

April 15, 2010

Lawrence E. Hicks, Bureau Director  
Oklahoma County Juvenile Bureau  
5905 North Classen Court  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73118

Re: Oklahoma County Juvenile Bureau Response Dated April 2, 2010, to the Oklahoma Commission on Children and Youth Oversight Report Dated March 18, 2010

Dear Mr. Hicks:

Thank you for your response to the Office of Juvenile System Oversight (OJSO) report. I am open to the suggestions in your response, as the Oklahoma Commission on Children and Youth is always striving to make its system of monitoring more helpful. In that regard, attached is a newly developed check-off form that OJSO staff will provide at the exit conference of an oversight visit. During the exit conference, the OJSO will discuss its findings from the oversight visit with the facility administration. If the findings include an area of concern or violation of policy and procedures, contract, Oklahoma Statutes, or law, the OJSO staff will ask that a representative of the facility administration in attendance at the exit conference to indicate that the finding has been discussed by initialing where indicated on the form. At the conclusion of the discussion regarding the findings, the OJSO staff will ask that a copy of the completed form be made for the facility, and the OJSO will retain the original. The facility will have two weeks to provide documentation that rectifies a finding of an area of concern or violation. The OJSO will include the provided documentation in its review of the findings as it prepares a written report.

It is my understanding from speaking with the two Oversight Specialists who conducted the most recent visit at the Oklahoma County Juvenile Detention Center that Linda Craig, the facility's Quality Assurance Manager, was made aware of the nature of the complaint and that she arranged for the facility nurse to meet with the Oversight Specialists. The nurse presented the facility's position pertaining to the complaint allegations, and she provided documentation. The good news is, the allegations of the complaint were not substantiated!

I am aware that the Oklahoma County Juvenile Detention Center has made significant improvements in different areas of its program, which, in turn, has resulted in better outcomes for the youth served. You are correct, the OJSO needs to incorporate strengths of a program or a facility into our reports. Hopefully, the Exit Conference form will capture this information.

Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions, or if you would like to discuss this matter further.

Sincerely,

Lisa L. Smith  
Executive Director

Attachment