

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

Name of Facility: Craig County Regional Juvenile Detention Center

Date of Visit: December 15, 2005

Oversight Reviewers: Cliff A. Aldridge, Oversight Specialist, and Lou Truitt, Program Supervisor of the National Resource for Youth Services of the University of Oklahoma

Subject: 2005 Unannounced Oversight Visit

Date: May 5, 2006

General Information

The Office of Juvenile System Oversight (OJSO) conducted a routine, unannounced visit of the Craig County Regional Juvenile Detention Center on December 15, 2005. The facility was certified by the Office of Juvenile Affairs (OJA) for ten juveniles. The OJA contracted with the Craig County Board of Commissioners for the detention center, and the County Commissioners, in turn, contracted with ROCMND Area Youth Services, Inc. for the actual operation of the facility. On the day of the OJSO visit, the census was ten.

Persons Interviewed

- Entry interview with the Director
- Interview with the Director, relative to use of force/physical restraint and mechanical restraint
- Three residents
- Two direct care detention staff members
- Exit conference with the Director, the Assistant Director, and the Director of the ROCMND group home

Documentation Reviewed

- Case records on two residents
- Personnel files of two detention staff members
- Facility resident census
- Facility room confinement log for September, October, and November 2005
- Facility critical incident log for September, October, and November 2005
- Sample of three incident reports from September, October, and November 2005

- Facility policy for the use of mechanical restraints
- Facility policy for the use of force/physical restraint
- OJA annual assessment report of a June 7, 2005, visit
- Office of the Oklahoma State Fire Marshal's inspection report of October 13, 2004
- Oklahoma State Department of Health's inspection report of June 15, 2005

Areas Toured

- Dayroom, program areas, and sleeping rooms
- Outside secure recreational area
- Kitchen and food storage areas

Overview

Interviews

Three residents were interviewed. The interview questions regarded the residents' perceptions of safety, detention program services, the rights of the residents, discipline practices, and other detention care issues. Overall, the residents' responses to the interview questions were favorable regarding the staff, their participation in program activities, and quality of life. No themes of concern were identified from the resident interviews.

Two recently employed part-time staff members were interviewed relative to facility practices, program services for the residents, and training. Both of them reported having received required training. Both staff members interviewed demonstrated familiarity with facility practices and services for the residents. No issues of concern were identified from the staff interviews.

The Director was interviewed relative to detention practices involving the use of physical and mechanical restraints. Her responses were in agreement with the facility's written policies and with the OJA detention certification standards. Mechanical restraints had been used only once during the three-month period reviewed. The Director reported reviewing each instance of the use of restraint or mechanical restraint; however, the incidents were seldom debriefed with the staff involved.

Documentation Reviews

The case records on two juveniles and the personnel files of two detention staff members were reviewed. All four of the files were complete for each item reviewed during the visit.

The Office of the Oklahoma State Fire Marshal's inspection report of October 13, 2004, recommended the annual fire and sprinkler system be serviced. The service was completed and documented on October 29, 2004.

The OJA annual assessment report of a visit conducted on June 7, 2005, cited one issue that required a corrective action plan. The citation noted that one employee's physical examination did not state that the individual was physically able to perform the job functions. The OJA accepted the facility's corrective plan.

The facility's written policy for the use of physical restraint and mechanical restraints were in compliance with the OJA detention certification standards and with the Director's interview responses.

Room Confinement Review

The facility's room confinement log for the three-month period recorded thirteen instances of room confinement. Two of the instances were for medical reasons and an additional three instances of room confinement indicated that one resident refused to come out of his room on three different days. The remaining eight instances of room confinement were due to behaviors by the residents. The duration of the room confinements ranged from one hour to twenty-three hours, thirty minutes. The incident reports of three of the incidents were reviewed.

In the first instance reviewed, the resident was making loud noises in his room after the residents had been secured for the night, and he was discovered to be sitting on his bed with his blanket over his head and appeared to be hitting himself. The incident report noted efforts to calm the resident. Subsequently, the resident made statements that he wanted to harm himself and staff, and he charged at staff. He was physically restrained, and mechanical restraints were applied. Senior staff members were called to the facility. The resident calmed down after approximately thirty minutes, and the restraints were removed. He was returned to his room for the night, with room confinement to begin at 8:00 a.m. the following morning until he could be reassessed by the staff. The child was calm and was released the following morning at 9:00 a.m.

In the second instance of room confinement, the log stated the reason for the confinement was for two residents speaking Spanish through the wall. The incident report narratives, however, described a period of disobeying staff directives, yelling to incite other residents, and mocking of staff in the late evening. One of the residents threatened to cause more problems if things did not go well for him in court. He was released from his room the following afternoon when he was calm. He was on room confinement for approximately twenty hours, thirty minutes.

In the third instance of room confinement, the resident was placed in his room for three hours for inciting other residents and for using bad language. According to the log, he was released after three hours. The child had been given a fifteen-minute "time out" (room restriction) in his room earlier in the day for the similar behavior.

In each of the incidents reviewed, the OJSO found that the documentation requirements were met. The incident reports indicated considerable conversation with the residents involved and efforts by the staff to deescalate the residents. The OJSO found that the criteria for the use of room confinement were met for the first two incidents reviewed. The third incident reviewed above leaves some room for doubt about the criteria having been met, and it should be further reviewed by the Director and/or a review committee. In each of the instances reviewed, the resident had signed-off on the room confinement log.

Facility Tour

The OJSO conducted a tour of the facility. On the day of the OJSO visit, the facility was clean and well-maintained. Only minor maintenance issues, such as a leaking soap dispenser, a broken tile in one room, and a tile missing from a restroom, were observed. Subsequent telephone conversation with the Assistant Director indicated that the repairs had been made.

Summary

On the day of the OJSO visit, the detention center was in compliance with the OJA detention certification standards.

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