

1970 Grand Jury

among the clerical and secretarial staffs. Whenever possible minority persons should sit on all oral boards for the positions in the given department.

RECOMMENDATION 12: This Grand Jury recommends to the of Supervisors that the Alameda County Civil Service solicit from appropriate community and civic organization names of persons from the ethnic minority communities available to sit on County oral boards, and instruct Alameda County Civil Service Department to select where possible at least one person from those communities on each Oral Board.

RECOMMENDATION 13: This Grand Jury recommends to the of Supervisors the immediate establishment of an Airport Commission; this Commission to be composed of five persons, knowledgeable in aviation, selected from various sections of the County.

Comment: This Commission would function for all of the airports throughout the county. It would be advisory to the Board of Supervisors and be responsible for becoming acquainted with the changing patterns of aircraft use and service. to be alert to any changes that may affect the various airports within the county and to recommend appropriate actions to the Supervisors whenever necessary.

The dramatic changes which are taking place in the aircraft industry might well have a profound effect on the various airports in the county and the existence of an Airport Commission would, in effect, represent their collective interests as well as their individual interests.

The cost of such a commission would be minimal and the benefits might well be enormous.

The Grand Jury recognizes the importance of the airports to the economy of the county and urges the Board of Supervisors to provide this service to all of the people of the county.

EDUCATION AND JUVENILE

RECOMMENDATION 14: This Grand Jury recommends to the Board of Supervisors that the pay of boys at the Senior Boys' Camp be increased from 50 cents per day to a more equitable amount.

Comment: The boys who are working in the Regional Parks, on highway landscaping, and on the grounds of Fairmont Hospital are doing useful and necessary work. It would therefore follow

that some portion of the money which would be used to pay the salaries and fringe benefits of regular employees who would have to be hired for such jobs could be used to increase the pay of the boys at the Camp. A small fee could be charged to groups who commission work to be done by the boys in the carpentry shop.

RECOMMENDATION 15: This Grand Jury recommends to the Board of Supervisors that the County Schools Department expand the educational program at Senior Boys' Camp as soon as possible.

Comment: Work-study students from surrounding colleges and universities could be recruited and screened by the Human Relations Department to expand the tutorial and instructional programs at Senior Boys' Camp. There would be less expense to the County if several work-study students were hired rather than one or more professionals. Such students working under the supervision of experienced professional staff can increase the effectiveness of the present staff.

RECOMMENDATION 16: This Grand Jury recommends to the Board of Supervisors that the actual remodeling of the present Juvenile Hall begin as soon as the new facility is occupied, and that any remodeling include complete air conditioning of all offices and conference rooms.

Comment: This recommendation can only be implemented if studies are begun immediately to assess future needs for juvenile detention facilities. The present Juvenile Hall represents a sizeable capital investment which would be lost if this facility were allowed to deteriorate at its present rate.

RECOMMENDATION 17: This Grand Jury recommends to the Board of Supervisors that a laundry facility be installed at Juvenile Hall to handle the laundry needs of Juvenile Hall, all of the camps, and of Snedigar Cottage.

Comment: The County has a sizeable investment in laundry facilities at Fairmont Hospital to handle all county laundry needs, which is not satisfactory for the juvenile institutions. The harsh treatment given clothes and bedding at the present laundry causes them to wear faster creating either a shortage of clothes or an increase in the money necessary to properly clothe the youngsters. Many items of clothing are simply lost in the transfer.

RECOMMENDATION 18: This Grand Jury recommends to the Board of Supervisors that Registered Nursing services for the Juvenile Institutions be expanded.

Comment: There is an urgent need to provide adequate nursing

care for the six hundred children at Juvenile Hall and for the children at Chabot Ranch, Senior Boys' Camp and Girls Camp; and to provide assistance to the one overworked nurse who presently has the total responsibility of these institutions.

RECOMMENDATION 19: This Grand Jury recommends to the Board of Supervisors that there be a detoxification program at Juvenile Hall for youngsters who are suspected of having taken drugs.

Comment: Police officers frequently do not have the time to take a youngster to a hospital to be checked for possible drug use before the youngster is taken to Juvenile Hall. Youngsters suspected of having taken drugs should be kept under observation until a positive diagnosis can be made. Wide-spread use of dangerous drugs by young people today warrants use of special measures in order to prevent possible tragedies.

