

NEWS RELEASE

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ORANGE COUNTY GRAND JURY

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Jail Rehabilitation Programs, Are They Effective???

Santa Ana, California---The Orange County Sheriff's Department is spending about \$4 million to rehabilitate its jail population. It is of paramount importance to change inmates' attitudes and behavior in order to save the multi-million dollar cost of capturing, judging and jailing the same people over and over again. The spending of the \$4 million is obviously well intended; however, the Correctional Programs could not provide the Grand Jury with any data illustrating the rehabilitation of participating inmates. The Sheriff simply does not monitor the effectiveness of its own programs which include everything from GED educational programs to sewing classes to drug rehabilitation.

With the advent of AB109 which is designed to foist would be state prisoners into county jails, recidivism rises to a new level of concern. In the past, it would have been "nice" to convince a thief not to steal again. Now it is a vital concern.

The Grand Jury recommends that the Sheriff change the way of thinking regarding rehabilitating inmates and initiate plans to monitor the effectiveness of its programs. The Sheriff's Correctional Programs Unit has complained of the lack of money to fund a research program. The answer seems apparent. Money should be diverted from programs of dubious value and redirected towards monitoring the balance of the programs.

The Grand Jury report, including Findings/Conclusions and Recommendations, can be found on the Orange County Grand Jury's website, www.ocgrandjury.org. This report will also be included as part of the Final Report of the 2012-2013 Grand Jury, to be published later this year.

2012-2013 Orange County Grand Jury

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ray Garcia".

Raymond Garcia
Foreman