

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

Hamilton County Juvenile Services Center
18106 Cumberland Road
Noblesville, Indiana 46060
April 1st-2nd, 2014

JUVENILE DETENTION STANDARDS AUDIT TEAM MEMBERS

Amy Karozos
Attorney, Youth Law T.E.A.M. of Indiana
445 North Pennsylvania Street Suite 520
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204
(317) 916-0786
akarozos@youthlawteam.org

Chance Sweat
DYS, Director of Juvenile Detention Inspections
IDOC, Division of Youth Services
302 West Washington Street, Room E334
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204
(317) 607-6507
csweat@idoc.IN.gov

Kellie Whitcomb
DYS, Director of Re- Entry and External Relations
IDOC, Division of Youth Services
302 West Washington Street, Room E334
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204
(317) 408-1482
kwhitcomb@idoc.in.gov

Laurie Elliott
Executive Director, Youth Law T.E.A.M. of Indiana
445 North Pennsylvania Street Suite 520
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204
(317) 916-0786
lelliott@youthlawteam.org

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I. Introduction

The annual inspection of the Hamilton County Juvenile Services Center, for compliance with the Indiana Juvenile Detention Standards, pursuant to 210 IAC 6, was conducted on April 1st- 2nd 2014, by the following team: representing the IDOC, Division of Youth Services was Kellie Whitcomb, DYS, Director of Re- Entry and External Relations; Chance Sweat, DYS, Director of Juvenile Detention Inspections; Laurie Elliott, Executive Director of the Youth Law T.E.A.M. of Indiana; and Amy Karozos, Staff Attorney, Youth Law T.E.A.M. of Indiana.

The 2014 inspection constitutes the 17th - annual inspection of the Hamilton County Juvenile Services Center. The inspection consisted of the 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% 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: 60
Actual Population: 23
Average Daily Population for the last 12 months: 24
Average Length of Stay: 19 days
Full Time Staff: 30
Part- Time Staff: 4
Counties served: Hamilton, Hendricks and Tipton
Data system: New World (an inter- county system)

III. Facility Description

The Hamilton County Juvenile Services Center is located in the city of Noblesville, Indiana. The Juvenile Services Center opened in 2007, replacing a much smaller detention unit previously located on the same property. The Hamilton County Juvenile Services Center contains the 70- bed juvenile detention center; the 20- bed juvenile shelter care facility; the facility juvenile probation offices; and the out-of-school suspension program administered by the county prosecutor’s office.

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The Juvenile Service Center Director, Captain Jeff Marcum oversees the detention and shelter care operations. Captain Marcum reports directly to Major Mark Bowen of the Hamilton County Sheriff's Department. Sheriff Mark Bowen is governing authority for the County's Juvenile Service Center.

The 70- bed secure detention facility consists of 3- separate 20- bed housing units/pods: a female unit; a general population- male unit; and a special needs unit. Each housing unit/pod is comprised of the following: central control station; a central dayroom area; 2 , 10- bed units with 8- single bed cells and 2- double cells, game table and pay- phone; and out- door recreation areas.

The Center also has a 10- bed maximum security unit, consisting of 8 single- bed cells and 2 double- bed cells.

In addition, the Center has the following special housing capabilities: a 5- bed Behavior Management Unit; a 9- bed Intake Unit; and 2 negative- air flow rooms on the Medical Unit.

IV. Facility Tour

The team toured the entire facility Captain Jeff Marcum and Sgt. Brandy Egan accompanied the team on the tour and responded to the team's questions concerning facility operations. The facility was clean, and well maintained, and free of odor. Detention staff interviewed were well versed in policy and procedures, and were respectful and supportive of administration. The Medical and Education Departments were very organized, clean and department staff were informative. The facility dining hall was clean, and food appearance and smell was good. The Youth Service Center has a nice, full- size indoor gymnasium and also out- door recreation facilities.

V. Conditions of Confinement

A. Security

Correctional officers at the Youth Service Center are trained to use de- escalation techniques with the youth. Additionally, Officers are trained in Defensive Tactics through the County's Law Enforcement Academy, Jail Officer's Course.

All Correctional Officers are trained to use chemical restraints and carry OC spray on their utility belts. Specifically identified staff is trained in electrical immobilization techniques; and have access to and are authorized to use hand- held stun device when necessary. The Center is currently trained and has access to a restraint chair.

Correctional officers work 12 hour shifts, beginning at either 6:30 am or 6:30 pm.

B. Environment Conditions

The Youth Services Center opened in 2007 and still looks like a new facility. The Center is clean, orderly, and well maintained. Sanitation in the facility was found to be very good. The resident's furniture is functional and in good condition. Youth are assigned weekly cleaning details and have daily requirements for their living space, such as making their beds. This detention facility seems safe and offers an extremely secure, correctional- like environment.

The staff uniforms consist of black BDU- type pants and detention- specific shirts and utility belts. The control room staff uniforms are the same detention- specific shirts and khaki-colored pants.

Youth at the Center wear orange and white striped correctional tops and pants with orange cloth slip- on tennis shoes. Female youth are also provided pink night gowns.

