

2007 Annual Report
of the
Clark County Sheriff's Office
Custody Branch



A Message from Chief Batties

“Working together, ordinary people can perform extraordinary feats. They can push things that come into their hand a little higher up, a little further on towards the heights of excellence.”

Anonymous

This is what the Custody branch does every day in dealing with the inmates at the Clark County Jail. 2007 was a tremendous year and once again staff rose to the occasion. The year had three major projects to help deal with the increased inmate population. The Library was divided into two areas adding additional exam rooms for the medical staff. We built four more video arraignment booths and four visiting booths to deal with the increased professional visitors coming into the facility to see inmates and for video arraignments. It's been a busy, but productive year.

In 2007 we saw a rise in special need inmates. These included the terminally ill, inmates with disabilities, those who needed special treatment or equipment (e.g. dialysis 3 times per week), walkers in the jail, cancer treatments and the need for braille materials. Although, the medical unit has only six beds, at times as many as fourteen inmates were housed there.

The Custody branch supported the Clark County Board of Commissioners with hiring the consultant group, Carter Globe and Lee. This group assessed Law Enforcement space needs for the county and the need for a new jail in the very near future.

Staff Awards

Annually the Sheriff's Office takes stock of those who have preformed above the standard or preformed an exceptional feat. Those who are noticed are nominated and selected for award. Those selected for 2007's awards are listed below.

This year Officer Gunderson was selected as Custody Officer of the Year. The supervisors nominating Officer Gunderson for this award wrote the following when describing him: "It is Del Gunderson's work ethic that makes him a stand out officer among an outstanding squad. Del is always upbeat and positive. He is willing to help others and creates a positive work environment, no matter where he is assigned. Del is the ultimate team player. He works well with his peers and adjunct personnel. He has gained the respect of our inmate population and his supervisors have never heard a negative comment expressed about him, whether referring to his attitude, his demeanor or his professionalism." He is described as the quintessential custody officer, a credit to the Sheriff's Office and the citizens of Clark County.



Sergeant Kaiser was selected as Custody Sergeant of the Year. The nominator described Sergeant Kaiser's improvements to the training program and dedication to students as unprecedented. Quoting the nominator, Sergeant Kaiser "is truly a professional and mentor to everyone with whom he interacts. Sergeant Kaiser possesses the skill, motivation and knowledge necessary to lead and train custody officers presently and well into the future. His dedication is a morale boosting breath of fresh air to many; he is a competent leader for the entire custody branch."

The Exemplary Performance Award is only for those items or persons who perform well above standards and is rarely awarded. This year two Officers' Schubach and Baldwin, are recipients based upon their Booking Guidelines; a "how to" manual that they developed to aid their own work in the booking area. This manual has grown from a self help to a rather lengthy document that allows the user to find pertinent information and provide training for those new to the area or returning after a lengthy absence.



Lifesaving is something that Custody Officers do on a daily basis; whether it is noticing that an inmate needs to speak to mental health, separating inmates who are not interacting well, preventing dangerous behavior or stopping a suicide attempt. This year three officers, Imai, Addie, and Mohan (not pictured) found a person attempting suicide and prevented its completion. While unfortunately this type of occurrence is not unheard of inside jails, the officers' alertness, diligence, responsibility and commitment as well as the exigent circumstances surrounding this incident makes them worthy of a Lifesaving Award.



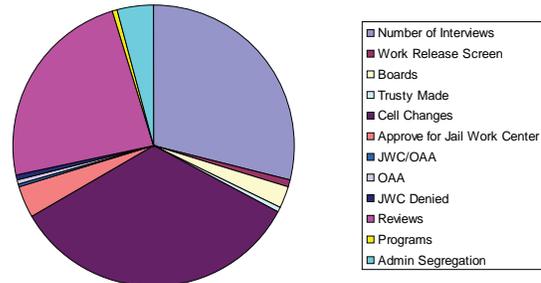
Operational Support Services

As with any large single focus group, there is always a buttress or support system that allows the central group to work unimpeded by details and minutia that cannot be ignored. The same is very true with the Custody Branch. The main focus of this branch of the Sheriff's Office is to provide safe, secure and constitutional detention facilities in the most respectful, professional and fiscally responsible manner possible. The majority of the branch's resources are dedicated to this single focus in a straight forward manner. However, a small portion of the branch makes sure that this function is more easily facilitated.

