OKLAHOMA COMMISSION ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH
OFFICE OF JUVENILE SYSTEM OVERSIGHT

Name and Location of Facility:	L.E. Rader Center Sand Springs, Oklahoma
Dates of Visit:	November 29, 30, and December 7, 8, 2010
Oversight Reviewer:	Dana S. Holden, Oversight Specialist IV
Focus of Visit:	Second Biannual Visit, 2010
Date:	February 22, 2011

Introduction

The Office of Juvenile System Oversight (OJSO) began an unannounced visit on November 29, 2010, at the L.E. Rader Center (LERC) located in Sand Springs, Oklahoma. The OJSO resumed the oversight on November 30, December 7, and completed the visit on December 8, 2010. The purpose of the visit was to assess the facility's compliance with established policy and procedures, response to resident grievances, use of restraints, and use of solitary confinement.

The facility is a secure rehabilitation program for male juveniles adjudicated Delinquent or Youthful Offender who are in the custody of the Office of Juvenile Affairs (OJA). The LERC was licensed by the Office of Public Integrity (OPI) Division of the Office of Juvenile Affairs for seventy juveniles. The facility census was forty-seven on the initial day of oversight.

Interviews Conducted

- Entry interview with the facility superintendent
- Three juvenile security officers (JSO)
- One youth guidance specialist (YGS)
- Five residents
- Exit conference with the facility superintendent, assistant superintendent, administrator of programs, and the chief of security

Documents Reviewed

- Six resident files
- Nine personnel files
- Six employee training reports
- LERC Institutional Daily Census Log dated November 29, 2010
- Office of Juvenile Affairs (OJA) Secure Juvenile Assessment report dated May 4, 2010
- Tulsa County Health Department Inspection report dated March 11, 2010

- Office of the Oklahoma State Fire Marshal report dated July 29, 2010
- LERC Use of Physical Force Log from July 1, 2010, through October 31, 2010
- LERC Crisis Management Center (CMC) Log from July 1, 2010, through November 30, 2010
- LERC Use of Force policy revised July 1, 2010
- Office of Public Integrity (OPI) inspection report dated April 19, 2010

Findings

Resident Interviews

The OJSO interviewed five residents. The residents were questioned regarding their perceptions of safety, program services, resident rights, discipline practices, grievance procedures and other residential care issues. The OJSO noted the following from the resident interviews.

- Four residents reported they felt safe at the facility, and one felt safe part of the time.
- Two residents reported the quality of the food was bad, two reported it was average and one reported it was good. All residents reported they received plenty of food and are allowed seconds on fruits and vegetables.
- All of the residents reported that the heat in their rooms did not work properly. This issue was addressed with the administrative staff. The staff reported the facility had a new heating system installed and there were problems that were being addressed.

There were no other issues noted from the resident interviews.

Staff Interviews

The OJSO interviewed three JSO's and one YGS. The questions pertained to the staff members' perceptions of training, safety of staff, improving the life of residents, morale of staff and residents. The OJSO noted the following:

- Three of the four staff reported they felt more training was needed to do their job more effectively.
- One of four staff reported the morale of the kids as low, two felt it was medium, and one thought it was high. The staff stated there was some uncertainty caused by the rumors of the facility closing.
- One of four staff reported the morale of the staff was low, two felt it was medium, and one thought it was high. The staff stated there was some uncertainty caused by the rumors of the facility closing and budget cuts.

Resident File Review

The OJSO reviewed six resident files. The resident files were well-organized and complete. There were no concerns noted from the resident file review. The resident files were listed as strength of the program on the facility exit.

Personnel File Review

The OJSO reviewed the files of nine employees and the training records of six employees. The files were complete and well-organized. There were no concerns noted from the employee file review.

LERC CMC Log

The OJSO reviewed the LERC Crisis Management Center (CMC) Log from July 1, 2010, through November 30, 2010. The OJSO noted the following:

- According to the log, the CMC was used a total of forty-four times during the time period reviewed.
- Ten log entries either did not list the date and/or time the resident was placed in CMC and/or the date and/or time the resident was released from the CMC.

There were no other concerns noted from the CMC log.

LERC Use of Physical Force Log

The OJSO reviewed the Use of Physical Force Log for the period of July 1, 2010, through October 31, 2010. There were a total of sixty incidents of physical force involving eighty-one residents during this time period. The OJSO noted:

- From July 1, 2010, through October 31, 2010 mechanical restraints were applied to sixty-seven of the eighty-one residents involved in the incidents of physical force.

There were no concerns noted in the Use of Physical Force Log review.

Additional Documentation Reviewed

The OJSO reviewed the most recent inspection report by the Office of Public Integrity (OPI) dated April 19, 2010, the Tulsa County Health Department dated March 11, 2010, and the Office of the State Fire Marshal dated July 29, 2010. A corrective action plan was submitted and accepted for the violations cited in the OPI report. There were no violations noted in the Health Department or Fire Marshal's reports. There were no concerns noted from the review of these reports.

Exit Conference

The OJSO held an exit conference on December 20, 2010, with the LERC superintendent, assistant superintendent, administrator of programs, and the chief of security. The OJSO noted that the resident records continue to be an area of strength for the facility. The OJSO also noted that the residents all made favorable comments about the security officers. All areas of concern and facility strengths were discussed and a copy of the Facility Exit Conference Checklist was provided to the superintendent.

Areas of Concern

1. The heating system on the units reportedly had not been operating properly. The assistant superintendent reported there had been problems which were corrected.
2. Residents that were taken to CMC or solitary confinement were placed in mechanical restraints even though they were cooperative and not resisting staff.
3. There were entries in the CMC log that did not contain the required information such as, the date and/or time the resident was placed in CMC, or the date and/or time the resident was released from CMC.