

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

Name of Facility: Texas County Juvenile Detention Center

Date of Visit: October 25, 2005

Oversight Person: Dana S. Holden, Oversight Specialist

Subject: Unannounced visit

Date: December 30, 2005

Introduction

The Office of Juvenile System Oversight (OJSO) conducted an unannounced visit on October 25, 2005, to the Texas County Juvenile Detention Center in Hooker, Oklahoma. The purpose of the visit was to assess compliance with established responsibilities and facility policy and procedures. At the time of the OJSO visit, the census was six.

Interviews Conducted

- Director
- Two direct care workers
- Two juveniles

Files Reviewed

- Two personnel files
- Files on three residents
- Most recent inspection reports by the Office of the Oklahoma State Fire Marshal and the Oklahoma State Department of Health

Areas Toured

- Entire detention center

Overview

Interviews

The two juveniles interviewed did not voice any concerns. Both juveniles:

- stated they felt safe at the facility;
- described the food as good and stated they received plenty to eat;
- reported receiving appropriate amounts of recreation time; and
- reported being placed on room confinement for violating the facility's rules.

The OJSO did not note any concerns during the resident interviews. The two staff members interviewed:

- described appropriate forms of discipline for rule violations;
- expressed a strong desire to help the residents who were under their care; and
- described receiving appropriate training for their positions.

File Reviews

The files reviewed on three residents were orderly and complete. There were no concerns noted. The staff files reviewed were complete and well-organized. There were no deficiencies noted.

Room Confinement

The OJSO reviewed the room confinement logs for the period of July 2005 through the present. One resident had been placed on room confinement five times since September 3, 2005. The resident's history included cursing at staff, defecating in his room, and kicking a facility door. The OJSO observed this resident on the day of the visit and noted that he was disruptive to the operation of the facility. During an incident observed by the OJSO, three staff members spent approximately forty-five minutes trying to get the juvenile to comply with the rules. The Director stated that the resident frequently acted out, which caused staff to have to place other residents in their rooms while staff dealt with him.

Observational Tour

The physical facility appeared to be in good condition and in compliance with standards.

Summary

On the day of the oversight visit, the program appeared to meet the needs of the residents and the staff appeared to provide a safe environment for the juveniles. The OJSO and the facility Director reviewed policy regarding room confinement and the recent room confinements for one disruptive resident. After review, no additional concerns were noted.

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