

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

Name of Facility: Osage County Juvenile Detention Center
Date of Visit: October 20, 2005
Oversight Reviewer: Cliff A. Aldridge, Oversight Specialist
Subject: 2005 Unannounced Oversight Visit
Date: April 7, 2006

General Information

The Office of Juvenile System Oversight (OJSO) conducted a routine, unannounced visit on October 20, 2005, at the Osage County Juvenile Detention Center in Pawhuska, Oklahoma. The detention center was certified by the Office of Juvenile Affairs (OJA) for eight juveniles. The certification was current and was valid until February 2006. The OJA contracted with the Osage County Board of Commissioners for six of the juvenile detention beds. The Youth Services of Osage County, Inc. (YSOC) contracted for the operation of the facility with the Osage County Board of Commissioners. The detention center was collocated within the Osage County Jail. On the day of the OJSO visit, the detention center's census was eight.

Persons Interviewed

- Entry interview with the Detention Director and the Detention Supervisor
- Interview with the Detention Supervisor relative to use of force/physical restraints and mechanical restraints
- Three juveniles
- One direct care staff member
- Exit conference with the YSOC Executive Director, the Detention Director, and the Detention Supervisor

Documentation Reviewed

- Case records on two juveniles
- Two personnel files
- Facility's room confinement log for July, August, and September 2005
- Facility's critical incident log for July, August, and September 2005
- Sample of four incident reports from July, August, and September 2005

- Facility's policy for the use of mechanical restraints
- Facility's policy for the use of force/physical restraints
- Office of the State Fire Marshal's inspection report, dated October 12, 2005
- Oklahoma State Department of Health's inspection report, dated April 22, 2005
- Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (JJDP) Act's Guidance Manual for Monitoring Facilities under the JJDP Act, Section 2, Monitoring for Compliance: Adult Jails and Lockups

Areas Toured

- Dayroom
- Sleeping rooms
- Outside secure recreational area

Overview

Interviews

The OJSO interviewed three juveniles. The juveniles were asked about feeling safe, interactions with the staff, their quality of life, and other detention programs in which they participated. Overall, the responses were favorable about the staff and the program. The chief complaints regarded separation from their families or being locked up. When asked, two of the juveniles reported hearing the adult inmates through the wall from an adjoining unit. One reported hearing beating and muffled voices; the other reported loud voices but that adult inmates did not try to talk to him. The JJDP guidance manual for monitoring facilities states, "Sound contact is defined as direct oral communication between adult inmates and juvenile offenders." The Osage County Detention Center appeared to comply with the federal requirements.

The Detention Supervisor was interviewed relative to the facility's use of mechanical restraints and use of force/physical restraint practices and policies. The facility's policies were also reviewed in comparison with the interview responses. The Detention Supervisor's responses and the facility's policy manual conformed to the OJA detention standards. The facility policy specified the use of Managing Aggressive Behavior as the behavior intervention training.

The OJSO reviewer was advised that the detention center had a new teacher. The teacher was special-education certified and conducted classes at the center from 8:00 a.m. until noon and also conducted a physical education class in the outside recreation area. School was not in session on the day of the visit because of fall break.

One direct care staff member was interviewed regarding facility practices and programs. The staff member demonstrated familiarity with policies and reported having received required training. No issues of concern were identified from the interviews with the juveniles or the staff.

Documentation Reviews

The OJSO reviewed the files on two juveniles and two personnel files for compliance with the OJA detention certification standards. All four of the files were complete for each of the items reviewed on the day of the visit.

Allegations of staff misconduct in two separate incidents involving two staff members had been reported to the Office of Client Advocacy of the Department of Human Services. Both referrals had been returned to the facility for caretaker conduct reviews by the administration. Both staff members had been discharged.

The documentation logs were reviewed regarding room restriction, room confinement, use of force, and critical incidents for the period of July, August, and September 2005. There were no instances of the use of physical restraint or mechanical restraint during the period.

One child was placed on room confinement during the period reviewed. The incident report and other documentation were reviewed for compliance with the OJA detention certification standards. The behavior described in the incident report met the criteria for room restriction, and the juvenile's ongoing behavior during the room restriction met the "danger to self or others" criteria for use of room confinement as documented by the staff. The reviewed room confinement logs included the necessary documentation as defined by policy. The juvenile was placed in his room at 1:40 p.m. and was released at 7:00 a.m. on the following morning.

Facility Tour

On the day of the OJSO visit, the facility was clean and was well-maintained. Materials required to be posted were posted. Emergency procedures and equipment were in place. The medication records were current, and medications were double-locked.

The facility had a mobile restraint chair in the dayroom when the OJSO reviewer arrived. The Detention Supervisor reported that it had never been used. The restraint chair had been removed from the juvenile detention area of the jail complex by the end of the oversight visit.

The juvenile detention center was collocated within the sheriff's department and the jail complex. The detention center used separate staff and programs. Ambient noise could be heard from an adjoining adult cellblock, although, the voices were muffled and were not understandable. The facility appeared to provide the required separation by sight and sound from adult prisoners. A common corridor used by detention residents and adult prisoners was cleared each time the residents were moved to or from the classroom or a juvenile was admitted to or discharged from the facility.

Conclusion

On the day of the OJSO visit, the facility was meeting the needs of the juveniles. The staff demonstrated concern for the juveniles' needs and their ability to work well together as a team.

CAA:js