

March 23, 2009

Ada Fox, Superintendent  
Pittsburg County Regional  
Juvenile Detention Center  
1208 N. West Street  
McAlester, Oklahoma 74501

RE: Unannounced Visit, 2008

Dear Ms. Fox:

The Office of Juvenile System Oversight (OJSO) conducted an unannounced visit at the Pittsburg County Regional Juvenile Detention Center on October 30, 2008. During the visit, the OJSO spoke with administrators, staff, and residents and reviewed documents and files. In the exit conference, the OJSO discussed its concerns noted from the visit. Those concerns and the OJSO's recommendations were:

1. Separation on a wing or room confinement was used often by staff. The OJSO recommended that a hierarchy of verbal interventions be attempted and documented instead of permitting the staff to use wing restriction or room confinement as an initial intervention for minor behavioral issues.
2. The facility used "attitude" as the criterion for continuation of or release from separation on a wing or room confinement. The OJSO recommended that staff use behavior descriptors to document justification for the continuation of or release from separation or room confinement when conducting three-hour administrative reviews.
3. The facility documented participation in large muscle activity (exercise) for each resident, when applicable. The OJSO recommended that the duration of a minimum of sixty minutes also be documented. Additionally, the reason for non-participation in daily exercise should be documented.

No other significant issues or concerns were noted from the visit. A follow-up conversation with the Superintendent indicated that the administration had already begun implementing the recommendations discussed above.

Please mail to the OJSO an original, signed response addressing the areas of concern noted above, avoiding identification of any child or staff by name. Also, please send a non-scanned, electronic copy of your response to [jsharp@okkids.org](mailto:jsharp@okkids.org) for publication on the Oklahoma Commission on Children and Youth web page. We will wait thirty days to receive your response before publishing this correspondence on the web page; however, this correspondence has been sent to the individuals copied below.

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Thank you for your assistance and cooperation in this matter. If you have any questions or comments concerning this correspondence, please call me at (405) 606-4900. We apologize for the delay of this letter.

Sincerely,

Cliff A. Aldridge  
Oversight Specialist IV

CAA:js

c: Kent Kelley  
Gene Christian  
Mike Heath  
Shelly Waller  
Donna Glandon

