

Indiana Department of Correction
2014 Juvenile Detention Standards Compliance Report

Bartholomew County Youth Services Center
2350 Illinois Street
Columbus, IN 47201
September 25th – 26th, 2014

JUVENILE DETENTION STANDARDS AUDIT TEAM MEMBERS

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I. Introduction

The annual inspection for compliance with the Indiana Juvenile Detention Standards, pursuant to 210 IAC 6, of the Bartholomew County Youth Services Center (BCYSC) was conducted on September 25th and 26th, 2014. The audit team consisted of the following four members: Chance Sweat, IDOC Division of Youth Services Director of Juvenile Detention Inspections, and Laurie Elliott, Kristin Herrmann, and Amy Karozos, Youth Law T.E.A.M. of Indiana staff attorneys.

The 2014 inspection constituted the 18th annual inspection of the BCYSC. The inspection consisted of a facility tour with staff dialog, youth interviews, and a review of documentation regarding the facility's policy, procedure, and practice as related to the Indiana Juvenile Detention Standards. Compliance with all mandatory standards and at least 90% of the recommended standards is required to attain "Full Compliance" in accordance with the aforementioned code.

II. Facility Demographics

Rated Capacity: 18
Actual Population: 5
Average Daily Population for the last 12 months: 7
Average Length of Stay: 13 days
Full-Time Staff: 28
Part-Time Staff: 9
Contracted Staff: 1
Counties Served: All Indiana Counties
Data System: Informer

III. Facility Description

The BCYSC opened in October 1992 in Columbus, Indiana. The detention center is located on the same grounds as a 10 bed Shelter Care Facility and a Day Treatment Unit. The BCYSC Facility Director, Anita Biehle, oversees all three operations. The Bartholomew County Board of Commissioners is the facility governing authority.

The BCYSC consists of a main control station and two housing units, each with five single-bed rooms, one double-bed room, and two single-bed isolation rooms. The BCYSC detention center has a total of 18 beds.

Youth share a single day room area furnished with game tables and storage closets. During the audit period, both male and female youth resided on the same living unit. Each youth had his/her own sleeping room. The living unit has dual showers. Youth shower one at a time.

The BCYSC has full-size indoor gym and a secured outside recreation area.

The youth are under the supervision of detention staff and numerous surveillance cameras.

IV. Facility Tour

Facility Director Anita Biehle led the auditors on a tour of the detention portion of the facility. Ms. Biehle was more than willing to answer questions concerning facility operations. The sanitation level was satisfactory, and the housing units appeared clean and organized. Auditors interacted with detention staff assigned to various posts throughout the facility; staff was friendly and knowledgeable about their work duties and responsibilities. The medical area, located near main control, appeared neat and organized.

During the tour, youth were observed in a classroom working independently on education materials. The auditors met two teachers on the tour, but did not observe either one interacting with the youth. One female youth was on the computer completing a credit-recovery program from her home-school. One female youth was studying for her high school equivalency exam, and three male youth were working together on their school work.

V. Conditions of Confinement

A. Security

Detention staff are trained to use de-escalation techniques when interacting with the youth. All staff are trained in defensive tactics through the Mandt system. The BCYSC does not utilize OC spray, restraint chairs, or other immobilization devices. Instead, the BCYSC uses room restriction to address behavior violations and program disruptions. All isolation incidents are approved by the Facility Director, or designee, and monitored visually by staff.

B. Environmental Conditions

The BCYSC is a safe and positive environment. All areas of the detention center, including the living unit, were clean and organized. Sanitation in the facility was satisfactory. The living unit furniture was functional and in good condition.

Detention staff uniforms are khaki pants or jeans, a polo shirt with the BCYSC logo, and tennis shoes.

Youth uniforms are green or navy blue scrubs, grey sweat shirt, and slip-on tennis shoes.

C. Food Service

The BCYSC has a full kitchen. All kitchen areas, including freezers, refrigerators, and dry storage, appeared clean, organized, and functional. Meals are prepared on-site by BCYSC kitchen staff. The kitchen staff was friendly, informative about food service production, and willing to provide documentation for review.

Youth eat in the dining hall. Youth are permitted to talk during meals. Youth are supervised by staff. The serving trays appeared clean, and the food appearance was good. On the day of the tour, youth received a pork fritter with ketchup/mustard, diced fruit cocktail, an orange/apple, brussels sprouts, a wheat bun, kidney beans, and chocolate milk for lunch.

