires the Civil Grand Jury to annually inspect all detention facilities within the County of Nevada.

PROCEDURE FOLLOWED

The Grand Jury performed two physical inspections of the facility and interviewed the captain in charge at the time of inspection. The Grand Jury reviewed previous Grand Jury findings and official responses, and reports prepared by other governmental agencies.

FINDINGS

1. The Wayne Brown Correctional Facility (WBCF) is under the jurisdiction of the Nevada County Sheriff's Department. Maintenance of the facility is the responsibility of the General Services Department.
2. WBCF is located on the grounds of the County Administration Center. The Western Nevada County's 911 Emergency Telephone Center is located within the facility.
3. The State Board of Corrections inspects the facility every 18 months and issues a public report. The last visit was December 17-18, 1997. This report was reviewed by the Grand Jury and no discrepancies were noted.
4. The facility employs 46 correctional officers, plus four sworn officers, and four sergeants. There were two correctional officer vacancies at the time of inspection, leaving 44 correctional officers employed.
5. The facility is clean and efficiently operated. The kitchen is staffed by county personnel and inmates, and can serve 1500 meals a day.
6. In the medical facility, nurses are on duty 24 hours a day under the supervision of a nurse manager. A nurse practitioner is also on staff for 40 hours a week.
7. Inmates are encouraged to continue their education. High school classes are available and taught by a teacher on contract with Nevada Joint Union High School District. At the time of the Grand Jury's visit, there were 20 independent study students working toward a high school diploma. Twelve inmates attend General Educational Development (GED) classes, and five passed the GED in 1998. Four inmates received a high school diploma during 1998.

8. The average daily population is 134 and the maximum capacity of the facility is 230. At the time of inspection the jail housed 122 inmates. The jail is divided into three sections: minimum, medium and maximum security pods. Male and female prisoners are housed separately.
9. Inmates in the minimum security section are allowed outside the facility under supervision during the day to work for government agencies and nonprofit organizations.
10. Inmates can be sentenced to WBCF for up to one year. Management stated that there is an 80 percent repeat offender rate.
11. The fire alarm system was not operational at the time of the first visit. Management instituted special procedures to insure the safety of inmates and staff. The problem was corrected within three days.
12. The captain in charge reported that there is no routine substance abuse testing of staff due to the high cost. Random testing is available on an individual basis when requested by a supervisor.
13. The facility uses updated computer equipment to access information from the Department of Justice to screen the inmates. Fingerprint checks of newly arrested inmates are screened by checking these files, and at the time of release. Nevada County is one of two counties in the State using this system.
14. The Grand Jury found that the problem with the sally port doors mentioned in the last Grand Jury report was corrected.

CONCLUSIONS

1. The Sheriff's Department has made significant progress in correcting problems identified by previous Grand Jury recommendations at the WBCF.
2. The staff employed at WBCF perform their work in a professional manner.

RECOMMENDATIONS

None

REQUIRED RESPONSES

None