


Memorandum



Date: May 8, 2009

To: The Honorable Arthur A. Garcia
Presiding Judge, Superior Court of California
County of Santa Barbara

Ted Sten, Foreperson
2008-2009 Santa Barbara County Civil Grand Jury


From: Patricia J. Stewart, Chief Probation Officer

Subject: Response to 2008-2009 Santa Barbara County Civil Grand Jury Final
Report on March 10, 2009, entitled Los Prietos Boys Camp and
Academy.

CC: The Honorable Brian Hill, Assistant Presiding Judge
The Honorable James Herman, Presiding Juvenile Court Judge
The Honorable Thomas R. Adams, Juvenile Court
Michael F. Brown, Santa Barbara County Executive Officer
Juvenile Justice/Delinquency Prevention Commission
Probation Department Administrative Staff

Please find enclosed the Probation Department's response to the 2008-2009
Grand Jury finding and recommendation of March 18, 2009 regarding Los Prietos
Boys Camp and Academy.

Enclosures: Response
Computer Disk (Foreperson Sten only)

LOS PRIETOS BOYS CAMP AND ACADEMY

Finding 1A: *For the Los Prietos Boys Camp to be at full capacity of 56 wards, the following additional staff is needed: one Senior Deputy Probation Officer and two Juvenile Institutions Officers.*

Response: The Probation Department agrees with this finding as it relates to the Corrections Standards Authority rated capacity.

Finding 1B: *For the Los Prietos Boys Academy to be filled to capacity of 40 wards, the staff would need to be increased to include: one Senior Deputy Probation Officer; one Juvenile Institutions Officer; one half-time Administration Office Professional.*

Response: The Probation Department agrees with this finding as it relates to the Corrections Standards Authority rated capacity.

Recommendation 1: *The Santa Barbara County Probation Department prioritize the hiring of staff to maximize capacity at Los Prietos Boys Camp and Academy.*

Response: The recommendation will not be implemented at this time because it is not warranted. Although Camp has a Corrections Standards Authority (CSA) rated capacity of 96 beds, the operation of the 75 beds for which the Probation Department is funded to staff, is adequate to effectively manage the current court-ordered juvenile population. There is a waiting list for Camp admittance; however, these numbers have not justified the expansion of the Camp to 96 beds. To mitigate the waiting list, Camp has a program within the Santa Maria Juvenile Hall (SMJH) that orients the young men to the Camp program and provides them the opportunity to begin earning Camp credit while detained in SMJH. Additionally, the Camp Administration and partner agencies have incorporated a furlough program that recognizes and rewards campers with stellar performance to transition home one to two weeks early. The transition includes daily attendance and participation in the Alternative Detention Program. Should Camp commitment numbers significantly increase in the future, expanding the staffed capacity of the Camp will be considered for recommendation during the annual Departmental budgetary process.

Finding 2A: *Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) programs are offered once a week to the wards at Los Prietos Boys Camp.*

Response: The Probation Department agrees with this finding.

Finding 2B: *Cocaine Anonymous (CA) and Narcotics Anonymous (NA) are offered once every two weeks to Los Prietos Boys Camp and once every two weeks to Los Prietos Boys Academy.*

Response: The Probation Department agrees with this finding.

Recommendation 2: *Provide all anti-substance abuse programs (AA, CA and NA) in the daily curriculum at both Los Prietos Boys Camp and Los Prietos Boys Academy.*

Response: The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted. Incorporating a daily AA, CA, and NA program would significantly impact the ability to provide other established Camp programming options which aid in the rehabilitation of these young men. The Probation Department has inquired with the respective Hospitals and Institutions Committees relative to providing weekly CA and NA meetings. The agencies indicate an ability and willingness to meet this request.

Additional information since the inspection of the 2008-2009 Grand Jury: A certified Alcohol and Drug Counselor who will begin a drug and alcohol curriculum in the next 60 days has been contracted to serve the Los Prietos population; additionally, an anti-violence and drug and alcohol education class was added to the overall anti-substance abuse programming by funding through the Santa Barbara County Education Office.

