

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

Name and Location of Facility: Pittsburg County Regional Juvenile Detention Center
McAlester, Oklahoma

Dates of Visit: November 16, 2006, and February 21, 2007

Oversight Reviewers: Cliff A. Aldridge, Oversight Specialist, (both visits),
and Kristal Nicholson, Trainer/Consultant, of the
National Resource Center for Youth Services
(NRCYS) of the University of Oklahoma (November
2006 visit)

Subject: Unannounced Oversight Visit, 2006

Date: April 4, 2007

General Information

The Office of Juvenile System Oversight (OJSO) conducted an unannounced visit on November 16, 2006, to the Pittsburg County Regional Juvenile Detention Center, located in McAlester, Oklahoma. The purpose of the visit was to assess compliance with established responsibilities. The OJSO returned to the facility on February 21, 2007, to review documents that were not available at the time of the initial visit. The detention center was certified for ten juveniles by the Office of Public Integrity of the Office of Juvenile Affairs (OJA). The certificate, D-61-04, was valid until February 2008. The OJA contracted with the Pittsburg County Board of Commissioners for regional juvenile detention services. The Eastern Oklahoma Youth Services, Inc. contracted for the operation of the facility with the Pittsburg County Board of Commissioners. On the day of the OJSO visit, the census was nine.

Persons Interviewed

- Entry interview and an exit conference with the shift supervisor and the assistant director
- Three residents
- Two direct care detention workers

Documentation Reviewed

- Case records on three residents
- Personnel files and training records of three detention workers
- Facility weekday and weekend schedules
- Facility shift change report for November 16, 2006
- Facility room confinement log for August, September, and October 2006
- Sample of three incident reports of room confinement from August, September, and October 2006
- OJA annual assessment report of a visit on May 2, 2006
- Office of the Oklahoma State Fire Marshal inspection report of June 18, 2006
- Oklahoma State Department of Health inspection report of July 20, 2006

Areas Toured

- Dayroom, wings, and sleeping rooms
- Outside secure recreational area
- Kitchen

Overview

Interviews

The OJSO interviewed three residents relative to their perceptions of safety, detention program services, rights of the residents, discipline practices, and other detention care issues. Overall, the responses were favorable. No particular themes of concern were identified from the resident interviews.

Two detention workers representing both the morning and afternoon shifts were interviewed relative to their training and the facility's practices. Both demonstrated familiarity with the detention policies. Neither was able to describe training they had received in the prevention of suicide.

Documentation Reviews

The OJSO reviewed the case records on three residents for compliance with detention certification standards. All three files were current for the items reviewed on the day of the visit. No issues of concern were identified from the resident file reviews.

The personnel files of three detention workers hired since July 2006 were reviewed for key items from the OJA detention certification standards. On the day of the visit, the files documented first aid certification and current cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) training; however; none of them had received the training within ninety days of employment as required by the standards. The superintendent advised the OJSO that one of the staff

members had been certified as a first aid/CPR instructor on February 16 and 17, 2007, in order to maintain current training for new employees. All three detention workers had received in-house training during orientation on behavior intervention, but they had not received the facility's designated training, Crisis Prevention Institute (CPI).

The OJA annual assessment report cited the facility for two detention workers not having pre-employment physicals by a licensed physician and not having a posted plan for housekeeping.

The Oklahoma State Department of Health inspection report cited only that a tile by the dishwashing machine needed to be replaced. The OJSO observed that the tile had been replaced. The Office of the Oklahoma State Fire Marshal inspection report noted that the facility met codes.

The facility's room confinement log for August, September, and October 2006 and a sample of three incident reports were reviewed for compliance with the OJA detention standards. The facility had logged eleven uses of room confinement during the period. Two juveniles had accounted for seven of the instances of room confinement. The minimum use of room confinement consisted of one hour. The maximum usage of room confinement was fifteen hours and forty-five minutes. All three incident reports met the criteria for the use of room confinement and documentation requirements.

Observational Tour

The OJSO conducted a tour of the facility. One resident was on suicide watch but was participating in the program with the general population. None of the residents were on room restriction or confinement at the time of the visit. The OJSO noted that seams were separating or the rubberized coating was peeling from some of the upholstered furnishings.

Summary

On the day of the OJSO visit, the detention center was clean and was well-maintained. The facility is commended for the minimal duration and instances of use of room confinement.

Finding

1. Three new employees did not receive first aid and CPR training within ninety days of employment, as required by the OJA detention certification standards. Office of Juvenile Affairs policy OAC 377:3-13-43, Staff requirements, (a), General provisions, (8), Staff training, (E) and (F), states, "Within 90 days after employment, all direct-care staff shall have successfully completed first aid training from an instructor certified by the American Red Cross or its equivalent. First aid training is updated every three years and may be counted toward the hours of training required. All direct-care staff

shall be certified in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) within 90 days after employment and recertified annually. CPR certification shall be counted toward the training requirements.”

CAA:js

