

Indiana Department of Correction
2014-Juvenile Detention Standards- Compliance Report

Clark County Juvenile Detention Center
609 Meigs Avenue
Jeffersonville, IN 47130
December 2nd – 3rd, 2014

JUVENILE DETENTION STANDARDS AUDIT TEAM MEMBERS

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I. Introduction

The annual inspection of the Clark County Juvenile Detention Center, for compliance with the Indiana Juvenile Detention Standards, pursuant to 210 IAC 6, was conducted on December 2nd – 3rd, 2014, by the following team: representing the IDOC, Division of Youth Services was Chance Sweat, DYS, Director of Juvenile Detention Inspections; Kellie Whitcomb, DYS, Director of Re-Entry and External Relations; Amy Karozos, Staff Attorney, Youth Law T.E.A.M. of Indiana; Michelle Mosier, Compliance Monitor, Youth Law T.E.A.M. of Indiana; and Yul Lee, JDAI Juvenile Justice Strategist.

The 2014 inspection constitutes the 18th annual inspection of the Clark County Juvenile Detention Center. The inspection consisted of a facility tour, staff and youth interviews, and a review of policy, procedure, and demonstrated practice as related to the Indiana Juvenile Detention Standards. Compliance with 100% of the mandatory standards and at least 90% of the recommended standards is required to attain “Full Compliance” in accordance with the aforementioned code.

A tour of the Clark County Juvenile Detention Center revealed many concerns related to conditions of confinement and the quality of life for the youth held at the Center. Immediate action is necessary; please submit a corrective plan of action no later than 30 days after receipt of this report.

II. Facility Demographics

Rated Capacity: 14
Actual Population: 11
Average Daily Population for the last 12 months: 17
Average Length of Stay: 11 days
Full Time Staff: 14
Part- Time Staff: 11
Contracted Staff: 4
Counties served: Clark, Floyd, Harrison, Scott, Washington and Jefferson County, Kentucky
Data system: Access

III. Facility Description

The Clark County Juvenile Detention Center is located in the city of Jeffersonville, Indiana. The Center opened in August 1991. The Clark County Juvenile Detention Center is a 14-bed, secure facility and is located inside the Clark County courthouse.

The Clark County Juvenile Detention Center Facility Director- Lyda Abell oversees the detention operations with the assistance of Facility Assistant Director- Jennifer Snawder. Judge Vicki Carmichael and Clark County Circuit Court #4 are the governing authority of the facility. The 14- coed, single-bed cell detention facility consists of a Main control station, classroom, and small kitchen, 2- dayroom areas, an indoor game room, an outside recreation area, library, laundry room, and medical room. An additional single-bed cell is located near the control room and is used for isolation and observation purposes.

IV. Facility Tour and Conditions of Confinement

A. Conditions of Confinement

The team toured the entire facility. Lyda Abell, Facility Director and Jennifer Snawder, Assistant Facility Director accompanied the team on the tour and were more than willing to answer the team's questions concerning facility operations.

The sanitation levels and building maintenance of the main areas of the facility were found to be in poor condition.

Areas of concern include:

- Intake area and office areas were disorganized and had stacks of papers and supplies throughout;
- Conference room had holes in the wall in need of repair;
- Walls in kitchen and front dayroom needed to be cleaned;
- Kitchen refrigerator was missing parts and the seal appeared in disrepair;
- Kitchen sink has a significant leak and is in disrepair;
- Juvenile cells had profanity, graffiti, etc. scratched on walls, bed frames, desks, stool, windows, and doors;
- Juvenile cells had missing floor tiles and the baseboard area of the walls needed repaired or repainted;
- Juvenile cell doors had locking devices in disrepair;
- Blankets had holes in them and needed to be replaced;
- The main showers have been inoperable for months;
- The bed frame in the observation room is pulling away from the wall and is need of repair;
- Storage cabinets were missing handles;
- The walls in the outdoor recreation area needed to be painted.

There were also water stained ceiling tiles, however facility staff reported that the building's maintenance department was addressing this issue.