Finding 3: *Mental Health personnel at Los Prietos Boys Camp and Los Prietos Boys Academy are understaffed by one position.*

Response: The Probation Department disagrees with this finding. In 2005, when the Los Prietos population was downsized from 96 wards to 75 wards, the level of services contracted by Probation from Alcohol Drug and Mental Health Services (ADMHS) for clinicians was not scaled back in relationship to the population. During the 2008 budgetary process, when faced with major reductions, the Mental Health services at Los Prietos were identified as a reduction that could be sustained. Clinician's caseloads at Camp remain at 30, which are comparable to those of clinicians in the community clinics. There is also a psychiatrist on site one day per week.

Recommendation 3: *Fill the vacant Mental Health position.*

Response: The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted. The mental health needs of the wards are being met within the current service levels outlined in Probation's current contract with ADMHS. In addition to the two Marriage and Family Therapists, and .15 FTE of psychiatry, ADMHS

is using two interns to provide enhanced services to the young men committed to the Camp programs.

Finding 4: *Community Transition Officers (CTO) are understaffed by one position.*

Response: The Probation Department disagrees with this finding.

Recommendation 4: *Hire one additional CTO.*

Response: The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted. The caseload size for a Juvenile Deputy Probation Officer spans a range of 20 to 150 youth, with an average caseload of 40. The current caseload size for the CTO's is 23 wards. At this time, the CTO's each supervise a caseload with an enhanced staff to minor ratio. Adding a third officer would not be warranted unless the aftercare population increased. The Probation Department will continue to monitor CTO resources and workload.

Finding 5: *Los Compadres mentoring program was discontinued due to lack of funding.*

Response: The Probation Department disagrees with this finding. Carolyn Contreras, Director of Family and Youth Services for Community Action Commission, confirmed that the Los Compadres mentoring program has not been discontinued and is available to the youth, including those in the Camp programs.

Recommendation 5: *Los Prietos Camp and Academy implement a mentoring program.*

Response: This recommendation has been implemented. The Probation Department works with community based organizations, community leaders, and civic groups to provide mentoring opportunities for youth at Camp. Although not traditional mentoring services, the Community Transition Officers (CTOs) provide supervision and mentoring services for up to 90 days to the youth returning home. If they need assistance with programming, schooling, or job placement, the CTOs will provide the necessary guidance, direction, and referrals. If they are experiencing difficulty with their transition back into the community, the CTO is a resource not only to them but for their parent(s) and teachers as well.

Youth committed to the Camp program who are fathers, are referred to the Teen Age Parenting Program (TAPP) and are eligible for mentoring services until age 21. TAPP develops case plans with the participants that include staying in school, prevention/delaying of a second pregnancy, and job placement via the Work Enforcement Act (WEA). The goals are revisited every 3 months.

Los Prietos also has a part time staff who is designated as a coordinator/provider of volunteer and mentoring services. In the 2006-2007 Grand Jury Report, Probation indicated that this position would begin recruiting volunteer mentors for the youth committed to the Camp program. Due to budget shortfalls in FY 07-08, and the elimination of two Aftercare Officers in the Camp programs, the role of the staff evolved to making direct community referrals and linkages for the youth, giving computer support to the youth in the dormitory, and by providing assistance to the youth as they transition back into the community. This staff also visits youth who have reoffended and are detained in Juvenile Hall or incarcerated in County Jail; discussing their current situation and reviewing their plans for success upon their return to the community. There is also a linkage with the Construction Technology Program contractors who have indicated a desire and willingness to mentor youth through job placement and the Work and Gain Economic Self Sufficiency (WAGES) programs. Both programs are avenues for linking youth to agencies and mentors within the community. With the advent of YOBG funding and the deployment of two CTOs, the coordinator/provider will now be able to prioritize the focus on recruiting mentors. Los Prietos is continuously seeking mentoring opportunities for the wards in the Camp program.