

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

Name and Location of Facility: Comanche County Regional Juvenile Detention Center
Lawton, Oklahoma

Date of Visit: November 30, 2009

Oversight Reviewers: Dana S. Holden and Janice Sharp, Oversight Specialists

Focus of Visit: Unannounced Oversight Visit and Two Complaint Investigations, 2009

Date: February 22, 2010

Introduction

The Office of Juvenile System Oversight (OJSO) conducted an unannounced visit on November 30, 2009, at the Comanche County Regional Juvenile Detention Center, located in Lawton, Oklahoma. The purposes of the visit were to assess compliance with established responsibilities and facility policy and procedures and to conduct two complaint investigations. The facility was certified by the Office of Juvenile Affairs (OJA) for twenty-five juveniles. On the day of the OJSO visit, the census was nineteen. The facility provides regional detention services to other counties. The facility was operated by the Comanche County Juvenile Bureau.

The OJSO received a complaint on September 30, 2009, alleging that a juvenile who had transferred from a state-operated residential facility had been placed inappropriately at the detention center and that the resident had been placed on a medication regime without parental consent.

The OJSO received a second complaint on November 24, 2009, alleging that another resident had been placed inappropriately at the detention center and that the resident was not receiving counseling services.

Interviews Conducted

- Entry interview with the facility director
- One resident; another resident declined to be interviewed without consent by the child's attorney
- Attorney for one resident
- Assistant Area Director for the Area II Field Operations division of the Oklahoma Department of Human Services (OKDHS)

- Child Welfare Specialist III of the OKDHS Permanency Planning Unit
- OKDHS Child Welfare Specialist IV
- Exit conference with the facility director and the assistant director

Documents Reviewed

- Two resident files
- Two medication administration records (MAR) regarding the two residents whose files were reviewed
- OJSO report from the oversight visit conducted on September 2, 2008

Findings

Resident Interviews

The OJSO interviewed one resident who was the subject of one of the two complaints received. The other resident who was the subject of the other complaint received declined to be interviewed without consent of the child's attorney. The OJSO noted:

1. Complaint Investigation

Allegedly, a juvenile was administered medication without the proper authorization. Reportedly, the resident was transported to a doctor after exhibiting violent outbursts and having numerous facility rule violations. The resident was prescribed medication by the doctor, based on findings from the doctor's medical examination.

The complaint further alleged that the resident was placed inappropriately at the detention center. Reportedly, the resident had been involved in a serious altercation, and, subsequently, was arrested and placed at the detention center.

Finding: Based on information gathered during the OJSO investigation, the allegations were unfounded, and the OJSO found no violations of policies or public law. The OJSO closed the complaint on December 9, 2009.

2. Complaint Investigation

Allegedly, a juvenile (a different juvenile than the subject of the complaint above) was placed inappropriately at the detention center, and the resident had not received counseling services at the detention center.

Finding: The information gathered during the OJSO investigation will be addressed in a separate complaint report.

Resident File Review

Two resident files were reviewed. The files were complete for the items checked. No concerns were noted from the resident file review.

MAR Review

The OJSO reviewed the MARs regarding the two juveniles whose resident files were reviewed. No concerns were noted from the MAR review.

Summary

The OJSO conducted a focused oversight at the Comanche County Regional Juvenile Detention Center regarding the two complaints. The allegations concerning the first complaint were unfounded. The allegations regarding the second complaint will be addressed in a separate complaint report.

DSH:JS

