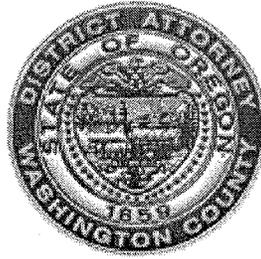


2013 Official Report

Washington County Grand Jury



**Conditions and Management of
Washington County
Correctional Facilities**

2013 Grand Jury Report on Correctional Facilities Located in Washington County

September 5-20, 2013.

I. Introduction

Pursuant to Oregon Revised Statute 132.440, we convened as a grand jury to inspect the conditions and management at four correctional facilities located in Washington County, Oregon. During three days in 2013—September 5th, 6th and 13th—we were given an orientation and walking tour of each facility. The inspections provided the grand jury an adequate overview of the physical conditions of the facilities. The grand jury did not examine audits, budgetary records, management policies, detailed outside inspection reports, nor official findings aside from brief orientations at each facility. However, we believe our review of each facility provided a realistic impression of the day-to-day operations, and allowed the grand jury to judge the overall fitness of the buildings, the attitude of staff and security strategies in practice.

The orientation and walking tours were interactive and the grand jurors asked questions through each review. The staff at each facility was eager to provide additional information when asked.

Though time constraints realistically prevented us from examining every area of all four institutions, we are satisfied that we observed the overall structure of each facility and had access to any portion of the facilities we desired to see. As such, we feel that we can report reliably on the general physical conditions and relative fitness of the Washington County Community Corrections Center (CCC), Harkins House (HH), the Washington County Jail (WCJ) and Coffee Creek Correctional Facility (CCCF). It should be noted that each of the facilities were in full operation at the times of our visits.

Senior Deputy District Attorney Jeff Lesowski and Deputy District Attorney Matt Lehman of the Washington County District Attorney's Office accompanied us on all of the tours and joined in asking questions. Despite their presence, we stipulate that this report is the grand jury's alone.

II. Washington County Community Corrections Center (CCC)

Conducted: Thursday, September 5, 2013

Duration: 4 hours

Grand Jury Members: All members present
Accompanied by Senior Deputy District Jeff Lesowski
and Deputy District Attorney Matt Lehman

Introduction: Reed Ritchey, Director
Karleigh Mollahan, Manager

Orientation and Tour: Reed Ritchey, Director
Karleigh Mollahan, Manager

a. Overview

The grand jury tour of the Washington County Community Corrections Center—a residential transition facility in Hillsboro—was preceded by an information presentation by Director Reed Ritchey and Manager Karleigh Mollahan. The CCC currently has 215 beds for both male and female inmates. The CCC offers a range of programs for inmates, including substance abuse treatment, mental health evaluations and treatment, employment counseling and cognitive skills training, among others.

Currently, the CCC supervises approximately 3,600 probationers and parolees per year, with an annual rolling average of around 2,000 individuals entering and leaving. This review is limited to the CCC facility only; we did not review the Custodial Home Supervision (house arrest) nor the Probation and Parole Services as part of this review. The CCC serves the sentenced, sanctioned, local control and transitional lodgers.

Director Ritchey and Manager Mollahan were helpful in explaining their commitment to the mission of the department: to “enhance community safety by promoting positive behavioral change.” The CCC is pleasant, clean and well-maintained. We noted that the staff appeared to take to their responsibilities very seriously and genuinely strive to help each inmate grow as an individual and ultimately become a productive member of society.

The Director described some of the risk factors individuals at the CCC face: a history of anti-social behavior, attitudes/cognition, associates/peers, and personality patterns (antagonistic, impulsivity, risk-taking). The Director also noted secondary risk factors, which included substance abuse, marital stressors, lack of employment, education, pro-social activities and family support. Approximately 80 percent of the inmates have drug and/or alcohol issues.

