



2011 Annual Report

of the

Clark County Sheriff's Office Custody Branch



Chief's Message

We are in a delicate economic state and may face many budget challenges this year. Nancy G. La Vigne, PhD, Director of the Urban Institute's Justice Policy Center, was correct in a recent speech, when she said, "The correctional system in the United States is at a critical crossroads." La Vigne was referring to the intersection of effective criminal justice interventions and that of shrinking budgets at the State and Local levels. On the one hand, it appears the corrections field cannot afford to provide the services necessary to effectively reduce recidivism and improve public safety; on the other hand, it is apparent it cannot afford not to provide these services.

The common phrase "fair, firm and consistent" was coined years ago for good reason, and it is just as applicable today as it was then. We should strive to maintain a consistent, professional demeanor at all times. Professionalism remains a major factor in maintaining the proper mind set for dealing with inmates. We should remember that inmates are confined as punishment, and not for punishment. I ask that you please be mindful of safety and security at all times. We cannot take short-cuts and we cannot work hastily as the effects of doing so can sometimes have a negative impact.

As an employer, I expect employees to come to the workplace with the desire to add value. Adding value can be exemplified in many ways; completing special assignments with a unique or an innovative approach, displaying a high degree of initiative in the performance of duties, providing exemplary service to the public, successfully handling an unexpected or crisis situation, innovative use or reduction of resources, extraordinary contribution to a key departmental or county goal, or achieving outstanding, unanticipated outcomes on a project.

I want to thank you so much for your commitment and efforts to the Custody Branch. As Max DePree once said, "The key elements in the art of working together are how to deal with change, how to deal with conflict, and how to reach our potential ... the needs of the team are best met when we meet the needs of individual persons." Your experience and knowledge contribute greatly to the success of our department. I appreciate your attention to detail, the quality of your work, and the time and energy you devote to running a safe and secure jail facility. You are to be commended for the excellence you portray and the hard and often thankless job that you do.

Train each other, lead each other, care for each other, enjoy the differences whatever they may be, and above all else, be safe!

Jackie Webster

Please always be mindful of our Values, Mission and Goals

GOALS

- *Continue to strive to provide a positive atmosphere free from intimidation, harassment or discrimination for staff to work in.
- *Greet other staff and all contacts with professional courteous and assist when you can, to help build stronger teams and working conditions.
- *Greet the public with courtesy, respect and understanding for their situation or needs. Officers may use their discretion to resolve situations to meet this mission.
- *Provide a safe and secure environment for inmates, professional visitors, contract staff and ourselves.
- *Physical force is the rare exception not the rule; and force is used to control never to punish.
- *That each of our facilities is held in high regard.

- *Our service to the community is a source of pride for everyone.
- *Ensure a respectful work environment for all county employees, the public and the people we serve.
- *Develop a department wide atmosphere where ethics and diversity will be fostered with a sense of camaraderie and hospitality.
- *Commitment to recruit and retain, diverse members of our community, with follow up support and mentoring for all groups.

VALUES

Professionalism
Respect
Integrity
Dedication
Excellence

Awards

Meeting the Sheriff's mission would be impossible without the consistent efforts of staff. Those of special note for achievements and awards for 2011 are as follows:

Life Saving Awards: Officers Cindi Morrow; Andy Wicks; Brittney Dietz; Tim McCray; Chris Settell; and Robert Karcher.

Exemplary Performance Awards: Officers Pam Frisby; Luke Hatcher; Clarice Jones; and Sergeant Dan Schaub.

Distinguished Service Medals: Officers Joy Derthick; Del Gunderson; James Morrow; Bryan Pilakowski; and Commander Joe Barnett.

Employee-of-the-year Awards:

Officer Debbie Schmierer received the Custody Officer-of-the-Year award and Sergeant Judy Stange received the Custody Supervisor-of-the-Year award.

Operation Gang Green:

On October 13, 2011, the Clark/Skamania Drug Task Force, assisted by over 300 law enforcement personnel from local, state, and federal agencies served 56 search warrants for a multisite active marijuana grow operation throughout Clark County. This was the culmination of two years of investigative efforts. At the end of the day, 52 homes were found containing active marijuana grows, nearly 50 suspects were taken into custody, 7000 marijuana plants were seized, and almost \$100,000 in cash was found. Operation Gang Green was the largest, coordinated, multi-agency action ever undertaken in Clark County.

