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Mono County Grand Jury Final Report for the Year 2017 – 2018

Investigation #2

Mono County Jail

Final Report by Grand Jury Investigative Committee

Analysis:

Penal Code Section 919 (b) requires that the Grand Jury annually inquire into the condition and management of the public prisons within the county.

Methodology:

To comply with that requirement, two members of the 2017-2018 Grand Jury visited the Bridgeport Mono County Jail, and interviewed a number of staff including the lieutenant in charge of the jail and the Sheriff.

Findings:

- The Grand Jury found that the Jail appeared clean and well maintained.
- The Grand Jury found the food service area and process with inmate kitchen help seemed organized well for all.
- While limited by space, the jail has made good use of what they have.
 - The facility must maintain areas to separate men, women, children, intoxicated or under the influence and those who must be assessed for the competency/ability to stand trial, as well as long and short term inmates and those of lesser vs. higher agitated crimes.
 - At the time of the Grand Jury visit, there were 28 prisoners being held, of which 3 were female, 1 was in detox and 1 in assessment. Also, of the 28 prisoners, more than 80% were not Mono County residents.
- At the time of the Grand Jury visit, the jail was slightly understaffed, and in the process of filling positions, which are in the current budget.
- This facility houses both short-term inmates waiting trial or other processing as well as long-term inmates.
 - The long-term inmates are those who request to serve their time in Mono County Jail and are approved, for periods of up to 7 years. They do not accept those who have served sentences prior in a penitentiary or who have a history of agitated crimes or actions.
- The Sheriff, Lieutenant and staff we interacted with were very forthright and showed enthusiasm and pride in their facility.
- We were advised that all staff, including dispatch are 'hybrid' positions; able to carry a firearm and oversee inmates, not just dispatch. They also switched duties every 4 hours to ensure alertness
- The prison control room also acts as the dispatch for all 911 Emergency Calls, Fire, Search and Rescue, Sheriff and Police.
- Approval for a new facility has happened and it is anticipated in the next 5 years, approximately.
- Inmate medical and medical transport needs were an area of discussion. The jail is equidistant between Mammoth and South Carson Medical Center.
 - They no longer have a contract with the Mammoth Hospital for medical services. They do work with the local Indian Tribe medical facility.