

**Stanislaus County Department of Behavioral Health &
Recovery Services
Grand Jury Case No. 05-31
2004-2005**

SUMMARY

The Stanislaus County Civil Grand Jury reviewed the various programs and organizational structure of the Department of Behavioral Health and Recovery Services to appraise service delivery and assess future goals. The committee concluded that the County of Stanislaus is well served by the programs, as well as the staff and volunteers, within budgetary restraints.

INTRODUCTION

The Grand Jury reviewed the Department of Behavioral Health and Recovery Services (hereafter known as the Department.) There has been no extensive investigation of this department in the last ten years. The Grand Jury then determined to review the agency on authority of California Penal Code, Section 925a.¹ As a result, the Grand Jury has attempted to provide future grand juries a foundation for evaluating the department's procedure.

METHOD OF INVESTIGATION

1. On-site visits:
 - Administrative Offices, 800 Scenic Dr., Modesto.
 - Detoxification Center, 800 Scenic Dr., Modesto.
 - Stanislaus Behavioral Health Center, 1501 Claus Rd., Modesto.
2. Interviews with administrative staff at on-site visits.
3. Review of agency manuals and informational pamphlets.

¹ "The Grand Jury may investigate and report upon the operations, accounts, and records of the officers, departments, and methods or systems of performing the duties of any city or joint agency and make recommendations as it may deem proper and fit."

FINDINGS

As a result of the site visits, discussions with administrative and program staff, and review of the literature, the Grand Jury is confident that the twenty-one service programs under the direction of the department are well-managed and serve an important role in the community. It is also evident that there is a need for expanded programs and attended funding. Problems related to neglect of treatment for mental illness, and drug and alcohol abuse impact many aspects of personal and community life beyond that of the patient.

RECOMMENDATIONS

None.