B. Security

Youth Detention staff at the center have been trained to use the Safe Crisis Management program for de-escalation techniques and defensive tactics with the youth. The center does have access to a restraint chair when all avenues are exhausted to de-escalate but does not use any other immobilization devices. The center does use the observation cell and individual room restriction for behavior violations, programming disruption, and / or out of control behavior. All isolation incidents are approved by Facility Director or designee and juveniles are monitored visually by unit staff.

C. Environmental Conditions

The detention center opened in August 1991. The environmental conditions are currently below satisfactory levels for the confinement of youth.

D. Food Service

The detention center has a small kitchen in which all meals are prepared by Detention Center staff. Observations of the kitchen revealed: the refrigerators were dirty with food and juice stains; dry storage food items were not dated and frozen food items were not dated; kitchen counter tops, the oven and crock pots, the walls and kitchen window were dirty, covered with grease, dust and food stains. After speaking with Detention Administrator about the condition of the kitchen, all deficits were immediately addressed.

E. Medical Services

The medical office appeared to be neat, clean, and orderly; medication inventory logs were accurate and up- to-date.

The Clark County Juvenile Detention Center contracts medical services with Nurse Practitioner Denise Brooks, and nursing services with LPN- Mike Hammond. All staff are trained in CPR/First Aid, AED and medication distribution.

F. Educational Program

The education classroom was clean, orderly, and promoted a learning environment. Youth were observed positively interacting with the teacher.

The education program is overseen by Lyda Abell, Facility Director of Services and Teacher Janelle Fitzpatrick. Ms. Fitzpatrick's position is funded by Title 1 grants. The detention center staff works with the youth's home school to get school work either emailed or faxed to the detention center. The detention center school program includes access to a Smart board, desk top computers and laptops.

The Youth attend school Monday thru Friday, twelve-months per year and have 6 hours of instruction per day. They also participate in 1 hour of physical education per day, monitored by detention staff.

F. Visitation

The Center provides visitation area for youth and their parents or guardians at least one day per week.

V. Interviews

Three youth (3 male) were interviewed by Michelle Mosier and Amy Karozos using combined questions from the IDOC detention youth inspections document and the Youth Law T.E.A.M. suggested questions. Interview questions covered: Intake and Admissions; Social Services; Academic, Vocational, and Work; Library; Recreation; Living and Sleeping Areas; and Discipline and Rule Violations; Access to Counsel; Medical Care; and Food Service.

Staff gave us privacy and allowed access to all juveniles. The youth were open, not hesitant, and seemed to feel comfortable about talking about the facility. Youth interviewed reported that they know the rules, felt safe and all were very positive about the staff. All youth were able to call a parent or guardian when they arrived at the center. All juveniles knew how to access medical, mental health care and attorney. The youth reported being served three meals a day (including two hot meals).

VI. Special Affiliations

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

VII. Inspection Findings

A. Review of Folders

- Folders were very organized and easy to read.

B. Non- applicable and Non- compliant Standards

Of the 275 recommended compliance standards, one (1) were identified as non-applicable and two (2) standards were found to be non-compliant. A list of these standards is attached to this Compliance Report.

VIII. Conclusion

The Clark County Juvenile Detention Center was founded to be in compliance with 100% of the mandatory standards and 98.91% of the recommended standards. However, due to the serious concerns regarding the facility's maintenance and the poor conditions of confinement a Corrective Action Plan shall be developed.

It is important to note, staff at the Center were respectful, positive, and seemed to sincerely care about the quality of care provided to the youth; however they have been unable to resolve many of the building maintenance issues identified in this report.

This report, which becomes public information ten (10) days from the date of mailing

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

Respectfully submitted,

C. Sweat

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cc: Christine Blessinger- Acting Executive Director of Juvenile Services
Kellie Whitcomb- Director of Reentry & External Relations
Honorable Vicki Carmichael; Juvenile Judge, Clark County
Lyda Abell – Facility Director, Clark County Juvenile Detention Center
File

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

2- Non-Compliant:

2.92- The number of juveniles does not exceed the facility's rated bed capacity. (ACA-2B-06)

Comments: Facility exceeded rated bed capacity during the inspection period

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)

Comments: Facility does not have fully accessible handicap cell

1-Non-Applicable:

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)