

July 21, 2008

James Johnson, Superintendent  
Central Oklahoma Juvenile Center  
700 South 9<sup>th</sup> Street  
Tecumseh, Oklahoma 74873-4636

Dear Mr. Johnson:

On July 3, 2008, the Office of Juvenile System Oversight (OJSO) received the Central Oklahoma Juvenile Center (COJC) response to the OJSO February 2008 oversight visit report. Several COJC responses to oversight areas of concern warrant an OJSO reply and request for additional information:

1. Area of Concern #1 in the original oversight report indicated that a higher percentage of residents (42%) said they did not think the grievance process worked than the percentage (25%) who said that they thought the grievance process did work. The COJC response stated that 177 grievances were filed between November 2007 and February 2008; 125 were resolved at the first level; eleven were appealed to the next level; and three were appealed to the state office.

**The OJSO requests that COJC explain or document what actions it takes (e.g., training, counseling with residents, etc.) to try to ensure for the residents or to show the residents that the process does work.**

2. Area of Concern #4 in the oversight report described an incident that COJC had reported to the Office of Client Advocacy (OCA) of the Department of Human Services, where photographs of the injuries had not been provided to the OCA. The OJSO concern was that perhaps the OCA had not received a thorough enough description of the injuries, prior to assigning a caretaker conduct review disposition. The COJC response stated that the disposition decision is made by the OCA, and the OCA had been informed that the resident was "hit several times by staff." The COJC response did not indicate what steps COJC will take to ensure photographs are provided to the OCA in the future.

**The OJSO requests that COJC explain what actions will be taken to ensure photographs of injuries are sent to the OCA, so that OCA dispositions are made with full knowledge and awareness of the situation.**

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3. Areas of Concern #5 and #6 in the oversight report referred, among other issues, to inadequacies in the grievance system. The COJC responses indicated responsibility for these inadequacies lie with the facility Advocate Defenders.

**The OJSO requests that COJC explain what actions it plans to take in conjunction with the Advocate Defenders and the Advocate General (Office of Juvenile Affairs) to ensure these inadequacies are addressed and remedied.**

Please provide an additional response to the OJSO that addresses these inquiries within 30 days of your receiving this correspondence. Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

Joanne L. Verity  
Programs Manager

JLV:js

c: Dana Holden  
Gene Christian  
Elizabeth Stewart  
Donna Glandon