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2012-2013 GRAND JURY RELEASES REPORT ON FRACTURED OVERSIGHT OF GROUP HOMES FOR AT-RISK YOUTH

(Stockton, CA) In response to a citizen complaint, an investigation by the 2012-2013 San Joaquin County Grand Jury (Grand Jury) found that while some Group Homes are well managed, protecting the youth and giving them a positive formative life experience, others are operating with lax adherence to regulations.

There are 21 Group Home Providers operating 44 Group Homes within the County licensed by the California Community Care Licensing Division (CCLD). The Grand Jury investigated six of those Providers who operate a total of 28 homes in the County.

In addition, the Grand Jury reviewed the oversight role and responsibilities of the California Community Care Licensing Division, San Joaquin County's Child Protective Services (CPS), a division of San Joaquin County's Human Services Agency, (HSA) and the County's Probation Department.

Taken together, the issues revealed in this investigation bring into question the overall effectiveness of the current oversight of Group Home Providers by the very agencies charged with insuring a positive experience for the youth they need to protect.

The Grand Jury's report addresses the collective effects of reduced audits conducted by CCLD, Group Home Providers not in compliance with Mandatory Reporting laws, improper Incident/Injury Reporting, incorrect Staff-to-Youth Ratio's and non-adherence to annual training requirements.

Through its recommendations, the Grand Jury puts forth the imperative that San Joaquin County's Human Services Agency, (HSA) and the County's Probation Department create and implement a *Group Home Monitoring Program* to include a comprehensive and enforceable Placement Agreement.

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A copy of the Report can be accessed by visiting: <http://stocktoncourt.org/grandjury>