



# COUNTY OF SOLANO

## PROBATION DEPARTMENT

**Christopher Hansen**  
Chief Probation Officer

**Donna L. Robinson**  
Chief Deputy Probation Officer

August 26, 2014

The Honorable E. Bradley Nelson  
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court,  
County of Solano  
600 Union Avenue  
Fairfield, California 94533

RE: Response to Grand Jury Report FY2013/2014 - Public Safety Realignment Act  
Implementation Assembly Bill 109; Findings and Recommendations

The Honorable Judge Nelson,

Pursuant to Penal Code sections 933(c) and 933.05, I am responding to the following findings and recommendations contained in the 2013/2014 Grand Jury Report that pertain to matters under my control as the Chief Probation Officer and Chair of the Community Corrections Partnership.

### **Finding 1**

*At the time of the 2013-2014 Grand Jury review, the County of Solano 2011 Public Safety Realignment Implementation Plan dated November 1, 2011 has not been fully implemented.*

### **Response to Finding 1**

I agree with the finding of the Grand Jury.

### **Recommendation 1**

*That Solano County Community Corrections Partnership (CCP) accelerates the full implementation of County of Solano 2011 Public Safety Realignment Implementation Plan dated November 1, 2011.*

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### **Response to Recommendation 1**

The recommendation has not yet been fully implemented. The last major initiative to be implemented is a Pre-Trial release program. The County is currently developing a limited Pre-Trial release program with implementation slated for fiscal year 2014/2015. Corrections Consultant Thomas White is also working with the CCP to update and revise the 2011 Public Safety Realignment Implementation Plan as needed.

As noted in the plan:

The CCP considers this initial plan to be a “living document,” subject to ongoing modification and enhancement as data indicates emerging needs and experience suggests additional approaches and interventions. The Plan presents overarching concepts and strategies, rather than operational details, both because the law is still changing and because agency specific policies and procedures, as well as multi-agency protocols, will continue to be worked out as realignment continues. This Plan is the base and the springboard for continuous improvement; it is the County’s roadmap for ensuring its realignment efforts maintain the agility necessary to dedicate appropriate resources and responses to realignment and realigned offenders. (p. 3)

### **Finding 2**

*At this time, three years post AB109 implementation, there is no evidence that recidivism rates are being tracked by any agency in Solano County.*

### **Response to Finding 2**

I partially disagree with the finding of the Grand Jury.

### **Recommendation 2**

*The Probation Department works cooperatively with the Sheriff’s office to track the recidivism rates and provide quarterly reports to the Community Corrections Partnership.*

### **Response to Recommendation 2**

The Probation Department will be presenting a preliminary report on recidivism rates for realigned offenders to the Community Corrections Partnership in September 2014.

Obtaining arrest records from the Solano County Sheriff’s Office will provide information only for those offenders arrested or convicted in Solano County, which has limited value. The Probation Department is working with the California Department of Justice to obtain access to statewide arrest and conviction data which will provide a more accurate account of recidivism rates.

**Finding 3**

*Realignment appears to contribute to property crimes in our communities.*

**Response to Finding 3**

I partially disagree with the findings.

**Recommendation 3**

*The Solano County Corrections Partnership works closely with local law enforcement to provide the resources necessary to correct this problem.*

**Response to Recommendation 3**

The Grand Jury has not provided any information other than anecdotal accounts by law enforcement officials of the reason for reported increases in property crime.

For fiscal year 2013/2014, Solano County's local law enforcing community received \$289,108 in state funds to address local law enforcement issues surrounding realignment. The two largest jurisdictions, Vallejo and Fairfield, have elected to place two additional officers on the Sheriff's Street Enforcement Team (SET). The deputies and officers of the SET focus on offenders in the community as a result of realignment.

**Finding 4**

*There is a marked increase in assaults on law enforcement personnel in the jails and on the streets.*

**Response to Finding 4**

I partially disagree with the findings.

**Recommendation 4**

*The Solano County Corrections Partnership assists law enforcement in the development and use of proven (evidence based) methods to provide officer safety.*

**Response to Recommendation 4**

According to Solano County Sheriff/Coroner Ferrara, there has been an uptick in assaults on correctional officers in the jail. There is no available comparison data for police officers working in Solano County.

The recommendation above goes beyond the scope of the Solano County Community Corrections Partnership. Each law enforcement agency provides their staff with appropriate training that matches the needs of their specific agency.

**Finding 5**

*At the time of the Grand Jury's visit, it was noted that the Vallejo Day Reporting Center is underutilized and was servicing only 26 clients at an annual operating cost of \$800,000.*

**Response to Finding 5**

I agree with the findings of the Grand Jury.

**Recommendation 5**

*The Community Corrections Partnership makes the necessary changes to the Public Safety Realignment Implementation Plan that will result in full and cost effective utilization of the Vallejo Day Reporting Center.*

**Response to Recommendation 5**

The recommendation has been implemented. The Center for Positive Change (CPC) is a client service center, not a Day Reporting Center. At the time of the Grand Jury's visit the CPC was still training staff, implementing components of the program, and developing security measures. As of the date of this response, the CPC in Vallejo is near operating capacity (75 clients). Additionally, the CPC offers a variety of services to clients to include cognitive behavioral groups, substance abuse and mental health treatment, and employment services.

**Finding 6**

*The Probation Office in Fairfield is being remodeled to temporarily meet the needs of a Day Reporting Center for Fairfield.*

**Response to Finding 6**

I agree with the finding of the Grand Jury.

**Recommendation 6**

*Probation Department expeditiously completes the renovation of their current building to be utilized as a temporary Day Reporting Center.*

**Response to Recommendation 6**

The recommendation has not yet been implemented. The County is working expeditiously to finalize plans and garner approval from state and local agencies to move forward with the construction. It is anticipated that construction will begin in January/February 2015.

**Finding 7**

*There are plans to purchase and construct a new facility adjacent to the Solano County Health and Social Services offices, located on Beck Avenue, a permanent location for the Fairfield Day Reporting Center.*

**Response to Finding 7**

I agree with the findings of the Grand Jury.

**Recommendation 7**

*Without further delay, the Probation Department and the Solano County Administrator expedite the construction of the permanent Day Reporting Center in Fairfield.*

**Response to Recommendation 7**

It is anticipated that once the County receives final approval to move forward with the project it will take three to five years to complete.

Sincerely,



Christopher Hansen

cc: Grand Jury  
Birgitta E. Corsello, County Administrator