To facilitate the multiple arrests and try to mitigate their impact on the facility, the Custody Branch utilizing the SRT (Security Response Team) provided a satellite intake area, transportation, and additional officers in booking. Additionally investigative team members interviewed everyone whose arrest was associated with Operation Gang Green at a location within the jail. This influx of arrestees and personnel greatly impacted the normal operation of the facilities and specifically impacted the ancillary services: food service, laundry, classification, and the jail transport unit.

The following staff received **Exemplary Performance** awards for their efforts connected with this operation: Sergeants Ken Clark; Paul Dougher; Clayton Paradis; and Chris Wolfe. Officers Chris Anderson; Niki Anderson; Kent Carroll; Steve Darling; Scott Gentry; Luke Hatcher; Kurt Holloper; Denise Jensen; Keith Jones; Steve Kersey; Scott Leifsen; Jason Poe; and Kara Wedemeyer. Commanders Kim Beltran and Joe Barnett.

Years-of-Service Awards:

20 years of service: Officers John Almquist; J.D. Winters; and Commander Joe Barnett.

25 years of service: Officers Mark Bastian and Clark Hust.

30 years of service: Sergeant Dan Kaiser

Operations

Main Jail

The employees at the Clark County Jail are responsible for providing adult detention services for individuals arrested in Clark County. This includes both pre-sentence and post-conviction inmates (for those whose sentences equal one-year or less).

Typical duties performed by operations staff include but are not limited to: booking inmates; classifying inmates; serving meals; providing clean clothes and hygiene items; providing transportation services to the various courts and medical providers; providing access to: the courts, recreation, and visitors; maintaining a safe and secure facility; and protecting the public.

Highlighted Statistics:

The Clark County Jail's Average Daily Population (ADP) increased approximately 3% from 685 (2010) to 706 (2011). During the year 15,639 arrestees were processed. This is approximately a one percent increase from 2010 figures (15,485). The Average Length of Stay (ALOS) in 2011 was 16.5 days

During 2011 officers wrote 1,400 Minor Infractions and 1,067 Major Infractions. Also, there were 18 suicide attempts and one completed suicide.

Special Needs Inmates:

Some inmates are classified as *Special Needs* inmates. Special Needs inmates encompass the following classifications: (a) disciplinary segregation; (b) administrative segregation; (c) sex offender protective custody; (d) medical conditions/detoxification; (e) mental illness and suicide watch (observation).

Oftentimes, operations involving inmates in any of the referenced categories are labor-intensive—particularly suicidal inmates and/or inmates with mental illnesses. In addition, some special needs inmates require a single cell. Even if the cell contains two bunks, the second bunk remains unused for the duration of the incarceration of the special needs inmate.

When considering special needs inmates, the following national statistics may be of interest:

The estimated prevalence of serious mental disorders among U.S. inmates ranges from 7% to 16%. Men with mental illness are four times more likely to be incarcerated than the general population, and women with mental illness have an eightfold higher risk, reported Georgia Stathopoulou, PhD., and her colleagues from Massachusetts General Hospital and Harvard Medical School, both in Boston (<http://www.clinicalpsychiatrynews.com/news/more-top-news/single-view/severe-mental-disorders-highly-prevalent-in-jails-prisons/a25755da9f.html>).

In addition: "...72% of both men and women with serious mental illness who are in jail had a co-occurring substance use disorder" (<http://www.clinicalpsychiatrynews.com/news/more-top-news/single-view/severe-mental-disorders-highly-prevalent-in-jails-prisons/a25755da9f.html>).

