



San Diego County Probation Department

Post Office Box 23597 • San Diego, California 92193-3597
www.sandiegocounty.gov/probation



Adolfo Gonzales, Chief Probation Officer

October 20, 2017

Edward Weiner
Juvenile Justice Commission Chair
2901 Meadow Lark Drive
San Diego, CA 92123

Response to the 2017 Juvenile Justice Commission (JJC) Facility Inspection Report for the Girls Rehabilitation Facility (GRF)

Dear Mr. Weiner:

We are in receipt of the Juvenile Justice Commission 2017 Facility Inspection Report for Girls Rehabilitation Facility. Below, please find the San Diego County Probation Department responses to the JJC Recommendations as it pertains to Girls Rehabilitation Facility.

RECOMMENDATION #1: "The JJC recommends that Probation continue establishing a Trauma Response Unit (TRU) for girls."

RESPONSE #1: The Trauma Responsive Unit started on 02/29/16 and is a boys unit housed in unit 100. Probation has plans to expand the same model to a girls unit early next year.

RECOMMENDATION #2: "The Juvenile Justice Commission (JJC) recommends that Girls' Rehabilitation Facility (GRF) expand the Career Technical Education (CTE) classes available (currently Horticulture). As part of the expansion, the JJC recommends finalizing the implementation of the CTE Small Animal Management "Tender Loving Canine" program."

RESPONSE #2: Probation is developing a canine training program for GRF. The design team will seek to develop a program that can qualify for CTE credit for the youth. Probation and the San Diego County Office of Education will continue to work together to bring the youth the best educational environment possible for the youth.

RECOMMENDATION #3: "The JJC recommends that GRF continues trying to align their educational curriculum with what is taught in traditional school districts."

RESPONSE #3: The students at GRF participate in integrated project based instruction. This type of instruction is similar to that of High Tech High School and Del Largo Academy in Escondido, California, which are among the best high schools in our county.

GRF seeks to assist our students to compete globally and become engaged citizens in their communities. To that end, instruction is based in the interrelated competencies of mastering rigorous academic content, critical thinking, problem solving, working collaboratively, communicate effectively, directing one's own learning and develop an academic mindset in which each student believes that they have the ability to grow and think.

RECOMMENDATION #4: “The JJC recommends that GRF continue to strive for a more treatment-oriented and community-oriented approach.”

RESPONSE #4: A treatment and community oriented approach has always been our goal for GRF and we continue to strive for this model.

RECOMMENDATION #5: “The JJC recommends implementation of the “Missouri Model”, which emphasizes keeping youth out of the system and providing support to make sure that they are successful once they leave.”

RESPONSE #5: Probation continues to look at our custodial programs and areas we can improve. We are actively working with our community partners, our county partners, law enforcement, and others to create such a system here in San Diego County.

RECOMMENDATION #6: “The JJC recommends that menu at GRF be reviewed and upgraded. Food once again has been a complaint from the girls. Even though this is a consistent complaint in all the institutions, there does not seem to be any move toward correcting the situation.”

RESPONSE #6: Probation continues to work closely with the Children’s Initiative and other partners to enhance food and nutrition in the facilities. We have made several changes recently. We’ve added an afternoon snack for when the youth complete classes. We’ve also conducted a survey to solicit youth input on meals. We are working with our food services team to improve the variety and appeal of food provided to the youth. Probation will evaluate the possibility of preparing food at each facility versus hot trays prepared off-site.

RECOMMENDATION #7: “Consider adding LGBTQI specific services and partnering with The Center in Hillcrest to provide those youths who identify with that community with some support while in custody. The Center could also be asked to provide training to staff on how to help kids who identify as LGBTQI.”

RESPONSE #7: We have reached out to The Center in Hillcrest in the past to provide services at our institutions. We believe LGBTQI specific services are valuable and will look into adding them to our program.

RECOMMENDATION #8: “The JJC recommends that GRF provide ethnically sensitive personal care products.”

RESPONSE #8: Ethnically sensitive personal care products are available to the youth at GRF.

Thank you for this opportunity to respond to the Juvenile Justice Commission 2017 Facility Inspection Report for Girls Rehabilitation Facility.

Very respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Adolfo Gonzales". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

ADOLFO GONZALES
CHIEF PROBATION OFFICER

C: Rueben Littlejohn, Assistant Chief Probation Officer
Scott Huizar, Deputy Chief of Institutional Services
Timothy Hancock, Division Chief, Girls Rehabilitation Facility

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