Classification

In 2007 this unit was comprised of Sergeant Karlsen, Custody Officers Brunelle, Krupicka, Tangen and Schubach. Each person that stays in the facilities is interviewed by one person from this unit to make sure that the individual is classified and adequately housed based upon their current and past charges, behavior, and supervision needs. Classification also works closely with medical and mental health staff for those offenders that might have special needs. While not everyone who is brought to the facility stays any length of time, at a yearly total of 1370 bookings there is a lot of potential work for these officers on a consistent daily basis.

Types of Classification Interviews Conducted

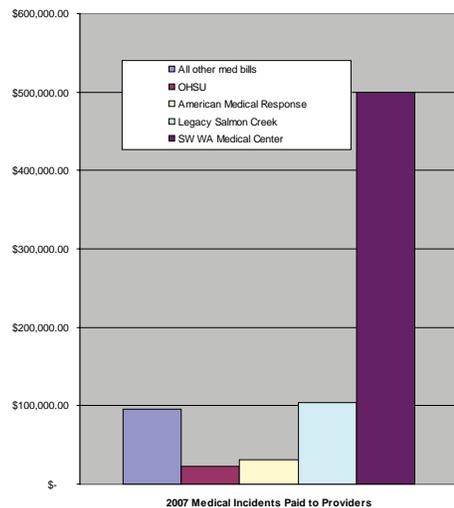
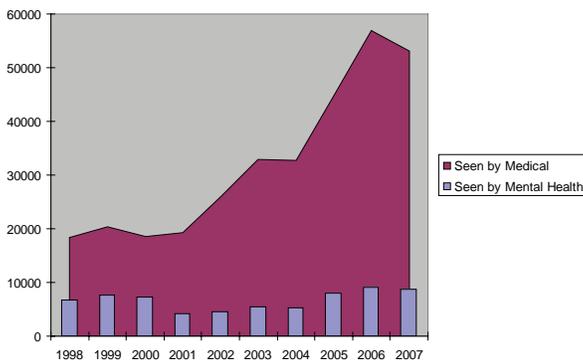


Medical

Medical Services for those individuals confined by Clark County Sheriff's Office is a serious undertaking and one that is consistently and constantly monitored for quality as well as ease of accessibility. All County contracts must be periodically offered for open competitive bid. In 2006, the medical contract with the current vendor expired and Wexford Health Sources, Inc won the new contract to begin in 2007. This company, out of Pittsburgh,

Pennsylvania, supplies the medical care for those inmates in the main jail, Jail Work Center- In Custody, and Juvenile

Detention facilities. Population served by this contract averages 753 daily. Managing, supplying, coordinating, transporting and paying for these services from the Contractor as well as resources in the local community take a large amount of staff time and resources.



Transport Unit

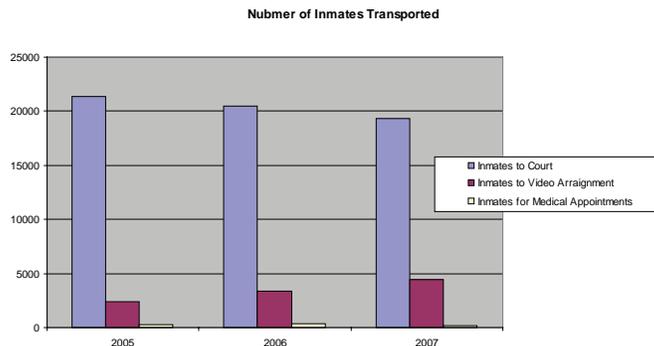
Sergeant Wolfe and the 14 officers of the transport unit are responsible for inmate movement. This includes court appearances, movement to other facilities and any other movement of inmates outside the facility. A brief list is as follows: specialty courts, the regular daily courts, video arraignments, Western State Hospital, Cowlitz County, Multnomah County, and medical appointments.

Largely because of Sergeant Wolfe, this unit runs in a very self sufficient manner. Sergeant Wolfe and the transport unit have built excellent relationships with the Judges, PA's, Attorneys, Judicial Assistants, and Jail Records personnel allowing an enhancement of their ability to perform this job safely and efficiently.

2007 has been another very busy year for the Transport Unit. There have been a number of high profile trials that require multiple officers to ensure the safety and security of the public, the inmates, and the staff involved.

