

County of Santa Clara
Santa Clara Valley Health & Hospital System
Department of Alcohol and Drug Services



June 2, 2014

RE: JJC Juvenile Hall Report 2014

Dear Commissioner:

Thank you for the outstanding and thorough report of services in Juvenile Hall. Two items include the Department of Drug and Alcohol Services role in Juvenile Hall:

VII. MEDICAL SERVICES.

The report noted that DADS records are not shared with the Medical Clinic. The Health and Hospital System staff is now trained on maintaining the confidentiality of records that include substance use issues and 42CFR. DADS and the Juvenile Hall medical staff will move forward with sharing records and ensure that the necessary policies and procedures are developed. Staff will be trained on the new procedures by January 1, 2015.

VIII. DRUG AND ALCOHOL AND MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES: DADS SERVICES

It was noted by the Commission that DADS resources are limited at Juvenile Hall. Funding restraints continue to limit the number of DADS staff located at the Hall. However, there will be some alleviation of the shortage of resources as the DADS and Mental Health staff integrate into one Behavioral Health team in June 2014. Currently youth see a Mental Health clinician for their emotional issues and a separate DADS clinician for their substance use issues. The integration and cross-training of staff will result in more efficient services as a single staff will then provide both mental health and substance use services, resulting in less duplication of effort and more comprehensive treatment for youth. Additionally, Mental Health and DADS are developing a unified assessment tool which will also result in improved and more stream-lined service for youth as they share their history and symptoms with a single clinician instead of two clinicians.

We appreciate the opportunity to collaborate and improve the lives of youth in our County.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sue Nelson, EdD".

Sue Nelson, EdD

Division Director, Children Family and Community Services