

DIVISION OF ADULT INSTITUTIONS
Central California Women's Facility
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June 27, 2022

Presiding Judge Michael Jurkovich
Madera County Superior Court
300 S. G. Street
Madera, CA 93637

Madera County Grand Jury
P.O. Box 534
Madera, CA 93639

This is in response to your Findings and Recommendations contained in the 2022 Madera County Grand Jury report, dated June 22, 2022, regarding Central California Women's Facility (CCWF).

Findings:

1. The MCGJ finds that the landscaping was neglected.

In 2014 the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) implemented a Statewide Water Conservation Plan directing State agencies to reduce overall water use at their facilities. Due to this direction, CCWF maintains efficient water use practices throughout the institution. Ongoing efforts are made to keep the landscaping at CCWF looking presentable. Warden Pallares understands the beautification efforts at the institution assists with inmates' rehabilitative process.

2. The MCGJ finds those participating in the Auto Body and Paint program received valuable employable skills.

CCWF Warden, M. Pallares welcomes and encourages inmates to participate in vocational programs such as Auto Body. The Auto Body program supports inmates in learning a valuable trade that will assist them in attaining employment once they are released from custody.

3. The MCGJ finds that the Warden was willing to speak with members of the Grand Jury about the rehabilitative programs at CCWF.

Warden Pallares appreciates questions from the public and looks forward to meeting with guests as they tour the institution. Warden Pallares is a strong believer in the rehabilitative process and believes the programs offered at CCWF will assist inmates become successful once they are released from custody.

4. The MCGJ finds the Warden initiated communication and rehabilitative programs geared to minimize institutional disruptions and was willing and scheduled regular meeting with IAC representatives.

Warden Pallares is a strong believer in communicating with the inmate population. He has weekly interviews with inmates who request to speak with him. Warden Pallares has regular meetings with the IAC to discuss issues throughout the institution. Working with his management team, they are able to resolve many issues at the lowest level.

5. The MCGJ finds the Puppies Uplifting Inmate's Spirits Program (P.U.P.S) enables inmates to become more responsive to the needs of the dog and the changes associated with surrounding stimuli.

The P.U.P.S program at CCWF is a valuable program that has not only helped inmates begin to heal from trauma, the program has also helped members of the community with their physical and emotional needs as well.

Recommendations:

1. The MCGJ recommends that CCWF develop a landscaping program practice for inmates to train after-institution life.

CCWF agrees with this recommendation and will continue to find ways to keep beautifying the landscape of the institution and remain compliant with direction given to them from headquarters.

2. The MCGJ recommends that the institution continue to train and make ASE and I-CAR certification available at CCWF.

CCWF agrees with this recommendation as ASE and I-CAR are just two of the successful programs offered to offenders at CCWF.

3. The MCGJ recommends that the Warden continue to research and implement innovative programs at CCWF.

Warden Pallares consistently seeks new ways to bring rehabilitative programs to CCWF and encourages suggestions that will help inmates in their rehabilitative process.

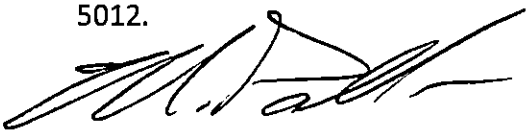
4. The MCGJ recommends that the Warden expand the IAC program to involve more inmates in the decision-making process.

The Inmate Advisory Council (IAC) operate under a set of By-Laws which indicate when elections will be held and the duration of each term. Each housing unit at CCWF has IAC representatives living in them. These representatives work with the housing staff to diffuse any issues that may arise within the unit. Every ethnic group is represented and has the ability to be a part of the decision-making process at CCWF.

5. MCGJ recommends that CCWF continue to offer the P.U.P.S program to benefit the inmate/trainer, the staff, and the administration.

CCWF agrees with this recommendation and hopes to expand the program.

Should you have any questions or concerns regarding this matter, please contact Gene Norman, Administrative Assistant/Public Information Officer, at (559) 665-5531, extension 5012.



M. PALLARES
Warden (A)
Central California Women's Facility