Also, they have added another docket to their schedule. The City of Battleground has made use of the jail's Video Arraignment System and now facilitates a majority of their arraignments without physically moving the inmate from the secure confines of the jail.

As the number of inmates with serious illnesses continues to climb, so does the number of times these officers must take inmates to outside medical providers. While the number of instances might not be large, the time consumption is disproportionate because of security concerns with inmates outside a secured facility and in the public.



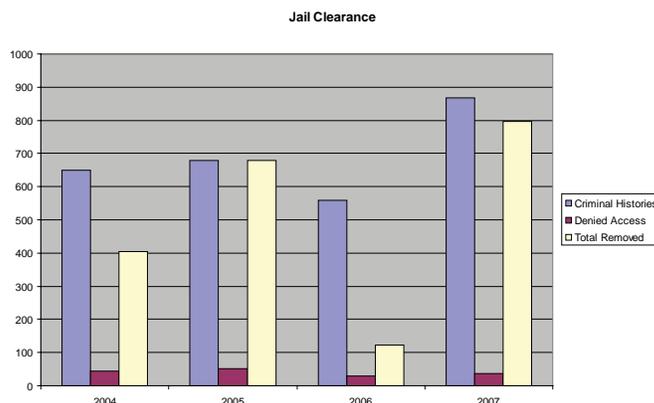
Security Response Team

The Security Response Team is a specialized volunteer unit that is responsive to special circumstances and the safety of the facilities. It is comprised of three Sergeants Clark, Dougher, and Wolfe and 22 officers. Officers of this unit receive additional training. While on duty they respond to emergency situations, conduct cell extractions, search for specific contraband or conduct security strikes to weed out general contraband that has found it's way into the living areas.

November saw a unique opportunity and paired this team with the regional SWAT team to conduct a hostage drill in the jail. It is, without a doubt, this drill and the learning that ensued, that lead to the quick and peaceful resolution of a real hostage situation that occurred less than a month later.

Administrative Support

This group of five support specialists performs a variety of functions for the Branch. The specific delineation of each process or function performed by this group is varied and extremely long. These functions encompass clerical, secretarial, fiscal, records, security, purchasing, and contract skills. Clearance checks on all those applying for entry to the Sheriff's detention facilities are performed and maintained. Specific Custody contracts, vendor correspondence, and payments as well as the ordering of these services or items are all managed by this unit. This includes 1493 medical bills totaling \$1,669,703.14 that through a utilization management process and vendor contracts was reduced to \$751,856.99. Also processed were another 609 non-medical purchase orders totaling \$4,017,351.80.

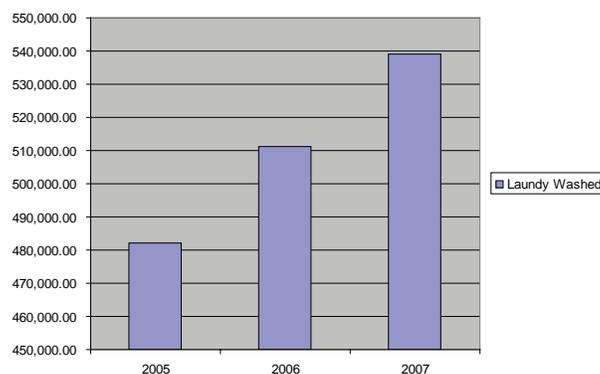


Jail Industries

Keeping inmates working is one of the main tenets of the Jail Work Center. To that end, that facility has several programs that keep those inmates classified to that building, working. Food Services, Laundry, Grounds Maintenance, Janitorial Maintenance and the Computer Recycling Program all use inmate labor to provide necessary functions to Custody Branch as a whole.

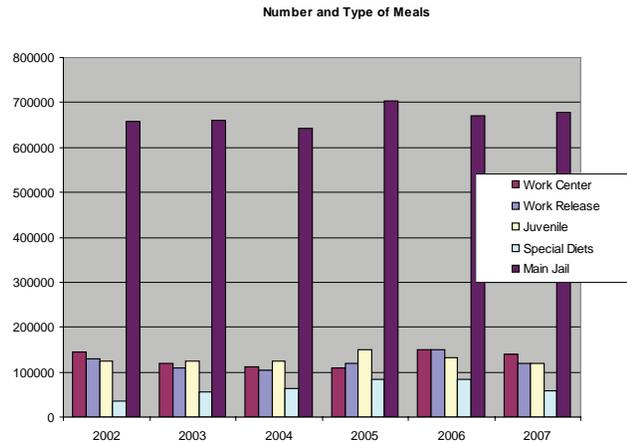
Laundry

This unit, using inmate labor under the supervision of two Industry Technicians, washes, orders, and maintains all the linens for the detention facilities for Clark County. Laundry from the main jail, Jail Work Center and juvenile detention are collected, washed and returned to those facilities daily. This includes bedding, towels, shoes and inmate clothing.