Points of concern:

- Youth reported that the sleeping areas are uncomfortably cold and only receive 2 blankets each during the winter months.
- None of the youth knew how to report abuse to an outside source. During the facility tour, staff explained a phone system that would allow youth to call out to report abuse, even if they do not have money on their phone card. None of the youth were aware of this or how to use it.

C. Food Service

Meals are prepared at the Hamilton County Jail and are transported to the Youth Services Center in insulated trays. Youth receive and eat their meals in the dining hall of the Youth Center.

D. Medical / Mental Health Care Services

As of December 2012, the Youth Services Center contracts medical and mental health care services through Advanced Correctional Healthcare, with the positions being shared between the detention center and the county jail. Through the contract: a physician visits the detention center at least once per week and is on-call 24 hours per day; nursing services are available 24 hours per day, 7 days per week; and there is also a full- time licensed mental health professional position shared between detention center and the jail.

E. Education Program

The Noblesville School Corporation helps provide education services to the youth, by providing one license teacher; while the Center provides a second teacher and a teacher assistant. Youth attend school 4.5 hours per day. The school program includes computer access to credit recovery courses; GED classes; and IEP development and special education programs for the youth who are at the Center for more than 10 days.

The education area was welcoming with informational and inspirational posters on the walls and was clean and well maintained. The Youth Services Center has a nice library, provided from the Hamilton County Public Library.

F. Visitation

The Youth Services Center provides private visitation rooms for youth and their families' for family members over the age of 18. The Center has the capability to offer non- contact visits, if necessary.

VI. Youth Interviews

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. Also, the youth reported that they felt staff were there to help them and really wanted the youth to do well. Youth had no complaints about the environment. All juveniles knew how to access medical and mental health care. The youth reported being served three meals a day (including two hot meals).

Points of concern:

- Girls reported they were not offered time in the gym when the number of girls at the facility was low. They watched TV, read, etc during recreation time but did not get physical activity. A staff member confirmed that girls did not go to the gym when their numbers were very low, but indicated the girls were offered the opportunity and chose not to go to the gym.

VII. Special Affiliations

The Hamilton County Services Center participates in the Indiana Juvenile Detention Association (IJDA) and in the Indiana Mental Health Screening, Assessment, and Treatment Project.

VIII. Inspections Findings

A. Review of Folders:

- Folders containing the standards, policy and procedures, and secondary documentation were well organized on the computer.
- Folders could be improved by adding pictures and including the written policy and/or procedure.
- Highlight documentation in all folders that are pertain to the standard in the packet.
- Facility staff was very cooperative concerning questions or explanation of policy and procedure.

B. Recommendations:

- Implement a policy, procedure, and practice of providing employees who have direct contact with juveniles to receive a physical examination prior to job assignment.
- Implement a policy, procedure, and practice for the thorough cleaning and, when necessary, disinfecting of juvenile personal clothing before storage or before allowing the juvenile to keep and wear personal clothing.
- Implement a policy, procedure, and practice to provide for a social services program that makes available a range of resources appropriate to the needs of juveniles, including individual, group, and family counseling; drug and alcohol treatment and special offender services.
- Fill vacancy for qualified recreation staff member position by 2015 annual audit inspection.

C. Non- applicable and Non- compliant Standards

Of the 275 recommended compliance standards, zero (0) were identified as non-applicable and five (5) were found to be non-compliant. A list of these standards is attached to this Compliance Report.

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IX. Conclusion

Hamilton County Youth Services Center was founded to be in compliance with 100% of the mandatory standards and 98.54% for the recommended standards. The facility was well maintained and organized. The staff was very respectful, 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

Chance Sweat
Director of Juvenile Detention Inspections
Indiana Dept. of Correction / Division of Youth Services
Phone: 317-232-5741
Cell: 317- 607-6507
csweat@idoc.IN.gov

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cc: Michael Dempsey- Executive Director of Juvenile Services
Christine Blessinger- Assistant Executive Director of Juvenile Services
Kellie Whitcomb- Director of Reentry & External Relations
Captain Jeff Marcum, Director, Hamilton County Juvenile Services Center
File

Standards determined to be non- compliant:

5- Non- compliant:

- 1.45- Written policy, procedure, and practice provide that employees who have direct contact with juveniles receive a physical examination prior to job assignment. Employees receive re- examination according to a defined need or schedule. (ACA-1C-14)

Comment: Physical exams are not being required of employees prior to job assignment but is an annual physical performed.

- 4.216- Written policy, procedure, and practice require that the facility provides for through cleaning and, when necessary, disinfecting of juvenile personal clothing before storage or before allowing the juvenile to keep and wear personal clothing. (ACA-4B-12)

Comment: Clothing is placed in storage containers without cleaning due to liability concerns. Plan of Action being researched.

- 5.268- Written policy, procedure, and practice provide for a social services program that makes available a range of resources appropriate to the needs of juveniles, including individual, group, and family counseling; drug and alcohol treatment and special offender services. (ACA-5B-01)

Comment: No group or family counseling is offered in the policy.

- 5.281- The facility has a qualified staff member who shall direct and supervise all recreation programs. (ACA-5E-01)

Comment: Plan of Action is in place requesting a position in completion date in 2015.