Special needs inmates are typically housed in one of the areas delineated as follows:

CELL	HOUSING AREA DESCRIPTION	2008	2009	2010	2011
A1	Suicide Watches Male	493	612	568	671
A2	Disciplinary Or Administrative Segregation	139	121	110	93
A3	Disciplinary Or Administrative Segregation	161	159	115	141
B6	Special Needs Transitional Cell for Observation / Isolation	293	227	284	288
B7	Special Needs Transitional Cell for Observation / Isolation	311	335	301	310
B8	Special Needs Transitional Cell for Observation / Isolation	267	313	340	324
B9	Special Needs Transitional Cell for Observation / Isolation	137	392	273	353
C1	Female Special Needs Protective Custody / Admin Seg/Disciplinary	406	465	454	459
F1	Sex Offender Protective Custody	715	715	755	813
F4	Special Needs Mental Health	350	394	445	398
F5	Sex Offender Protective Custody	540	590	736	546
FHALL	PC Male or Female Temporary Housing	49	90	104	86
Medical	Medical Patients / Special Needs	604	685	507	635
	Totals	4465	5098	4992	5117
	Total Bookings	16,323	16,589	15,485	15,639
	Percent of Population that are Special Needs	27.35%	30.73%	32.23%	32.72%

Jail Work Center

Work Release:

The Clark County Sheriff's Office operates a work release facility at the jail work center. Individuals who qualify for this program "live" in jail but continue with their current job, or in the case of State inmates, are assisted in finding a job for post incarceration. Currently a contract with the State of Washington Department of Corrections (DOC) allows up to 29 state inmates in the County facility. The rest in this program are those inmates referred by the local courts. There was only 1 walk away from the program in 2011, this person turned himself into Custody Officers at the JWC hours after failing to report back to the facility.

In Custody Building:

Staff in this building monitor and supervise non-work release minimum security inmates. Most of the inmates in this building are trustees, or inmate workers. The inmate workers from this building are dispersed to various work locations: kitchen, laundry, jail industries, grounds crew, downtown campus-car wash, or jail industries.

During 2011 work began on introducing the concept of Offender Reentry for inmates being discharged from the In-Custody Building. Reentry is the idea that inmates who want to break the cycle of recidivism, can take positive steps to avoid returning to jail by determining, before being released; where they will live; look for work; and obtain transportation, child care and other community services. Work is continuing into 2012 to institute this type of program through technology, pre-release planning, and obtaining real life job skills in the kitchen, laundry and potential industries.



Transport

The Jail Transport Unit is responsible for moving all inmates to all court appearances in Superior and District Courts. In just looking at first appearances, officers transported 7,085 to Superior Court and 3,380 to District Court. This unit also manages VARR (Video Arraignments) with 4,345 appearances in 2011. These three functions alone accounted for 14,810 court appearances. (Data provided through CMS data base).

Some noticeable highlights during 2011 included managing and helping coordinate 36 Jury Trials. Officers were also involved in three inmate fights that occurred during Superior Court arraignments, three medical emergencies during court proceedings, and a bomb threat.

This unit also plays an instrumental role as a member of the cooperative mini chain system. This system allows an inmate to be transferred one jurisdiction to the next, saving any one local agency from transferring individuals from whatever jurisdiction arrests them to where their charges originate. During this reporting period the transport unit moved 2,694 on the mini-chain system alone.

Classification

The classification unit evaluates and categorizes inmates in a manner that will meet our department and branch missions and manage inmates in a safe, secure, effective, and constitutionally-compliant manner. The inmate classification process is a non-punitive inmate management tool used for screening, evaluating, grouping, housing, supervising, and managing inmates in our facilities. This process includes evaluating an inmate's current and historical special needs, discipline, charges, behavior, and any other pertinent information. They are also responsible for inmate disciplinary board hearings involving major infractions of jail rules. Officers within the Classification unit held 1067 major board hearings that directly affect jail safety and security. Classification Officers also conducted 11,805 interviews during this reporting period making determinations that affect inmate, staff, and community safety.

Medical

The Sheriff's Office Contracted with Conmed Healthcare Management, Inc. for inmate medical services to the Clark County Jail as well as the Clark County Juvenile Detention Center. The Sheriff initiated a contract with Conmed on February 1, 2010 and recently exercised a one year extension of the contract through February 1, 2013.

Conmed practices a multidisciplinary approach to care, respectful and humane treatment of the inmate population, and provides medical, dental, mental and behavioral health services. Cheryl Taylor is our current site Health Services Administrator. As reported by Conmed, they managed 29,820 medical contacts and 6,120 mental health contacts during 2011.