The grand jury learned that CCC's strategy for addressing these factors include cognitive behavioral skill building, recovery mentors and community support groups, anger management therapy, residential treatment, and dorm and outpatient treatment. Director Ritchey characterized the therapeutic model of the CCC as "evidence-based practice."

b. Entry, Dining Hall and Yard

The CCC tour began in the entryway of the building. Each area seemed well maintained, clean and operating efficiently.

c. Dormitories

The dormitory common areas and communal sleeping areas were clean, simple and in good order. The inmates participate in cleaning, maintenance and laundry in the dormitory area.

d. Segregation Cells

There are a couple segregation cells in the CCC that are used for medical segregation, not as punishment. They appeared clean, adequate and comparable to a hospital room.

e. Security Provisions

The Director described the process for screening returning inmates. Currently, the CCC has available a leased eye scanner and the ability to perform urinalysis testing. Per the Director, the eye scanner and UA tests are applied randomly. In addition, a UA is performed facility-wide semiannually. Inmates re-entering the facility are subject to a search of their person.

f. CCC Observations

1. Mental health and substance abuse treatment is critical to the success of CCC. The grand jury recommends an increase to the availability, length and intensity of these programs. The success of the Residential Treatment Center 90-day program highlights the benefits of intense treatment for these issues.
2. The CCC has a multitude of different types of programs available to inmates, which was impressive to the jurors.
3. The jury believes a reduced caseload for parole/probation officers would be beneficial. This would allow for more time with each parolee/probationer.

III. Washington County Juvenile—Harkins House (HH)

Conducted:	Thursday, September 5, 2013
Duration:	3 hours
Grand Jury Members:	All members were present Accompanied by Senior District Attorney Jeff Lesowski and Deputy District Attorney Matt Lehman
Introduction:	LaRoy LaBonte, Shelter Manager Jennifer Tajon, Senior Juvenile Counselor
Orientation and Tour:	Jennifer Tajon, Senior Juvenile Counselor

a. HH Overview

The grand jurors met with Mr. LaBonte and Ms. Tajon at the Harkins House facility. Harkins House is a temporary residential shelter care and evaluation program for boys and girls between the ages of 12 and 17. A juvenile that turns 18 while in the program is allowed to remain in the program. The program provides evaluation and individual care for delinquent youth with matters pending in juvenile court. The juveniles must volunteer to participate in the program. The program performs a comprehensive evaluation of each youth. Both personal responsibility and maintaining respectful behavior are strongly emphasized. A behavior management program rewards youth with increased privileges.

The HH program is set up to host 18 juveniles. However, the current budget limits the program to 14 juveniles. The average stay is about 43 days. Any stay longer than 90 days must be justified to a committee at HH. During the stay, an evaluation and assessment is administered by a case manager after 30 days of residence.

HH juveniles are under custodial detention but must be deemed conditional release eligible. HH maintains a relationship with the Donald E. Long facility in Multnomah County for detentions, at which there are 14 beds available to Washington County. Staff document and report their observations and recommendations for each juvenile to the Juvenile Court. Harkins House provides services to juveniles, including on-site school, residential activities, mental health services, group treatment, and parental services. All residents must participate in some form of educational programming, which can include on-site school, GED preparation, post-graduation education or vocational activities. School programming is tailored to each individual juvenile based upon assessment and intervention needs. Caseworkers work to integrate juveniles back into school. The on-site classroom appeared conducive to a good learning atmosphere.

HH was built in 2001. Overall, the facility is in good working order. The staff takes to heart their responsibility and genuinely strive to help each juvenile.

b. Dining Hall and Yard

The dining and entry halls appeared pleasant and open with artwork created by the residents on display. The covered outside recreation area was in good condition. The facility seemed appropriate for the size of its population and was in good working order.

c. Dormitories

The dormitory is segregated by gender and features single-occupancy rooms. The common areas were clean and presentable. The residents are assigned chores, have daily housekeeping responsibilities and do their own laundry. The setup seems well suited to provide security for each resident.

d. Security Provisions

Harkins House is an unlocked facility. However, there are very clear boundaries and expectations. Major rules violations can preclude re-entry to the program for one year. When a juvenile returns from outside appointments, a urinalysis is performed as well as a pocket search. Drug sniffing dogs are also employed on a random basis at HH.