RECOMMENDATION 20: This Grand Jury recommends to the Board of Supervisors that youngsters detained at Juvenile Hall under Section 601 of the Welfare & Institutions Code (incorrigible) be housed apart from those who have been accused of committing crimes.

Comment: Youngsters classified as incorrigible who have committed no crime need special treatment. The purpose of detaining these youngsters should be solely to prevent them from becoming involved in crimes.

RECOMMENDATION 21: This Grand Jury recommends to the Board of Supervisors that the budget for Juvenile Hall contain sufficient funds to provide an adequate supply of underwear for all youngsters and pajamas for the boys.

Comment: It is demoralizing and demeaning to force boys to sleep in nightgowns. It is incumbent upon the County to provide adequate underwear for children in custody.

RECOMMENDATION 22: This Grand Jury recommends to the Board of Supervisors that no child be detained at Juvenile Hall for a period longer than thirty days.

Comment: Children awaiting foster home placements usually remain at Juvenile Hall longer than other youngsters. These youngsters are most pitiable. Group homes should be used when foster homes cannot be found.

RECOMMENDATION 23: This Grand Jury recommends to the Board of Supervisors that there be a senior deputy Probation Officer

on duty 24 hours each day with authority to release young persons who have been brought to Juvenile Hall by the police.

Comment: At present a senior deputy is on duty only until 2:00 a.m. and is only on call after that. All youngsters who can be released to the custody of their parents should be released immediately. The County would save the money necessary to clothe, house and feed these youngsters.

RECOMMENDATION 24: This Grand Jury recommends to the Board of Supervisors that Snedigar Cottage NOT be used for the care of children under the age of five years. These children should be placed in emergency foster homes only. There should be a 24 hour receiving center within the County where abandoned and neglected babies and toddlers can be left by police and welfare workers for immediate transfer to emergency foster homes.

Comment: Emergency foster homes should be paid a fee to keep beds available. A phone call should be all that is necessary in order to place a child in need of shelter. When necessary, children can be transported to and from the hospital by case workers. Such children are usually better cared for in foster homes than in institutions. Children in foster homes are eligible for Medi-Cal. Children in need of medical care at Snedigar Cottage must be cared for out of County funds. The County can contract for emergency drop service with private agencies such as the Children's Home Society which has the trained staff and the facility, thus utilizing established community facilities rather than duplicating them with County taxes.

RECOMMENDATION 25: This Grand Jury recommends to the Board of Supervisors that there be a full-time recruiter of foster and of emergency shelter homes who does not also coordinate homes with placements.

Comment: The overcrowded conditions at Snedigar Cottage and at Juvenile Hall can be alleviated if the waiting periods can be shortened for children awaiting foster home placements. An adequate number of foster homes would eliminate the problem of long waiting periods. Acceleration of the recruitment program requires a corresponding increase in personnel to license prospective homes, thus avoiding a long delay between recruitment and licensing.

RECOMMENDATION 26: This Grand Jury recommends to the Board of Supervisors that there be in-service training for foster parents.

Comment: Foster parents need more support after they receive

foster children. These children are often disturbed and difficult to handle. If foster parents are confident in their own abilities to deal with these children, there would be fewer children moving from foster home to foster home. As part of their training, foster parents should visit Snedigar Cottage. Baby-sitting services should be available to these families so that they can attend regular in-service training sessions.

RECOMMENDATION 27: This Grand Jury recommends that Section 901 of the Welfare & Institutions Code be amended so that foster homes which are effective can be professionalized.

Comment: Once a foster home has proved to be successful, the County should encourage these parents to continue in the program by offering:

- a. Some housekeeping services to the home.
- b. Mileage to the parents for transporting children to and from court hearings, the doctor, and other mandated appearances.
- c. Relief staff so that parents can take regular vacations.
- d. Summer camp experiences for the children.
- e. A small salary to the foster parents.

Many parents may prefer to earn additional income by caring for foster children rather than to have the mother work outside of the home. This program would thereby provide a larger source of foster homes.