We have experienced some change and growth under Conmed's management. Most notably in 2011 jail medical records were converted to electronic medical records using software called COREMR on August 24, 2011. The system allows for better management, accountability and efficiencies related to management of patient records.

Laundry

The Laundry unit services the main jail, jail work center, and the juvenile justice center. Using inmate labor this unit: collects, washes, folds and delivers clothing, bedding, towels, and footwear to the listed facilities 5 days a week. In 2011 this unit processed 649,547 pounds of laundry.

Food Services

This unit received a new manager in 2011. Joe Loftgren joined the Sheriff's Office in the capacity of Food Service Manager. The Food Service Unit, like laundry, provides service to the main jail, jail work center and the juvenile justice center. This unit prepares meals at the jail work center, then three times a day, seven days a week, fifty two weeks a year moves these meals to the various facilities for consumption by the inmates there. For 2011 this number equates to 1,133,654 meals.

SRT

The Clark County Custody Branch maintains a **Security Response Team (SRT)** comprised of specially selected, trained, and equipped Custody Officers. SRT is utilized in situations when conventional detention center resources are unable to maintain or regain control, or when circumstances present the potential of posing such a high risk that the skills and equipment of the team are the most effective option available. Team members are required to be available for contact and response at all times. SRT officers must also maintain above average performance evaluations and fitness levels. To assist with these goals the team meets on a regular basis for training and/or to conduct strikes ensuring proficiency of essential skills and critical incident readiness. In February, the SRT conducted a facility inspection of the main jail; counting every screw and bolt in the jail. This is an arduous task but also very necessary. Throughout the year, the SRT also conducted searches of several living units and attended range and tactics trainings with the Clark Regional SWAT team. Five SRT members were sent to a CERT (Corrections Emergency Response Team) Operator's Course in May where skills were honed and improved entry and extraction techniques were developed to improve team effectiveness.

Support

The Custody Administration Support Unit is responsible for processing supply orders for the jail and jail work center. This unit also assists with gathering information and data required for lawsuits and public disclosure requests. They also tabulate facility statistics, monitor jail clearances, and process clearance applications, program coordination, database management, construction/remodel coordination, contract monitoring, budgets, medical billings, authorship of inmate handbooks, web site maintenance and myriad other duties. In 2011, 796 medical billings were processed billed for \$1,594,249.40. After a careful review the County paid \$478,030.97 for outside medical care.

It is the mission of the Clark County Jail, in partnership with our community, to provide safe, secure and constitutional detention facilities in the most respectful, professional and fiscally responsible manner possible.

2011 Jail Statistics

Jail Population

Average Daily Population	706
Average Length of Stay	16.54
Avg Monthly Bookings	1,303
Avg Monthly Releases	1,295

Transport

Inmates to Court	20,945
Mini Chain	1,890
Medical	166
Western State Hospital	83
Inmates to Video Arraignment	4,858

Medical Unit

Inmates Seen by Staff	29,820
Seen by Mental Health	6,120

Food Service

Total Meals Served	982,939
Restricted Diets	160,439
Cost Per Meal	\$1.66

Classification

Interviews	11,805
Screen for Work Release	112
Made Trustee	255
Cell Changes	10,343

Jail Operations

Escapes	1
Escape Attempts	2
Deaths	1
Suicide Attempts	18
Assaults on Staff	10
Officers Injured	5
Hostage Situation	0

Work Release Operations

Walk Away	0
Terminations	42
New Admissions	208

Inmate Discipline

Major Infractions	1,067
Minor Infractions	1,400
Top Three Major Infractions	refusal and or delay #601 three minors #503 fighting #603

Staffing

Administration	5
Custody Sergeants	18
Custody Staff	125
Support Staff	4
Food Service	14
Laundry/Industry	4
Medical Contract Positions	22.2

Jail Industry

Offender Hours	196,873
Kitchen	116,741
Laundry	22,197
Janitorial	3,426
Industry	0
Outside & Grounds Crew	5,066
Other	49,443

Office Information

Criminal Histories	1,515
Removed from Jail Access	688
Denied Jail Access	18
One Time Clearances	87
Medical Bills Processed	796
Medical Bills Paid	274

