

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

Name of Facility and Location: Canadian County Regional Juvenile Detention Center
El Reno, Oklahoma

Date of Visit: December 15, 2008

Oversight Reviewer: Dana S. Holden, Oversight Specialist

Focus of Visit: Unannounced Visit, 2008

Date: March 3, 2009

Introduction

The Office of Juvenile System Oversight (OJSO) conducted an unannounced visit on December 15, 2008, at the Canadian County Juvenile Detention Center, located in El Reno, Oklahoma. The purpose of the visit was to assess the detention program's compliance with established responsibilities and facility policy and procedures; the sanctions program was not evaluated during this visit. The facility was certified for twenty-eight juveniles by the Office of Public Integrity (OPI) of the Office of Juvenile Affairs (OJA). Sixteen beds were designated for the detention program; on a separate wing, twelve beds were designated for the sanctions program. On the day of the OJSO visit, the census for the detention program was sixteen.

Interviews Conducted

- Entry interview with the Detention Director and the Detention Coordinator
- Exit conference with the Facility Director, the Detention Director, and the Assistant Detention Director
- Five juveniles in the detention program
- Three staff members on-duty

Documents Reviewed

- Five detention program juvenile files
- Three direct care staff member personnel files and training records
- Office of the Oklahoma State Fire Marshal report dated January 29, 2008
- Oklahoma State Department of Health Food Inspection report dated December 20, 2007
- OJA OPI annual monitoring report dated April 29, 2008
- Facility room confinement/restriction log for 2008
- Facility incident reports

Findings

Resident Interviews

The OJSO interviewed five juveniles in the detention program. The interview questions pertained to the juveniles' perceptions of safety, detention programs and services, resident rights, discipline practices, and quality-of-life issues. The OJSO noted:

- Three interviewees reported they felt safe at the facility.
- The majority of the interviewees reported that group punishment was used. Residents stated that if one or two residents misbehaved during an activity, the activity was canceled for the entire group.
- All five interviewees indicated that they received appropriate amounts and types of recreational activities.
- All five interviewees were knowledgeable of their rights.
- All five interviewees stated that the quality and quantity of the food were appropriate.
- All five interviewees demonstrated familiarity with the facility grievance process.

No other issues of concern were noted from the resident interviews.

Staff Interviews

The OJSO interviewed three staff members. The OJSO noted:

- Two interviewees stated group punishment was permitted. It was reported that an activity could be canceled for the entire group if one resident misbehaved during the activity.
- Two interviewees reported they had observed residents on wing confinement in excess of the one-hour time limit.
 - One interviewee reported that a resident in the sanctions program had remained on wing confinement for a full day.
- Two interviewees could not adequately explain the differences among room confinement, room restriction, and wing confinement.
 - One interviewee reported room restriction pertained to residents who were ill.
 - One interviewee could not describe the criteria for placing a resident on room confinement.
- The majority of the interviewees reported that the bedding was removed from the resident room when the resident was placed on room confinement or when a resident requested to go to his/her room.
 - One interviewee explained that the purpose for removing the bedding was to discourage residents from wanting to remain in their rooms as a way to avoid working the detention program. According to the interviewee, with no bedding in the room, the resident's stay in the room would be unpleasant and the resident would not want to remain in the room.
 - One interviewee reported that a resident on room confinement could request a blanket but that residents were not advised they could do so.

No other issues of concern were noted from the staff interviews.

Resident File Review

The OJSO reviewed the files on five juveniles in the detention program. The files were well-organized, and the materials were easy to locate. No issues of concern were noted from the resident files reviewed.

Staff File Review

The personnel files of three direct care staff were reviewed for compliance with OJA detention standards. The OJSO noted that the documentation in one file indicated that the employee had not completed the required number of training hours. No other issues of concern were noted from the staff files reviewed.

Room Confinement/Restriction Log Review

The OJSO reviewed the room confinement/restriction log for May 1, 2008, through December 15, 2008. The OJSO noted:

- Three instances of wing confinement for one resident documented lengths of time that constituted room confinement.
- Four instances of wing confinement did not document the dates/times of release from wing confinement.
- Two instances of room confinement did not document the reasons for continued confinement.
- Documentation indicated that one resident remained on room confinement after the resident demonstrated appropriate behavior to return to the general population.

Areas of Concern

1. Staff and residents reported that group punishment was allowed.
2. Two staff members who were asked to explain the differences among room confinement, room restriction, and wing confinement could not adequately describe the differences.

Violations

1. One of three staff files reviewed did not document the required number of annual training hours. OJA policy, OAC 377:3-13-43, Staff requirements, (8), Staff training, (G), in part, states, "Full-time direct-care staff and administrators shall obtain at least 24 clock hours of training per employment year."
2. Documentation in the room confinement/restriction log did not indicate the dates and/or times of release in four instances of wing confinement. OJA policy, OAC 377:3-13-44, Security and control, (c), (15), Procedure for room confinement or room restriction, (E), in part, states, "A written record shall be maintained on any juvenile placed in room restriction or room confinement. It includes a log stating who authorized the action, names of persons observing the juvenile and times of observation, the person authorizing release, and the time of release."

3. Documentation in the room confinement/restriction log indicated that residents remained on wing confinement in excess of the one-hour time limit in three instances. OJA policy, OAC 377:3-13-44, Security and control, (c), (12), Procedures for separation from general population and/or general activities for disciplinary reasons, states that when an intermediary level of intervention is used and the juvenile is separated from the general population, the "separation should not be in excess of 60 minutes".
4. Documentation indicated that reauthorization of room confinement was not recorded every three hours on the room confinement/restriction log. OJA policy, OAC 377:3-13-44, Security and control, (c), (14), Room confinement, (B), states, "Room confinement of juveniles shall be re-authorized every 3 hours, except during normal sleeping hours, by a supervisor/administrator who was not involved in the original incidentReasons for continued room confinement shall be documented."
5. Documentation indicated that a resident was not released from room confinement and returned to the general population when it was safe to do so. OJA policy, OAC 377:3-13-44, Security and control, (c), (15), Procedure for room confinement or room restriction, (D), states, "The juvenile shall be released when staff determines that he or she can safely be returned to the group."
6. Personal property and bedding were routinely removed from resident rooms when residents were placed on room confinement or when residents requested to go to their rooms. OJA policy, OAC 377:3-13-44, Security and control, (c), (15), Procedure for room confinement or room restriction, (C), states, "Juveniles placed in room confinement shall be afforded living conditions and essential services approximating those available to the general juvenile population. Exceptions shall be justified in writing by clear and substantial evidence."

Summary

The OJSO conducted an exit conference on December 30, 2008, with the facility director, the detention director, and the assistant detention director. All findings and concerns were discussed.

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