D. Medical Services

Medical staff at the BCYSC includes Physician Dr. Hatcher and LPN Tammy Brown. All staff are trained in CPR, First Aid, AED, and medication distribution.

E. Educational Program

The BCYSC educational program is administered by licensed teachers. Youth attend school five hours a day. They have two, 45 minute recreation periods, one in the morning and one in the afternoon. Each student engages in independent study, comprised of home school work, online credit recovery, or high school equivalency preparation, depending on the youth's needs. There is a Wellness program in which students receive physical education credit for participating.

F. Visitation

The BCYSC provides a visitation area for youth and their parents in the dining room. The BCYSC does not have the capability to offer non-contact visits.

G. Interviews

Three youths (two female and one male) were interviewed by auditors in a private room where they could speak freely. All three youth willingly spoke about their experiences with the facility. They reported feeling safe, knowing how to report abuse, and receiving plenty of food to eat. One female was 7.5 months pregnant and named accommodations the facility made due to her pregnancy, including providing an extra mattress to sleep on, pregnancy information, and transportation to doctor appointments.

H. Special Affiliations

BCSC participates in the Indiana Juvenile Detention Association (IJDA), the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI), and the Indiana Mental Health Screening, Assessment, and Treatment Project.

VI. Inspection Findings

A. Review of Folders

Folders were organized, but documentation from prior audits should be removed.

New signature sheets should be provided for each audit.

Relevant information should be high-lighted on documentation.

B. Non-Applicable and Non-Compliant Standards

Of the 275 recommended compliance standards, five were identified as non-applicable, and four were found to be non-compliant. A list of these standards is attached to this Compliance Report.

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VII. Conclusion

The BCYSC was found to be in compliance with 100% of the mandatory standards and 98.52% of the recommended standards. The facility was well maintained and organized. Staff were helpful and informative. A certificate of compliance will accompany this report, which becomes public information ten days from the date of mailing.

Please contact me at (317) 607-6507 should you have any questions concerning this report.

Respectfully submitted,

C. Sweat

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Standards determined to be non-applicable and non-compliant from a total of 301 standards (26 Mandatory and 275 Recommended)

Standard # and Remarks:

4- Non-Compliant:

2.96- Each sleeping room has at a minimum the following facilities and conditions:

- sanitation facilities, including access to toilet facilities that are available for use without staff assistance 24 hours
- a wash basin with hot and cold running water
- a bed, desk, and seating
- natural light
- temperatures that are appropriate to the summer and winter comfort zones.

Comments: Cells do not have toilets, sinks, tables or chairs

2.99- Toilets are provided at a minimum ratio of one for every 12 juveniles in male facilities and one for every eight juveniles in female facilities. Urinals may be substituted for up to one-half of the toilets in male facilities. All housing units with five or more juveniles have a minimum of two toilets.

Comments: Cells do not have toilet- Youth share (1) toilet for (16) youth per unit

2.102- Handicapped juveniles are housed in a manner that provides for their safety and security. Rooms or housing units used by the handicapped are designed for their use and provide for integration with the general population. Appropriate facility programs and activities are accessible to handicapped juveniles confined in the facility. (ACA-2C-09)

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Comments: No proof of practice & the facility does not meet standard

3.186- Written policy, procedure, and practice ensure and facilitate juvenile access to counsel and assist juveniles in making confidential contact with attorneys and their authorized representatives. Such contact includes but is not limited to telephone communications, uncensored correspondence, and visits. (ACA-3D-02)

Comments: "Confidential" letters are copied in full in 3.185

5-Non-Applicable:

1.5- Written policy, procedure, and practice provide that if services for adult and juvenile offenders are provided for by the same agency, statements of philosophy, policy, program, and procedure distinguish between criminal codes and the statutes that establish and give direction to programs for juveniles. (ACA-1A-07)

1.34- If there is a commissary or canteen, strict controls are maintained over its operation and regular accounting procedures are followed: (ACA-1B-18)

1.36- Written policy, procedure, and practice provide that any financial transactions permitted between juveniles, juveniles and staff, and juveniles and volunteers be approved by designated staff. (ACA-1B-21)

2.103- When there is a security room separate from the living unit, it is equipped with plumbing and security furniture. (ACA-2C-10)

5.289- When the juvenile bears the mailing costs, there is no limit on the volume of letters he/she can send or receive. (ACA-5G-02)