

**OKLAHOMA COMMISSION ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH
OFFICE OF JUVENILE SYSTEM OVERSIGHT**

Name and Location of Facility: Beckham County Regional Juvenile Detention Center
Elk City, Oklahoma

Date of Visit: October 3, 2006

Oversight Reviewer: Dana Holden, Oversight Specialist

Focus of Visit: Unannounced Visit, 2006

Date: January 9, 2007

General Information

The Office of Juvenile System Oversight (OJSO) conducted an unannounced visit on October 3, 2006, to the Beckham County Regional Juvenile Detention Center, located in Elk City, Oklahoma. The purpose of the visit was to monitor compliance with established responsibilities and facility policy and procedures. The facility was certified by the Office of Juvenile Affairs (OJA) for six residents. The OJA contracted with the Beckham County Board of Commissioners for the detention center, and the County Commissioners, in turn, contracted with Western Plains Youth & Family Services for the daily operation of the detention center. The facility provides regional detention services to other counties. On the day of the OJSO visit, the census was six.

Persons Interviewed

- Entry interview and an exit conference with the assistant superintendent
- Three residents
- Two direct care staff members

Documentation Reviewed

- Files on three residents
- Personnel files and training records of two direct care staff members
- Most recent inspection reports by the Office of the Oklahoma State Fire Marshal and the Oklahoma State Department of Health

Areas Toured

- Entire facility

Overview

Interviews

The OJSO interviewed three residents. The interview questions pertained to the residents' perceptions of safety, detention program services, the rights of residents, discipline practices, and other residential care issues. The OJSO noted that the three interviewees:

- stated they felt safe at the facility and attributed it to the care that staff members provided;
- reported receiving appropriate care by staff, having access to medical care, and participating in recreational activities;
- were knowledgeable of their rights; and
- rated the food as good and reported they received enough to eat.

No issues of concern were noted from the resident interviews.

Two direct care staff members were interviewed. The interview questions pertained to the staff members' perceptions of program services, the rights of residents, discipline policies, and other residential program issues. The OJSO noted that both interviewees:

- reported receiving appropriate training; and
- demonstrated familiarity with the facility's policy and procedures and the detention standards.

No issues of concerns were noted from the staff interviews.

File Reviews

The OJSO reviewed the files on three residents. The files were complete for the items reviewed and were well-organized. No concerns were identified.

The personnel files of two direct care staff members were reviewed for compliance with OJA detention standards. The files were well-organized and the materials were easy to locate. No concerns were noted.

Observational Tour

The OJSO conducted a tour of the facility for compliance with standards related to safety, security, quality of life, and other items. The Office of the Oklahoma State Fire Marshal inspection report, dated March 28, 2005, noted two violations that had been corrected at the time of the visit by the Fire Marshal's office. The OJSO noted that an annual inspection by the Fire Marshal's office was due. No other concerns were noted.

Summary

On the day of the OJSO visit, the Beckham County detention center was clean and was well-maintained, and the personnel files, staff training records, and the files on juveniles were in compliance with OJA detention certification standards. The OJSO advised the assistant superintendent to schedule an annual inspection with the Fire Marshal's office. The residents made positive comments regarding the program, and the interactions observed between the staff and the residents were appropriate. The staff demonstrated a willingness and desire to provide appropriate care to the residents.

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