

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

Name and Location of Facility: Texas County Juvenile Detention Center
Hooker, Oklahoma

Date of Visit: June 3, 2008

Oversight Reviewer: Dana S. Holden, Oversight Specialist

Focus of Visit: Unannounced Visit, 2008

Date: October 7, 2008

Introduction

The Office of Juvenile System Oversight (OJSO) conducted an unannounced visit on June 3, 2008, to the Texas County Juvenile Detention Center, located in Hooker, Oklahoma. The purpose of the visit was to monitor compliance with established responsibilities and facility policy and procedures. The detention center is certified by the Office of Juvenile Affairs (OJA) for six juveniles. The OJA contracted with the Texas County Board of Commissioners for the detention center. On the day of the OJSO visit, the detention center had six residents. The facility provides regional detention services to other counties.

Persons Interviewed

- Entry interview and an exit conference with the Detention Director
- One direct care staff member
- Three residents

Documents Reviewed

- Three resident files
- Two direct care staff members personnel files
- Facility grievance log and grievances for May 4, 2008, through May 18, 2008
- Room confinement/room restriction logs for 2008
- Office of the Oklahoma State Fire Marshal report dated February 13, 2008
- Oklahoma State Department of Health Food Inspection report dated March 25, 2008
- OJA Office of Public Integrity monitoring report dated February 27, 2008

Findings

Interviews

The OJSO interviewed three residents. The interview questions were generally regarding the residents' perception of safety, detention program services, resident rights, discipline practices, and other residential care issues. The OJSO noted:

- All resident interviewees reported feeling safe at the facility.
- All reported that staff used appropriate forms of discipline and the residents were receiving the required amount of recreation.
- One resident reported that a female staff member had made sexual comments to him. The OJSO discussed this disclosure with the facility director during the exit conference. The facility director stated that the resident had reported the information to him that morning. The facility director had reported the allegation to the Oklahoma Department of Human Services, Office of Client Advocacy (OCA), on June 4, 2008.

No other concerns were identified from the resident interviews.

The OJSO interviewed one direct care staff member. No concerns were noted from the staff interview.

File Reviews

The OJSO reviewed the files on three residents. The files were complete and well-organized. No concerns were noted from the resident file reviews.

The personnel files and training records of two direct care staff members were reviewed for compliance with detention certification standards. The files were well-organized, and the materials were easy to locate. The OJSO noted:

- One file did not document that three references were contacted before the hire date.
- One file did not document a pre-employment physical by a licensed physician.
- One file did not document tuberculin testing prior to the employee working with the residents.
- One file did not indicate the staff member had received the required hours of orientation training.

No other issues of concern were noted from the personnel file reviews.

Room Confinement Review

The OJSO reviewed the room confinement logs for January through April 2008. The OJSO noted that one incident of room confinement did not meet criteria for room confinement: A resident had refused to get out of bed, do her chores, or go to school

when requested by staff. The resident was placed on room confinement for three hours.

Grievance Log Review

The OJSO reviewed the facility's grievance log for May 4 through May 18, 2008. A total of nineteen grievances were reviewed. No concerns were noted from the grievance log review.

Observational Tour

The OJSO did not conduct a tour of the facility. The most recent inspection reports by the Office of the Oklahoma State Fire Marshal, the Oklahoma State Department of Health, and the OJA Office of Public Integrity were reviewed. No violations were cited in any of the reports.

Area of Concern

1. One resident reported that a female staff member made sexual remarks to him. The facility had reported the incident to the DHS OCA on June 4, 2008.

Violations

1. One staff file did not have the required three references. OJA policy OAC 377:3-13-43 Staff requirements, (a) General provisions, (7) Personnel records, (A), (iii), states, "The personnel record includes three written references and/or documentation of telephone interviews."
2. One staff file did not indicate that the staff member had received the required hours of orientation training. OJA policy OAC 377:3-13-43 Staff requirements, (a) General provisions, (8) Staff training, (A), states, "Each direct-care staff member shall be provided orientation before being allowed to work independently."
3. A resident was assigned to room confinement for an incident that did not meet criteria. OJA policy OAC 377:3-13-44 Security and control, (c), (14) Room confinement, (A), in part, states, "Room confinement is used with detained juveniles:
 - (i) for self protection;
 - (ii) to separate juveniles from fighting;
 - (iii) to restrain juveniles in danger of inflicting harm to themselves or others;
 - (iv) to restrain juveniles who have escaped or who are in the process of escaping;
 - (v) to prevent destruction of property if reasonably related to (i) through (iv); and
 - (vi) [to] stop behavior that incites other juveniles which jeopardizes the safety of staff and residents of the facility and is reasonably related to (i) through (iv).

Summary

The OJSO noted that the facility has made improvement in the resident files and reducing the number of room confinements. The OJSO also noted the facility has improved the accuracy of the documentation for room confinement and room restriction. The facility had made many improvements since the last visit in 2007.

DSH:js

