

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

Name and Location of Facility: Garfield County Juvenile Detention Center
Enid, Oklahoma

Date of Visit: July 15, 2008

Oversight Reviewer: Dana S. Holden, Oversight Specialist

Focus of Visit: Unannounced Visit

Date: August 18, 2008

Introduction

The Office of Juvenile System Oversight (OJSO) conducted an unannounced visit on July 15, 2008, at the Garfield County Juvenile Detention Center, located in Enid, Oklahoma. The purpose of the visit was to assess compliance with established responsibilities. The Office of Juvenile Affairs (OJA) contracted with the Garfield County Board of Commissioners for operation of the detention center. The facility is certified by the OJA for eleven residents. On the day of the OJSO visit, the census was eleven.

Interviews Conducted

- Entry interview with the Executive Director
- Three residents
- Two direct care staff members
- Exit conference with the Administrative Assistant and the Program Manager

Documents Reviewed

- Personnel files and training records of two direct care staff members
- Files on three residents
- State of Oklahoma Office of the Oklahoma State Fire Marshal report, dated April 9, 2008
- Oklahoma State Department of Health Food Inspection report, dated November 26, 2007
- OJA Office of Public Integrity (OPI) monitoring report, dated March 20, 2008
- Facility room confinement logs for July 1, 2007, through July 15, 2008
- Facility incident reports for residents who were placed on room restriction/confinement

Findings

Interviews

The OJSO interviewed three residents. The interview questions pertained to the residents' perceptions of safety, detention program services, resident rights, discipline practices, and other detention program issues. All residents interviewed made positive statements about the staff and their treatment at the facility. No concerns were identified from the resident interviews.

Two direct care staff members were interviewed. The interview questions pertained to the staff members' perceptions of detention program services, resident rights, discipline policies, and other detention program issues. No concerns were identified from the staff interviews.

File Reviews

The OJSO reviewed the files on three residents and the personnel files and training records of two staff members for compliance with OJA standards. All files reviewed were well organized and complete for the items reviewed. No concerns were noted from the files review.

Room Confinement Log

The review of the Room Confinement log indicated three incidents of room confinement from July 1, 2007, through July 20, 2008. The OJSO noted:

- Documentation regarding two incidents of room confinement did not list the dates and times of release from confinement.
- Documentation regarding one incident of room confinement listed the reason for confinement as "inciteful behavior"; however, the specific behavior warranting room confinement was not recorded.

No other concerns were noted from the room confinement log review.

Inspection Reports

The OJSO reviewed the most current inspection reports by the fire marshal's office and health department. No concerns were noted from either report.

Violations cited in the most recent OJA OPI report were:

- Section 3, Security and Control: Residents were not observed every fifteen minutes in two incidents of room confinement; residents remained in their rooms in excess of the sixty-minute time limit in two instances of room restriction.
- Section 9, Facility Tour: Floor tiles were missing in the east and west shower rooms.

Observational Tour

The OJSO noted that the facility was undergoing extensive renovations. The entire facility had been repainted and new carpet had been installed. The bathrooms had been retiled.

Violations

1. The dates and times of release from confinement were not indicated on the log regarding two incidents of room confinement. OJA policy OAC 377:3-13-44, Security and control, (c), (15), Procedure for room confinement or room restriction, (E), states, "A written record shall be maintained on any juvenile placed in room restriction or 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."
2. The reason for confinement was not properly documented on the log regarding one incident of room confinement. OJA policy OAC 377:3-13-44, Security and control, (c), (14), Room confinement, (A), states, "Room confinement is used with detained juveniles: (i) for self protection; (ii) to separate juveniles from fighting; (iii) to restrain juveniles in danger of inflicting harm to themselves or others; (iv) to restrain juveniles who have escaped or who are in the process of escaping; (v) to prevent destruction of property if reasonably related to (i) through (iv); and (vi) stop behavior that incites other juveniles which jeopardizes the safety of staff and residents of the facility and is reasonably related to (i) through (iv)."

Summary

The OJSO's findings were discussed with the Administrative Assistant and the Program Manager in the exit conference. The OJSO noted a decrease in the number of room confinements from the last oversight visit.

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