

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

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

Date of Visit: March 22, 2010

OJSO Reviewer: Dana S. Holden, Oversight Specialist IV

Focus of Visit: Unannounced Visit, 2010

Date: May 4, 2010

Introduction

The Office of Juvenile System Oversight (OJSO) conducted an unannounced visit on March 22, 2010, at the Beckham County Juvenile Detention Center, located in Elk City, Oklahoma. The purpose of the visit was to monitor compliance with established responsibilities. The facility was certified by the Office of Juvenile Affairs (OJA) for six juveniles. The OJA contracted with the Beckham County Board of Commissioners for the detention center, and in turn, the County Commissioners contracted with the Western Plains Youth & Family Services for the daily operation of the detention center. The facility provided regional detention services to other counties. On the day of the OJSO visit, the census was three.

Interviews Conducted

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

Documents Reviewed

- Three resident files
- Office of the Oklahoma State Fire Marshal report dated January 6, 2010
- Oklahoma State Department of Health Food Inspection report dated January 22, 2010
- Annual assessment report issued by the OJA Office of Public Integrity (OPI) regarding a visit conducted on January 7, 2010
- Incident reports from July 2009, through March 22, 2010
- Facility log on room confinement/room restriction and restraints for July 1, 2009, through March 22, 2010

Findings

Resident Interviews

The OJSO did not interview any residents. Each of the residents had previously been interviewed by the OJSO and recently by the OPI.

Staff Interviews

The OJSO interviewed two direct care staff members on duty and conducted informal interviews with two other staff members present at the facility. The staff members interviewed provided appropriate responses to the questions asked regarding treatment of juveniles and policy and procedures. There were no concerns noted from the staff interviews.

Resident File Review

The OJSO reviewed three resident files. The files were essentially complete and well-organized. No issues of concern were noted from the resident file review.

Personnel file Review

The OJSO did not review personnel files as they had been recently reviewed during the OJA inspection.

Room Confinement/Restriction and Restraint Log Review

The OJSO reviewed the room confinement/restriction logs for July 1, 2009, through March 22, 2010. The facility documented seven instances of room restriction, eighteen instances of room confinement, and fourteen restraints between July 1, 2009, and March 22, 2010. The OJSO noted the following from the room confinement/room restriction log:

- All but seven instances of room confinement and/or room restriction were for rule violations by one of three different residents. Each of these residents displayed behavior which was very self destructive and/or detrimental to their mental health. It appears from the documentation that the facility staff did everything possible to keep these residents safe and under control.
- The OJSO documented eight instances where residents were placed in their room to separate them from other residents that were not documented in the room restriction/room confinement log.
- There was one instance that staff did not document the re-authorization of confinement every three hours.
- There was one instance of confinement where staff did not document the fifteen minute observation checks.
- There were four instances of room confinement/room restriction that did not list a date or time of release.

The facility staff attempted to get each of the three residents placed in-patient; however, they were given various reasons why the hospitals couldn't accept them. It was concerning that one hospital stated it was against their policy to accept juveniles on the

weekend and one hospital stated that if a detention center couldn't control the juvenile then they couldn't and refused to accept the resident. There were no concerns regarding the physical restraints or use of mechanical restraints of the residents.

Inspection Reports

The OJSO reviewed the latest inspection reports from the State Fire Marshal's office dated January 6, 2010, and the Oklahoma State Department of Health dated January 22, 2010. There were no deficiencies noted on either report.

The OJSO reviewed the latest inspection report by the Office of Public Integrity (OPI) dated January 7, 2010. There were no concerns noted by the OJSO.

Areas of Concern

1. There was one instance where the facility staff did not document the re-authorization of room confinement every three hours or the fifteen minute sight checks.
2. The facility staff attempted to secure mental health treatment for three residents; however, due to a lack of cooperation by different mental health programs, they were unsuccessful. This is not a negative reflection of the facility.

Violation

1. The facility staff did not document the time of release in four incidents of room confinement/room restriction. OJA policy, 377:3-13-44, Security and control, (c), (13), Room restriction, states, "Required security control procedures are described in (1) - (15) of this subsection. Room restriction is one means of informally resolving minor juvenile misbehavior. It serves a 'cooling off' purpose and has a short time period (up to 60 minutes) that is specified at the time of the assignment."

