



County of Santa Cruz

SHERIFF - CORONER

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MARK TRACY
 SHERIFF -CORONER

Agenda: August 22, 2000

August 7, 2000

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
 County of Santa Cruz
 701 Ocean Street
 Santa Cruz, CA 95060

REPORT ON SHERIFF'S BLAINE ST. WOMEN'S FACILITY PROGRAMS

Dear Members of the Board:

At the Fiscal Year 2000-01 Budget Hearings, the Board requested the Sheriff's Office to report back to them regarding the current inmate programs offered at the Sheriff's Blaine Street Women's Minimum Security Facility. The Blaine Street Facility continues to offer quality programs in Substance Abuse, Health Education, Arts and Recreation and basic Educational courses, including Career and Job Development. A copy of a brochure describing the various programs at Blaine Street is attached.

Currently, all **Blaine** Street residents are required to attend the basic Women's Health Education course. One new course planned for the inmates in the near **future** is an additional in-depth Health Education program, to be instructed by a Health Services Agency nurse, that addresses health issues unique to women, including birth control options, hepatitis prevention and inoculations, and Sexually Transmitted Disease prevention and testing.

Another recently implemented program is "Women's Ventures" that interfaces with the current Career and Job Development course (taught by Santa Cruz Adult School). This course focuses on training women for skilled labor/trade occupations (e.g., electricians, tile setters, heavy-vehicle operation). The course is designed so that the student can transition into the program upon release **from Blaine** Street. Women's Ventures also assists the student in finding employment with various companies upon completion of their program.

The current computer courses offered at **Blaine** Street are self-taught through a Basic Skills/GED class. We intend to expand this course and hire an instructor that will teach women at the facility

basic Windows applications and word processing skills to expand their potential job opportunities.

Upon a survey of inmates, and to better meet inmate educational needs at Blaine Street, we are considering offering a shorter- term substance abuse program of 8-10 weeks (rather than the current 12- week course) instructed by Pajaro Valley Prevention (PVPSA). This will address those inmates incarcerated for brief periods and enhance attendance. Currently, over 50% of the inmates at Blaine Street attend this course.

Many of the women at Blaine Street have spoken about the need for transition housing that would offer them a continued supportive atmosphere with other women and assure they are not forced into their prior living environments that frequently involve physical abuse and illegal street drugs. The Sheriffs Office will continue to explore options with various community-based organizations that might assist the women in this respect. It is anticipated that our course offerings and transition issues will be further enhanced by the recruitment and selection of our newly-approved Inmate Programs Director position for this fiscal year.

I would also like to recognize the excellent programs development by our Blaine Street Coordinator, Supervising Correctional Officer Nicola Jones, and former Coordinator, Supervising Correctional Officer Esther Beckman. Their dedication and responsiveness to the needs of the Blaine Street women assure relevant job skills instruction, health education, and recreation for the residents.

It is therefore RECOMMENDED that your Board:

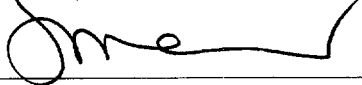
1. ACCEPT this report and attachment on the current inmate programs offered at the Sheriffs Blaine Street Women's Minimum Security Facility as requested by the Board at the 2000-01 Budget Hearings.

Sincerely,



MARK S. TRACY, Sheriff- Coroner

RECOMMENDED:



SUSAN A. MAURIELLO
County Administrative Officer

MST: sr
Attachments

RELIGIOUS COURSES

INNER HEALING:

You want to change, but you don't know how. The conditioning that has created these pattern systems have been deeply ingrained in us. Healing through the teachings of the Word of GOD and through active praying, we are able to ask GOD to help us. He is a wonderful counselor. COME . . .GOD."who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us" . . .is able to heal our wounds and change us by giving us new life according to His grace and mercy and power!

PRISON MINISTRIES:

This group uses the 12 steps as a recovery tool. Integrating, rediscovering, deepening the spiritual part of ourselves, and recognizing the importance of the guidance of our Higher Power as GOD. The spiritual 12 steps are a spiritual journey which can be used as a way out of self-destructive behaviors and provides an opportunity to express and experience feelings. Working together in a group, with GOD's power, is a powerful and transforming process.

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH:

The Messiah Lutheran church is here the 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month. We present bible stories, or a bible study, and singing. We pray together for you, your family, and friends. All are welcome. We enjoy being with you and want to share Christ's love.

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

GETTING OUT AND STAYING OUT:

Meet with a representative one on one to discuss available resource agencies that can assist you when you get released. The volunteers will help you prepare for your release. Through these resource agencies and programs they can aid you in finding a place to go, a way to get there, clothing vouchers, job preparation, filling out applications for school and jobs, as well as writing resumes. Increase the success of your release by planning ahead.



SUBSTANCE ABUSE COURSES

PAJARO VALLEY PREVENTION:

This 12 week substance abuse program can earn you substance abuse certificate. You can then submit the certificate to your sentencing judge for modification. This program seeks to make you aware of the direct relationship between your incarceration and alcohol and/or drug abuse. Our attempt is to reduce the rate of incarceration the abuse causes. You learn about the addiction cycle, how the cycle starts, builds and takes over. The program covers the biological, psychological, and social damage caused by this cycle. Other course topics include: Domestic Violence, HIV/AIDS education, alcohol related diseases, and skills and techniques for avoiding alcohol and/or drug abuse. After the class there is time for individual counseling. The program assists you in developing a "life plan" to help you prepare for release into the community.

ALTO COURSE:

This class offers group counseling for individuals with substance abuse/dependency issues. Topics are understanding addiction and recovery, effects of substance abuse upon families, co-dependency and relationships, identifying with others in recovery, introduction to 12-step concepts, relapse prevention, building a positive support group, and identifying community resources for treatment. Intakes are done individually prior to group participation. The objective is for participants to become aware of their issues with substance abuse use, to identify problems requiring treatment, and to seek treatment upon release.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS:

Alcoholics Anonymous is a fellowship of men and women who share their experience, strength and hope with each other that they may solve their common problem and help others to recover from alcoholism. The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking. There are no dues or fees for AA membership. We are self-supporting through our own contributions. AA is not allied with any sect, denomination, political organization, or institutions. Our primary purpose is to stay sober and help other alcoholics to achieve sobriety.