

2/1/2019

Edcgov.us Mail - Fwd: A Suggestion (Closure of the Juvenile Hall)

#17



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Fwd: A Suggestion (Closure of the Juvenile Hall)

1 message

Irene Magat <imagat@sbcglobal.net>
To: edc.cob@edcgov.us

Fri, Feb 1, 2019 at 10:12 AM

To The Board of Supervisors

I am a Deputy Probation Officer in the Juvenile Hall here in Placerville. I am in my 19th year of employment and have experienced the logistic nightmare of transporting our youth over the Summit for court before the Juvenile Treatment Center was built.

I have forwarded to you my email to Chief Brian Richart with a "Suggestion" to help minimize the effects that the closure would have on our county.

I am not in favor of closing our Juvenile Hall for the following reasons I hope you will consider when addressing the topic at your next meeting.

Thank you for your attention.
Irene Magat

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Irene Magat <imagat@sbcglobal.net>
Date: January 29, 2019 at 6:12:11 PM PST
To: Brian Richart <brian.richart@edcgov.us>
Subject: Re: A Suggestion

Thank you for keeping it on the table! Irene

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 29, 2019, at 3:35 PM, Brian Richart <brian.richart@edcgov.us> wrote:

Crossed my mind today that I had read your message days ago and didn't indicate to you that I had. Just wanted to assure you that your thoughts had reached me. Your concept has been considered and is not dead on arrival BUT I don't want to forecast false hope to anyone at this point so I chose not to discuss it during my discussion with staff. We will consider it "on the table" until it isn't.

Appreciate all your points and ask that you keep 'em coming as you think of things.

-br

On Wed, Jan 23, 2019 at 12:47 PM Irene Magat <imagat@sbcglobal.net> wrote:

Hi Brian,

After yesterday's meeting I have been brainstorming and I have a suggestion that I would hope you would consider.

If the West Slope JH were to be 1/2 staffed (or less) and became a "Hub" were Law Enforcement, Court remands and Probation could bring juveniles for processing Intakes and Releases, it could alleviate a logistic nightmare. Also, youth could be brought down from the JTC the afternoon before their court date and a visit with their parent(s) could be incorporated. The youth could return to the JTC the next day. This way the youth would have a place to rest and not be in restraints in a van for a total of 3 hours or more (this is breaking my heart).

In addition, with our current Noble Assessment tools, many youth are released to their parent(s) on a Promise to Appear at Intake. Why should they be dragged over the Summit to be processed if they are eligible for release? This is a hardship for law enforcement and to our youth.

Are we meeting Title 15 expectations when we are negotiating financial gain over the "needs" of our youth?

These kids need visits as much as they need food and water.

Are we meeting Title 15 expectations when we have the ability to walk a child down 1 flight of stairs to court, but choose to restrain them in a caged vehicle for over 3 hours for political and financial gain?

I know how this worked before the JTC was built. I know how much the youth missed their visits. I remember how the youth missed a whole day of school and ate their lunch from a paper bag while we hung out all day in the jury room and all had to wait for the last court appointment. We left before breakfast and we hoped not to be late for dinner. The drives over the Summit 2-3 times weekly with a van load of youth is just NOT a solution. It was dangerous in the ice and snow and hot in the van in the summer. I won't even talk about the vomiting and bathroom needs or the uncooperative youth that staff have to deal with on those long transports.

We carried, ice chests, all youth property, property sheets, medications, release slips, booking sheets and extra restraints. We were a mobile detention center.

Law enforcement were not motivated to spend 1/2 their shift dealing with arresting juveniles when it took them away from their jurisdiction.

I was very glad to see the JTC being built to meet the needs of our youth in that part of our county.

I do not want revisit that nightmare, a lot of youth will slip through the cracks.

The need for a Juvenile Hall is on the West Slope.

So, before you pull the plug on JH, please consider the above.

Thanks for allowing us to vent!!

Irene

Sent from my iPhone

--
Brian Richart
Chief Probation Officer
County of El Dorado



"Safe Communities Through Changed Lives"

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