

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

Name and Location of Facility: Northwest Oklahoma Juvenile Detention Center
Woodward, Oklahoma

Date of Visit: November 21, 2006

Oversight Reviewer: Dana S. Holden, Oversight Specialist

Focus of Visit: Unannounced Visit, 2006

Date: January 4, 2007

General Information

The Office of Juvenile System Oversight (OJSO) conducted a routine, unannounced visit on November 21, 2006, to the Northwest Oklahoma Juvenile Detention Center, located in Woodward, Oklahoma. The purpose of the visit was to assess compliance with established responsibilities and facility policy and procedures. The facility was certified by the Office of Juvenile Affairs (OJA) for ten juveniles. The OJA contracted with the Woodward County Board of Commissioners to manage the detention center and, in turn, the County Commissioners subcontracted with Eastern Oklahoma Youth Services for the day-to-day operation of the facility. The detention center provides regional services to other counties. On the day of the OJSO visit, the census was ten.

Persons Interviewed

- Entry interview and an exit conference with the superintendent
- Two direct care staff members
- Three residents

Documents Reviewed

- Personnel files and training records of the two direct care staff members interviewed
- Files on three residents
- Office of the Oklahoma State Fire Marshal inspection report of February 22, 2006
- Oklahoma State Department of Health inspection report of May 19, 2006
- OJA monitoring report of June 16, 2006

Areas Toured

- Dormitories on the east and west wings
- Kitchen
- Intake/reception area
- Administrative area

Overview

Interviews

The OJSO interviewed three residents. The interview questions pertained to the residents' perceptions of safety, detention program services, the rights of the residents, discipline practices, and other residential care issues. Responses to the interview questions indicated:

- All interviewees felt safe at the facility.
- Education services were provided at the facility.
- All participated in recreational services.
- Appropriate consequences were received for rule violations.
- All had access to medical care.
- All were knowledgeable of the residents' rights.
- Residents received enough to eat.
- All rated the food as good.

Two direct care staff members were interviewed. Both:

- reported receiving appropriate training for their positions; and
- demonstrated familiarity with policies and procedures.

File Reviews

The OJSO reviewed the files on three residents. The files were well-organized and were complete for the items reviewed. No issues of concern were noted from the review of the resident files.

The personnel files and training records of two direct care staff members were reviewed for compliance with detention certification standards. The files were well-organized and the materials were easy to locate. Documentation indicated both staff members had received the required hours of annual training or were scheduled to attend required training. No issues of concern were identified from the review of the staff files.

Observational Tour

The OJSO conducted a tour of the facility. On the day of the OJSO visit, the facility was clean and well-maintained. The OJA monitoring report, dated June 16, 2006, cited three areas of noncompliance. The facility had submitted a corrective action plan that was accepted by the OJA.

Summary

On the day of the OJSO visit, the Northwest Oklahoma Juvenile Detention Center was in compliance with established responsibilities. The staff members demonstrated an ability to work together as a team. The superintendent was attentive to the needs of the residents and the staff.

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