

# Responses to the 2013-2014 Grand Jury Report

Every year, when the annual Santa Cruz County Grand Jury Report is published, designated agencies are requested to respond to the findings and recommendations of the report. These responses may agree, partially disagree, or disagree with the findings, and may indicate that recommendations have already been implemented, will be in the future, or will not be implemented, or that further analysis is required.

Comments may also be added to the responses. When a response agrees with a recommendation, further comments are optional. In case of complete or partial disagreement, or in response to recommendations for action, comments should be provided as part of the response.

For each report, the collected responses are published in a separate file on the [grand jury's section of the county's public website](#). Note: The responses are provided as received, and have not been edited, except for minimal formatting to make them appear correctly on this web page.

## Report: [The Juvenile Hall Meal Preparation Program: Good Food Equals Love, Concern, and Support](#)

This report requested responses from the following:

1. Santa Cruz County Sheriff-Coroner: Findings 4, 6; Recommendation 1
2. Superintendent, Santa Cruz County Juvenile Hall: Findings 1, 2, 3, 5; Recommendations 1-3
3. Probation Chief, Santa Cruz County Probation Department: Findings 1, 2, 3, 5; Recommendations 1-3
4. Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors: Finding 3; Recommendation 2

### Findings

- **Finding 1: The family style meal system is a major part of mentoring Juvenile Hall residents and is an important educational function.**
  - Response from Superintendent, Santa Cruz County Juvenile Hall (Fernando Giraldo): **Agree**
  - Response from Probation Chief, Santa Cruz County Probation Department: **Agree**

- **Finding 2: Freshly prepared, nutritious meals have been shown to decrease youth violence in schools, develop healthy bodies, and enhance academic achievement.**
  - Response from Superintendent, Santa Cruz County Juvenile Hall (Fernando Giraldo): **Agree**
  - Response from Probation Chief, Santa Cruz County Probation Department: **Agree**
  
- **Finding 3: The Juvenile Hall kitchen is currently in need of maintenance as well as a preventative maintenance plan.**
  - Response from Superintendent, Santa Cruz County Juvenile Hall (Fernando Giraldo): **Partially Disagree**

Due to several difficult budget years, there has been a reduction of General Services staff and county funds to attend to repairs in the kitchen. Attention has been brought to the maintenance needs of the kitchen. Repairs have begun and a preventative plan has been coordinated with General Services.
  - Response from Probation Chief, Santa Cruz County Probation Department: **Partially Disagree**

Due to several difficult budget years, there has been a reduction of General Services staff and County funds to attend to repairs in the kitchen. Attention has been brought to the maintenance needs of the kitchen. Repairs have begun and a preventative plan has been coordinated with General Services.
  - Response from Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors: **Approves the response of the Probation Department without further comment**
  
- **Finding 4: The cost per food tray at Juvenile Hall is comparable to the cost at the three adult jails.**
  - Response from Santa Cruz County Sheriff-Coroner (Lt. Paul Ramos): **Agree**

The Sheriff's Office agrees that the cost per food tray at Juvenile Hall is comparable to the cost at the three adult jail facilities.
  
- **Finding 5: Juvenile Hall no longer uses residents in the kitchen for KP duty. This has resulted in an increased workload for the cooks and missed mentoring opportunities for the residents.**

- Response from Superintendent, Santa Cruz County Juvenile Hall (Fernando Giraldo): **Disagree**

Residents no longer do KP duty in the kitchen after breakfast and lunch on weekdays, as this interferes with the students' time in the classroom during school. Residents however do continue to complete KP duty in the kitchen after dinner and after all three meals on the weekends. The cooks' schedule is designed so that there is time to complete the two morning KP duties during the week; and youth continue to have the opportunity to participate in KP duties throughout the week.

- Response from Probation Chief, Santa Cruz County Probation Department: **Disagree**

Residents no longer do KP duty in the kitchen after breakfast and lunch on weekdays, as this interferes with the students' time in the classroom during school. Residents however do continue to complete KP duty in the kitchen after dinner and after all three meals on the weekends. The cooks' schedule is designed so that there is time to complete the two morning KP duties during the week; and youth continue to have the opportunity to participate in KP duties throughout the week.

- **Finding 6: The Sheriff's Office Kitchen Centralization Study revealed many logistical problems that require further research before implementation.**

- Response from Santa Cruz County Sheriff-Coroner (Lt. Paul Ramos): **Agree**

The study revealed logistical problems and also highlighted the aging kitchen facilities that will need renovations.

## Recommendations

- **Recommendation 1: The Sheriff's Office Corrections Bureau should exclude the Juvenile Hall from its kitchen consolidation. (F1, F2, F4, F6)**
  - Response from Santa Cruz County Sheriff-Coroner (Lt. Paul Ramos): **Has been implemented**

At this time, the Sheriff's Office will continue its internal analysis related to food delivery at the jail facilities.

- Response from Superintendent, Santa Cruz County Juvenile Hall (Fernando Giraldo): **Has been implemented**

If the Sheriff's Office Corrections Bureau prepared and delivered the meals to juvenile hall we would either no longer be able to participate in the National School Breakfast and Lunch Program or these meals would have to be prepared separately. The School Breakfast and Lunch Program is a budgeted reimbursement of \$30,855 for 2013-14. As the report points out, there are a variety of scheduling, transportation, and special dietary needs that would cause problems with this proposed plan. The Santa Cruz County Juvenile Hall is a model site for detention reform and is well known and praised for their excellent conditions of confinement. Fresh and nutritious meals prepared on site allows for family style eating amongst staff and youth. Food, like many of the other programs in the facility, is a key component in decreasing violence and developing healthy bodies and minds in our young people.

- Response from Probation Chief, Santa Cruz County Probation Department: **Has been implemented**

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- **Recommendation 2: Juvenile Hall administrators should work with General Services to respond to current maintenance needs and develop a preventative maintenance plan. (F3)**

- Response from Superintendent, Santa Cruz County Juvenile Hall (Fernando Giraldo): **Has been implemented**

Superintendent Sara Ryan, Juvenile Hall Head Cook Tim Houchin, and General Services Building Maintenance Superintendent Bill Kersten met and created a repair and preventative maintenance plan for the Juvenile Hall kitchen. Items which could be immediately addressed have been fixed or a work order has been submitted. Larger maintenance projects are being scheduled with contractors.

- Response from Probation Chief, Santa Cruz County Probation Department: **Has been implemented**

Superintendent Sara Ryan, Juvenile Hall Head Cook Tim Houchin, and General Services Building Maintenance Superintendent Bill Kersten met and created a repair and preventative maintenance plan for the Juvenile Hall kitchen. Items which could be immediately addressed have been fixed or a work order has been submitted. Larger maintenance projects are being scheduled with contractors.

- Response from Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors: **Approves the response of the Probation Department without further comment**

- **Recommendation 3: Juvenile Hall administration should reinstate the KP duty schedule. (F1, F5)**

- Response from Superintendent, Santa Cruz County Juvenile Hall (Fernando Giraldo): **Has been implemented**

Residents continue to complete KP duties in the kitchen after dinner during the weekdays and after all three meals on the weekends.

- Response from Probation Chief, Santa Cruz County Probation Department: **Has been implemented**

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