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Plumas County Grand Jury Members 2010-2011

Attebery, Leon	Greenville
Bartlow, Greg	Portola
Beaubien, Terri	Clio
Butcher, Marilyn	Greenville
Collignon, Bea	Greenhorn
Darling, Robert	Blairsden
Decker, Ila	Cromberg
Donald, Susan	Quincy
Ford, Donald	Lake Almanor
Guy, Richard	Greenville
Hopman, Lisa	Quincy
Marquette, Michael	Portola
Shawles, David	Chester
Soderholm, Joyanne	Lake Almanor
Yockey, Tom	Portola

Grand Jury Committees

Audit
Education
Sheriff and Correctional Facilities
Federal Stimulus Funding
Probation Department

The Focus of the Plumas County 2010-2011 Grand Jury

In July of 2010, a group of Plumas County Citizens were brought together at the Plumas County Courthouse. Within a few minutes they were sworn in and given a manual as well as information on when and where to meet. The adventure as the Plumas Grand Jury 2010-2011 had begun.

After some assistance from the previous grand jury members, the new Grand Jury set out to find out exactly what they were to do. They reviewed complaint letters addressed to the Grand Jury, reviewed previous Grand Juries' history of investigations, and had discussions about what each new juror thought should be examined. They also examined areas concerning the changes in the economy, population characteristics, and department heads of Plumas County.

After a period of in-depth deliberation, the Grand Jury decided the areas of investigation should cover the following:

1. County Probation Department.
2. Sheriff's Department and Jail.
3. County Stimulus Funding.
4. County Education – Plumas Unified School District/Plumas County Office of Education.

Four committees were formed within the Grand Jury to gather information and take testimonies from individuals with specific knowledge of these areas and departments. Committee chairpersons and officers of the jury were elected to serve on said committees.

Top management and other individuals within the areas and departments were interviewed. The Grand Jury also made tours of the Probation Department and County Jail facilities. The different committees also attended meetings such as: County Audit Department, the Stimulus Director's meeting, the School Board meetings, and the County election processes. Members of the Grand Jury also visited various facilities with alternate forms of education. The committees made it a priority to choose individuals to interview with variant opinions in order to get a balanced view.

This is when the Grand Jury started to discover the real importance of their mission and the impact it would have. Discussions among members of the Grand Jury included reviewing of prior Grand Jury reports, department policies, internet research, and personal interviews. Examinations of all this information resulted in this 2010-2011 Grand Jury report.

The Grand Jury's requests for interviews and information were greeted with a high level of cooperation and openness from all concerned. We thank those who were involved in our investigations. All can be assured that the recommendations and conclusions were arrived at in an unbiased and thorough manner.

This Grand Jury recommends the following areas for consideration for future investigations:

1. Auditor/Controller/Risk Management Department.
2. Plumas Corporation and its relationship with various County agencies.
3. Veterans Services.
4. Drug and Alcohol Abuse program funding.

It has turned out to be a highly educational experience for the members of the Grand Jury. We started as strangers and ended as a cohesive group with respect for our fellow jurors.

Probation Department Report

Specific Issues

The Plumas County Probation Department was investigated by the 2003-2004 Grand Jury. Over the last few years, citizen complaints have been received concerning issues with the handling of juveniles by the Probation Department. The 2010-2011 Plumas County Grand Jury's investigation focused on both the adult and juvenile aspects of the Probation Department.

Purpose Statement

The Probation Department's stated goal is reduction in crime and its impact on the community.

Summary of Investigation

The Plumas County Grand Jury interviewed the head of the Probation Department. We toured the Probation facilities and talked to employees working there. We interviewed the Probation Services Coordinator of Plumas Rural Services Alcohol and Drug Program. We talked with a Superior Court Judge, the District Attorney, and the Sheriff.

Findings

The Plumas County Probation Department currently has sixteen employees, eight of whom are administration and clerical, and eight of whom are probation officers. Their responsibilities include four types of adult cases:

1. Administrative – non-supervised except for fines, fees or restrictions.
2. Out-of-County/Low Risk – minimal supervision, may report by mail or phone, some supervised by other jurisdictions.
3. Intensive Drug Supervision – at a minimum, defendants must have both drug testing and search and seizure as conditions of probation.
4. Drug Court – all defendants that have been placed in a Drug Court program.

The Probation Department's responsibilities include:

- a. Home visits and/or searches.
- b. Creating pre-trial reports.
- c. Pre-sentencing reports.
- d. Drug testing.

The department also works with at-risk juveniles and has created a Girls Circle program. It is currently developing a program for boys. The department has approximately 380 individuals on court-ordered probation at any given time. Drugs and/or alcohol abuse account for 80% to 85% of the people on probation.

Federal and State funding reserves for Plumas County consist of \$509,467 to fund drug and alcohol programs. At the time of this report, the County was not taking