All releases and family-time is preplanned and usually involves the juvenile being in the custody of a parent or grandparent. In addition, off site trips to swimming pools, football fields and other recreation sites are scheduled for the juveniles.

e. HH Observations

The grand jurors were impressed with the work the staff at Harkins House has done. Generally, the grand jurors agreed on several observations about Harkins House:

1. Develop and present a plan to justify additional funding, including collecting data on the effectiveness of current programs at HH.
2. Continue Mr. LaBonte's efforts to formalize HH administration.
3. Add school time, either internally or through outside opportunities.
4. Current grant funding has expired for some programs, so the jurors believe a plan for additional program grants would be beneficial.
5. The grand jurors reviewed last years' report recommending the use of the eye scanner that is currently deployed at the CCC. Given the cost, the grand jury does not believe it is economical for Harkins House.

Overall, the grand jury was impressed with the staff, programs and facility at HH.

IV. Washington County Jail (WCJ)

Conducted: Friday, September 6, 2013

Duration: 4 hours

Grand Jury Members: All members were present
Accompanied by Senior District Attorney Jeff
Lesowski and Deputy District Attorney Matt Lehman

Introduction: Pat Garrett, Sheriff

Orientation and Tour: Mike Lenahan, Commander
Kim Philips, Lieutenant

a. Jail Overview

Sheriff Pat Garrett and Commander Mike Lenahan presented the introduction of the WCJ to the grand jury, including an overview of the relationship between the three county-run institutions that were reviewed (WCJ, CCC, HH).

The Sheriff and his staff presented the orientation and tour and answered questions in a professional manner. The tour included suggested areas, but it was made clear to the grand jurors that any part of the jail was available to review.

The jail was built in 1998 with 572 beds and has 9 living "pods." The WCJ appeared well maintained, clean and adequately staffed. The panel did have some concerns with the direct supervision model, which places one unarmed deputy in contact with up to 60 inmates. However, the deputies seemed comfortable with the assignment.

The jail currently hosts around 530 inmates. It costs the jail approximately \$69 per inmate per day to operate each bed in the WCJ. Counting booking and other operations, the average comes to approximately \$100 per day per bed.

b. WCJ Control Room

The WCJ control room is always operated by one or two staff members. The room appeared to be clean, secure and in good working order with functioning computer monitors and clear sight-lines. The staff was alert, professional, and responsive to all jurors' questions.

c. WCJ General Population Pod

The grand jury inspected two of the nine living pods at the WCJ, one designated for special needs population (Pod 7) and one that was designated for maximum security inmates (Pod 3). Both of these pods were clean and well-maintained.

The living cells at WCJ are single occupancy, which the grand jury believes maximizes security for both the inmates and staff. The cells are minimal, but they provide acceptable space, light and security for each inmate. The cells the grand jury inspected appeared humane and in excellent repair.

Pod 7 houses inmates who, for instance, require wheelchair assistance, or medication supervision. The Pod appeared sanitary, safe, and serviceable, which was particularly commendable given the rapid turnover (average of 13 or 14 days) at WCJ.

The deputy on duty appeared to be comfortable with the setting and was willing to answer questions as they came up from the grand jury. Although the grand jury did not review every pod, we have no reason to believe that the pod we inspected was not representative of other general population pods. The grand jury was also given the option to view any pod. The grand jury did not conduct a room-by-room inspection, but did feel comfortable with the overall appearance of the Pod.