Food Services

This unit provides all meals for the main jail, Jail Work Center, and the juvenile detention facility. Using inmate labor and under the supervision of one manager and 11 workers, they cook and distribute meals to the listed facilities three times each day, seven days each week. As with all commercial kitchens, this facility is monitored and inspected regularly by the Clark County Public Health Department. This year's inspection did not deviate from the norm and once again scored an excellent rating: something most restaurants fail to achieve. All this while providing approximately 1000 meals a day and keeping the cost relatively low at \$.70 each meal for raw food costs.



In addition to providing nutritious and consistent meals, during October and most of November 2007 the floor was replaced in the kitchen. During that time there was literally no way of heating food, cleaning trays, pots or pans, and sometimes no refrigeration. The County contracted with a private vendor and kitchen staff dished out and served the food on inmate trays to be delivered in the regular manner, then returned all the dishes for the contractor to wash. It was quite an undertaking, but the result was a much needed repair to the existing floor.

Janitorial and Night Maintenance

The janitorial job at the Clark County Law Enforcement Center changed significantly in 2007. The unsecured portions of the building as well as the outlying precincts and Mabry correction's center are no longer cleaned by inmate trustees. Instead these areas joined with the rest of the County and utilize a contracted vendor for this service. The inside of the secured portion of the main jail has now become the focus of the janitorial crew of inmates, allowing a greater emphasis on; maintenance of floors, cleaning walls, deep cleaning of booking and pod control areas.

Several officers and sergeants have made numerous positive comments on how much cleaner and nicer the jail looks, and it has boosted moral by having Royal Qualey available to address immediately those issues he is capable of correcting, especially when he is able to help control and assist in cleaning up spills or flooding.

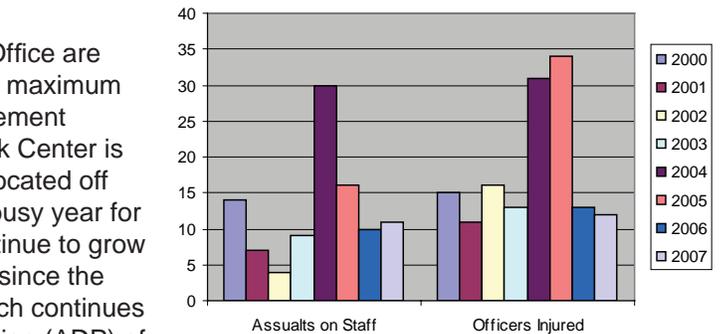
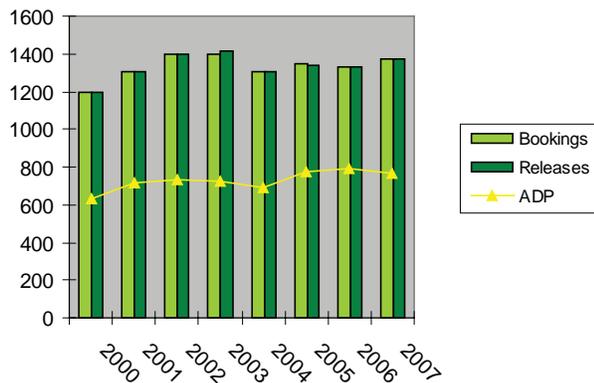
E-Waste Recycling

Utilizing inmate labor, this unit has partnerships with various agencies and companies to help reduce e-waste from entering landfills. Officer Muth supervises inmate workers who dismantle most electrical devices to separate recyclable or toxic pieces so they do not find their way to landfills and ground water reservoirs. By selling the recyclable items this program generated approximately \$140,000.00 of revenue for the county's general fund. It has also allowed seventy computers to be remanufactured and donated to the Salvation Army in 2007 for a low income family program. The following departments and businesses now use this facility to dispose of their e-waste:

Both the City of Vancouver and Clark County Public Works - Solid Waste Divisions
Clark County Purchasing
Vancouver Chamber of Commerce
South West Washington Medical Center
Fruit Valley Foundation
The Salvation Army
Columbia Resources Co.
CRESA
Clark College
Cowlitz County

Operations

The detention facilities for the Clark County Sheriff's Office are divided into two sections. The main jail is a traditional maximum security facility and is in the Clark County Law Enforcement Center located in downtown Vancouver. The Jail Work Center is a program and work based minimum security facility located off Lower River Road. As always, it seems to be a very busy year for the Custody Branch. Programs and partnerships continue to grow and change, yet space for these items has not grown since the completion of the Jail Work Center in 2001. The branch continues to deal successfully with a 2007 average daily population (ADP) of 769 inmates, housing more than 580 of those in the main jail that was originally designed in 1983 for less than 300. Yet, somehow staff continues to meet these new challenges.



One of the greatest challenges is managing an ever growing population of special needs inmates, specifically those with mental illness. This population is often a risk to themselves, to staff, and other inmates. All too often this population is violent and a true challenge for staff. Yet with all this the officers of the Custody Branch continue to perform at a level of excellence that maintains the safety of the officers, inmates and all those visiting the facility.

The numbers of bookings and releases were up slightly from last year, resulting in a slightly lower length of stay for individuals. Assaults on staff are slightly raised; however the number of those that resulted in injury was down; meaning a safer year for officers on the whole.

In Custody Building

Staff in this building monitor and supervise the 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 the various work locations: kitchen, laundry, jail industries, grounds crew, downtown campus-car wash, and jail industries computer recycling.

Work Release

This program at the Jail Work Center allows offenders, who qualify, to continue or gain employment while finishing their sentences. The Sheriff's Office currently has a contract with the State of Washington Department of Corrections (DOC) to house up to 30 state inmates. In addition, inmates referred by the local courts are eligible for this program.

Main Jail

2007 was marked with a few rare events that caused greater reflection on the dangers faced by Custody Officers and reminding all of the volatility of the inmate population. Over the last six years staff successfully prevented an average of eight suicides a year, with last completed suicide the jail experienced was on November 6, 1998. Unfortunately, March was marked with two completed suicides in the space of a few days. This was devastating to the inmate's family and friends as well as staff. In addition, the first ever jail hostage situation occurred on December 22nd. This required assistance from the SWAT Team, specifically their hostage negotiators. Thankfully, the incident ended peacefully without injury to staff, the inmate victim, or the hostage taker. This was a sentinel event for all Custody staff and involved law enforcement personnel. It was again a blatant reminder of the dangerous environment in the correctional industry, the dangers of becoming complacent, and the need to communicate and work well as a team.

2007 Jail Statistics

Jail Population

Average Daily Population	769
Average Length of Stay	17.79
Bookings	16,436
Releases	16,517

Work Release Operations

Walk Away	2
Terminations	84
New Admissions	572

Transport

Inmates to Court	10,400
Mini Chain	2,717
Medical	81
Western State Hospital	123
Inmates to Video Arraignment	4,433

Inmate Discipline

Major Infractions	822
Minor Infractions	1,403
Top Three Major Infractions	
Three minors equal a major	
Fighting	
Refusal to follow orders	

Medical Unit

Inmates Seen by Staff	53,062
Seen by Mental Health Counselors	8,743
Contract Cost per Inmate	\$11.19

Staffing

Jail Administration	5
Custody Sergeants	20
Custody Staff	134
Support Staff	5
Food Service	15
Laundry/Industry	4
Medical Contract Positions	21

Food Service

Total Meals Served	1,152,122
Restricted Diets	58,121
Cost Per Meal	\$1.42

Jail Industry

Offender Hours	83,202
Kitchen Hours	8,153
Laundry	4,849
Janitorial	5,570
Industry	21,447
Outside & Grounds Crew	4,116
Main Jail	37,950
Other	1,118

Classification

Interviews	9,618
Screen for Work Release	103
Made Trustee	345

Jail Operations

Escapes	0
Escape Attempts	0
Suicides	2
Suicide Attempts	8
Assaults on Staff	11
Officers Injured	12
Hostage Situations	1

Office Information

Criminal Histories	868
Removed from Jail Access	797
Denied Jail Access	36
One Time Clearances	229
Medical Bills Processed	1,493
Medical Bills Paid	\$719,185.00

