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# County of San Diego

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July 18, 2006

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SAN DIEGO  
COUNTY GRAND JURY

The Honorable Janis Sammartino  
San Diego Superior Court, Presiding Dept.  
220 West Broadway  
San Diego, CA 92101

## **COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO RESPONSE TO FINAL 2005-2006 GRAND JURY REPORTS**

Dear Judge Sammartino:

On July 18, 2006, the County of San Diego Board of Supervisors approved responses to the four 2005-2006 San Diego County Grand Jury reports which contained findings and recommendations addressed to the County. The Board further directed that these responses be sent to your office, pursuant to the Penal Code.

The four reports for which responses are attached are titled:

- o "Conditions and Management of Detention Facilities in San Diego County,"
- o "Felony Warrants – The Unsolved Problem,"
- o "Office of the Public Administrator/Public Guardian" and
- o "A Visit to Polinsky Children's Center."

Since these are the only reports issued by the 2005-2006 Grand Jury that address recommendations to the Board of Supervisors or departments under its jurisdiction, the attached material represents the County's complete response for 2005-2006.

If you have any questions concerning the attachment or any related matter, please contact me at (619) 531-5250.

Sincerely,

WALTER F. EKARD  
Chief Administrative Officer

Attachment

cc: Board of Supervisors

**County of San Diego Response to Grand Jury Report**  
**“A Visit to Polinsky Children’s Center”**  
**Issued May 18, 2006**

**FINDINGS:**

**Finding:** Polinsky personnel cannot properly place the children in the absence of the School Records.

**Response: Disagree.** County social workers can place children in homes, even in the absence of the school records. If this finding is in reference to placing children in classes at the Polinsky Children’s Center school, the PCC school is operated by the County Office of Education.

**Finding:** Polinsky Children’s Center is an asset to the community and to those children who have need of their services pending the next placement.

**Response: Agree**

**RECOMMENDATIONS: The San Diego County Grand Jury recommends that the San Diego County Board of Supervisors:**

**Recommendation 06-57:** Have the San Diego County School Superintendent and HHSA adhere to their response to the recommendation contained in the 2002/2003 Grand Jury Report. It was their response that a liaison was assigned to solve problems.

**Response: This recommendation has been implemented.** A liaison has been assigned by each school district to serve as a foster care liaison for child welfare agencies. Liasion information can be downloaded from [www.sdcoe.net/student/pupil/nclb.asp](http://www.sdcoe.net/student/pupil/nclb.asp).

In addition, Foster Youth Services (FYS) is a statewide program established in 53 County Offices of Education to improve the educational outcomes of wards and dependents ages 4-21 residing in licensed facilities. The San Diego County Office of Education Foster Youth Services program has a team of staff to assist with these efforts as well.

**Recommendation 06-58:** Implement the recommendations made by the 2002/2003 Grand Jury, with emphasis, to HHSA social workers to provide the Polinsky School, immediately, on placement, with the student’s academic progress report.

**Response: This recommendation will not be implemented because it is not possible.** PCC is a 24-hour emergency shelter and most admissions occur under emergency circumstances. Legislation known as AB 490 (Steinberg) which became effective January 1, 2004, requires school districts to provide education records within two days of a request by the County placing agency, but schools do not operate year-round.

An Interagency Agreement is currently being drafted between the County, the COE, the Superior Court and the 42 remaining school districts to address the roles and responsibilities of each agency with respect to AB 490, and to consider additional ways to work collaboratively to benefit the children that are served by all these agencies.

The County has responded to recommendations from the 2002-2003 Grand Jury Report in a report filed with the Superior Court Presiding Judge on July 29, 2003.