RECOMMENDATION 28: This Grand Jury recommends to the Board of Supervisors that the work-education program for Senior Boys' Camp be expanded to provide the youngsters with a wider range of work experience.

Comment: The road maintenance, gardening and Regional Parks work programs, though admirable, are not adequate work experiences. The Regional Parks have hired only one or two of the graduates of this program, indicating that the boys have hardly developed marketable skills. Boys should be learning more skills related to hospital work and building trades. Cooperation from the Health and Public Works Departments could greatly improve the work program at Senior Boys' Camp. Boys who can function successfully in the community are less likely to violate probation or to become involved in more serious crimes.

RECOMMENDATION 29: This Grand Jury recommends to the Board of Supervisors that emergency funds be available to assure an adequate supply of food, toilet paper and clothing at all Juvenile Institutions at all times.

RECOMMENDATION 30: This Grand Jury recommends to the Board of Supervisors that the Probation Department actively seek community groups willing to establish and sponsor group homes.

Comment: It is difficult to find enough foster homes for children in certain age categories and there are many children who would receive greater benefit from the controlled environment of group homes which are much more flexible and can specialize in the care of particular types of youngsters. Examples of types of homes needed in the County are: a) for children ages 12-15; b) for graduates of the camps - Senior Boys, Chabot Ranch and Las Vistas; c) for children at Snedigar. The Department's own successful program at the Kings Daughters Group Residence and the excellent program of Youth Homes Incorporated of Contra Costa County should provide this Department with the information or evidence necessary for the expansion of this program.

RECOMMENDATION 31: This Grand Jury recommends to the Board of Supervisors that the Probation Department institute a series of regular in-service training programs which would familiarize staff with the needs and backgrounds of the continuously changing population of the juvenile institutions.

Comment: Staff who have performed in a particular capacity for a number of years may not be aware of the changing needs of the younger generations. Continuing, effective in-service programs can give the staff the confidence it needs to try new techniques in working with youngsters, especially those who are under the influence or regular users of drugs. A punitive, fear-ridden attitude toward youngsters in custody by staff or by administration often suggests insecurities which are the result of inadequate training for the jobs which they are required to perform. This program requires that relief staff be provided so that regular staff can attend such sessions on a regular basis.

RECOMMENDATION 32: This Grand Jury recommends to the Board of Supervisors that the County contracts with the Fred Finch Youth Center and with the Lincoln Child Care Center for the treatment of youngsters be maintained at the '69 - '70 levels and possibly be increased.

Comment: The use of the above-named institutions for the treatment of disturbed youngsters is a more effective approach to this problem than one which would attempt to duplicate such facilities at County expense. The County

contracts. Additional cases have been proposed without consultation with the directors of these institutions and final contracts for fiscal '70 - '71 had not been signed as late as October 13, 1970. This is hardly a way to maintain good community contacts or run a business. These facilities and their services can be lost to Alameda County and such a loss would require the County to make rather large capital investments in order to duplicate such treatment centers.

RECOMMENDATION 33: This Grand Jury recommends to the Board of Supervisors that the County Schools Department set up a representative panel of teenagers to review and rate drug abuse movies.

Comment: Investigation by this committee into the drug abuse problem turned up one rather simple way to improve the drug abuse programs in the public schools: improve the quality of the drug abuse films. Students interviewed found these movies to be almost uniformly ineffective. A rating system, the results of which would be available to all schools in the County, could prevent the showing of movies that might have an even negative result.

HEALTH, SAFETY AND RECREATION

RECOMMENDATION 34: This Grand Jury recommends to the Board of Supervisors that the duties of the Public Administrator-Public Guardian be separate and apart from the function of the Coroner.

RECOMMENDATION 35: This Grand Jury recommends to the Board of Supervisors that steps be taken to fill the vacancies for psychiatrists in the Mental Health Services.

Comment: Eleven vacancies were reported by the 1969 Grand Jury. Eighteen vacancies were reported in the June 3, 1970 minutes of the Alameda County Institutions Commission. (Ninety per cent State funding for this is available under the Lanterman-Petris-Short Bill.) Hopefully the need could be met by:

1. Increasing the salary ranges for such positions to a level comparable to the amount generally paid to individuals in similar positions throughout the state.