The grand jury inspected the control room for Pod 3, the maximum security pod, where the grand jury had the opportunity to interview the deputies that were on duty. The deputies appeared capable and well trained. Pod 3 is broken into three sections: males, females, and extreme problem males. Inmates returning from CCC are housed here.

d. WCJ Laundry

The grand jury walked through the laundry area at the WCJ. Inmates are selected based on behavior and attitude and are given different tasks, such as sewing, laundering and ironing. The laundry facility appeared organized and clean.

e. WCJ Mess Facility

During the tour, the mess facility was busy with meal preparation, but the grand jury noted the cleanliness of the cooking surfaces, storage and work areas. The grand jury also commends the WCJ on their great health score for the mess facility. Prior to the tour, the grand jury had the opportunity to eat a WCJ lunch of a sandwich, side and fresh fruit. Further, the grand jury is impressed that there is a baker's certificate training program available to inmates.

f. WCJ Medical Housing

The grand jury next inspected the WCJ medical facility, which houses inmates needing medical care or self-harm watch. The medical unit has 24 single-bed cells and two negative-pressure cells for containment of airborne pathogens. The unit was near full capacity during the visit. The facility appeared to be well maintained and adequately equipped. We inspected a segregation cell, which appeared clean, humane and safe.

g. WCJ Booking Intake Center

The grand jury was impressed with the organization and thought that went into making the booking process safe and efficient. The grand jury tour happened near lunch time, so the jurors did not get to observe a fully operational booking process, but the jurors were given an explanation of each part of the process.

Overall, the booking intake center appeared in good working order. The jurors did notice that there appeared to be some flaking paint on the upper walls, ceilings and pipes. We also noted that there appeared to be some black marks along the floor molding in the intake showers. The jurors would recommend the WCJ staff look into those things to prevent future expansion of those issues.

h. General Topics

It was reported to the grand jury that there have been no escapes from the Washington County Jail. Given the size of the Washington County Jail, the grand jurors were impressed with the relatively small number of inmate-on-inmate violence that occurs at WCJ. Although jail violence is an on-going issue in every jail, the policies and practices outlined by the WCJ deputies seem to adequately address those issues.

i. WCJ Observations

1. The WCJ record of no escapes is one to be commended.
2. The grand jury was concerned about the number of forced releases that have already occurred in 2013. Although the jail had only a few months of data, the number already greatly exceeded 2012. It would be helpful for future grand juries to review the data and see if WCJ has been able to ascertain the causes of the spike.
3. The performance measures employed by WCJ and that were presented to the grand jurors appears to be an effective tool for measuring the effectiveness of WCJ policies and practices.
4. The jail is routinely inspected by the State Department of Corrections. While the grand jurors valued the chance to review the WCJ, it is positive that the WCJ is under constant and consistent oversight.

Overall, the grand jury was impressed with the thoroughness with which each of the WCJ staff members performs their duties. Each deputy appeared to take their responsibilities very seriously and genuinely strive to make the jail a place that gives inmates the tools to grow and become a law abiding member of society.

V. Coffee Creek Correctional Facility (CCCF)

Conducted: Friday, September 13, 2013

Duration: 5 hours

Grand Jury Members: All members present.
Accompanied by Senior Deputy District Attorney Jeff Lesowski and Deputy District Attorney Matt Lehman.

Introduction: James Eastwood, Assistant Superintendant of Security

Orientation and Tour: James Eastwood, Assistant Superintendant of Security
Lisa Hall, Assistant Superintendant of Correctional Rehabilitation

a. Overview

Coffee Creek Correctional Facility accommodates all of Oregon's female inmates, and provides intake and evaluation of all female and male inmates committed to Oregon custody. CCCF is located within Washington County and, therefore, falls within the present grand jury's review even though it is operated by the State of Oregon.

CCCF opened its minimum security facility in October 2001, and its medium security facility in April 2002. The budgeted capacity of CCCF is 1,683 beds. This includes 659 female medium-security and 540 female minimum-security beds for long-term inmates, along with 432 male and 52 female beds for intake. The population at CCCF constantly varies because it is an intake facility. However, there are approximately 1,500 to 1,600 inmates at any given time. The average stay is 65.64 months.

Jimmy Eastwood, the Assistant Superintendent of Security at CCCF, provided a preliminary orientation. Other members of the CCCF also described aspects of the different programs available at CCCF.

Each inmate that comes through CCCF goes through an assessment that includes ranking the inmate between "1-5" for security needs. A case plan is created and is passed along to the State detention facility where the inmate is placed.

The grand jury was provided with an overview of the CCCF food service, inmate jobs, and maintenance. There is also a DMV call center located within CCF, as well as an eye-glass recycling operation. Some inmates perform volunteer work outside the prison.

The grand jury was also provided an overview of counseling and rehabilitation options available to inmates. CCCF employs life skills volunteers drawn from the community, currently numbering around 600.

b. Minimum Security Facility

1. Dining Hall and Yard

The central yard of the minimum security unit has a large organic garden throughout the center of it. During the tour, many of the inmates were tending to different areas of the garden. The yard was clean and well-maintained. It was clear to the jurors that the inmates enjoyed and appreciated the garden.

The grand jury was able to view the dining hall/multi-purpose room. The room is used for meals, parenting classes, visitors and other activities. The inmates working in the dining facility obtain Food Handler's Cards, which they are able to maintain and use after leaving CCCF. Overall, the facility was clean and seemed appropriate for its current uses.

2. Eyeglasses Training

CCCF has an eyeglass recycling operation that is currently in place at the minimum-security side. There is a waiting list among inmates for positions in the program. The program training includes eyeglass recycling and also creates the potential for an inmate to receive a dispensing optician certificate. The jury was impressed with the program and hopes to see it expanded in the future.

3. Minimum Security Dormitories

The minimum facility housing is for inmates with less than four years of time remaining until release. Each pod houses 108-116 inmates in an open dormitory setting, with each pod supervised by one corrections officer. The dorms appeared clean, orderly, and fully in use.

c. Medium Security Facility

The jurors toured the female and male sections of the medium security facilities. The jurors were impressed with the exercise equipment and outside fenced yard. At the time of our tour, the inmates were in their cells because there was a power outage. The backup generators provided basic safety related electrical functions. The pods house two inmates per 6 x15 foot cell. There are no windows in the cells, but the common areas are roomy and well lit. Inmates spend 5.5 hours per day engaged in programs and/or work.

d. Maximum Security Facility

The maximum security facility houses 60 inmates, with up to seven in the Intensive Management Unit. The one female on death row in Oregon is housed here. CCCF was not originally designed for death row, but cells and procedures were modified to accommodate.

Inmates can be held for up to 180 days in the maximum security facility, housed two per cell. This section of the tour was more intense to the grand jury. However, the facilities appeared well-maintained and professionally operated.

e. Security Provisions

The grand jurors came away with the impression that the CCCF facility was well-run, well-constructed and that the staff members were vigilant in enforcing the rules.

f. Jobs and Job Training

The grand jury was impressed with the available programs at both the minimum and medium-security sections of CCCF. The dispensing optician training, hair design program, DMV call center and barista training at the Minimum Security coffee cart are all valuable resources. The grand jury was impressed to learn that graduates of these programs are significantly less likely to reoffend when released. The jurors recognize the space and budgetary limitations of CCCF, but, given the benefits of these programs, the jurors hope additional opportunities can be created.

g. CCCF Observations

1. The facilities were well maintained, clean and functional.
2. The rehabilitation programs that were described were impressive.
3. The execution of security protocols made the jurors confident in the security at CCCF.
4. The organic garden, which was assisted by a Kaiser Permanente grant, seemed to be a positive addition to the minimum security section, providing fresh vegetables and productive work to inmates.
5. The jurors encourage the CCCF to continue to explore opportunities for jobs, mentorship, volunteers and company support. This outreach will continue to spread the benefits to inmates and the community.
6. Budgetary constraints in the coming biennium are problematic given the cuts that are required across the board for State of Oregon Correctional Facilities. CCCF appears to have a plan in place to make the cuts while still maintaining the current safety at CCCF.
7. Reviewing individual metrics at CCCF, such as costs, recidivism and programming, would be extremely helpful in comparing CCCF across Oregon and the United States.

VI. Summary of Recommendations

The following recommendations are taken from the body of this work. However, the jury wishes to draw specific attention to these issues.

- a. The jurors believe additional resources dedicated to inmate and resident training, treatments and job placement would be beneficial.
- b. Each facility should use opportunities for public relations and outreach. The jurors were impressed with how each facility was run and believe each facility should highlight that to the community.
- c. The jurors urge all of the facilities (CCC, HH, WCJ, CCCF) to continue to look for qualified professional volunteers, mentors and partnerships.
- d. The lack of standardized comparative data arose at each facility. Standardized comparison data specific to each facility would be a beneficial tool that each facility could use to measure improvement against other comparable facilities.
- e. Mental health services, both while inmates are incarcerated and after release, are critical components in helping inmates get the tools necessary to not reoffend.
- f. The jurors suggest that the Washington County Sheriff's Office explore standardizing drug testing and drug policies across WCJ, HH and CCC.
- g. The jury agrees with HH staff that there is a service gap for under-served juveniles in Washington County. Exploration for services and safe foster homes or group homes for juveniles who are discharged from the justice system would be beneficial to the juveniles and community.
- h. The facilities all had been through several rounds of inspections outside of the grand jury review. The grand jury believes that routine and random inspections of all facilities is a positive way to spot issues and make sure all are maintaining their high standards.
- i. The grand jurors recommend that future grand juries consider taking the tours prior to each orientation. Taking the tour first allows for a more comprehensive tour and allows for questions about programs to be answered while the programs are being observed by the grand jurors.

VII. Conclusion

The grand jury is pleased to report that the four facilities that were inspected were clean, professionally operated, well maintained, and safe. Although there were several recommendations for each facility, the grand jury believes the public should be extremely proud of the Community Corrections Center, Harkins House, Washington County Jail, and Coffee Creek Correction Facility in 2013. The grand jury expected a positive experience at each facility, but the grand jurors were extremely impressed with the effectiveness and efficiency with which each facility operates. Further, the staff at each facility was extremely professional, accommodating and well trained.

Each facility strives to provide an experience that gives inmates the necessary tools to succeed as members of society once released. The jury believes the expansion of meaningful job training and placement would greatly benefit inmates in this area. Secondly, expanding and reinforcing community mental health support and treatment will directly and indirectly affect the long-term success of each facility. The jurors believe that each facility would benefit from an increased use of statistical models to track the success of specific programs, recidivism and other metrics. The jurors believe this type of tracking is not only an efficient way to compare these facilities to other facilities in Oregon and the US, but it also provides a way to analyze the different programs and the funding that goes towards them.

The grand jurors were treated with respect at each facility and felt fully engaged by the management and staff regarding the issues they face. Jurors felt free to ask a variety of questions and the staff at each facility provided in-depth answers, including by some by email after the presentation and tours had completed. We were impressed with the cooperation among the three Washington County facilities—CCC, WCJ, HH—specifically with regard to the use of the WCJ to prepare general meals for the other facilities. This use of economies of scale and the ability for all parties to work together helps maintain an efficient and effective system at each facility. We would urge all facilities to expand the use of sustainable practices were practicable.

The jury commends the hard work and dedication by staff at each facility. The jurors were impressed with the coordinated effort that is in place to go beyond just housing inmates and actually working to help reintegrate them into society. Specifically, the jurors noted the work done at HH and CCC to help inmates work towards positively changing their lives for the better. Overall, the jurors were impressed with the hard work that is done at each facility to make the Washington County community safer both in the short and long term.

VIII. Grand Jurors

1. Craig Hendrickson (Foreperson)
2. Martha Anderson
3. Joseph Cihula
4. Shane Daffron
5. Jennifer Gunterman
6. Patty Hermann
7. Todd Sakoda

Signature (Foreperson): _____ /s/ _____

Date: 10/11/13