

Indiana Department of Correction
2014 Juvenile Detention Standards Compliance Report

LaPorte County Juvenile Services Center
0364 Zigler Road
LaPorte, IN 46350
October 14th – 15th, 2014

JUVENILE DETENTION STANDARDS AUDIT TEAM MEMBERS

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I. Introduction

The annual inspection of the LaPorte County Juvenile Services Center (LCJSC), for compliance with the Indiana Juvenile Detention Standards, pursuant to 210 IAC 6, was conducted on October 14th and 15th, 2014. The audit team consisted of the following members: Chance Sweat, IDOC Division of Youth Services Director of Juvenile Detention Inspections; Amy Karozos, Youth Law T.E.A.M. of Indiana staff attorney; and Yul Lee, JDAI Juvenile Justice Strategist.

The 2014 inspection constitutes the 18th annual inspection of the LCJSC. The inspection consisted of a facility tour, youth interviews, and a review of policy, procedure, and documentation demonstrating 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.

II. Facility Demographics

Rated Capacity: 12
Actual Population: 4
Average Daily Population for the last 12 months: 10
Average Length of Stay: 10 days
Full Time Staff: 42
Part- Time Staff: 13
Contracted Staff: 13
Counties served: LaPorte
Data system: Quest

III. Facility Description

The LCJSC is located in the city of LaPorte, Indiana and opened in June 1992. The LCJSC is co-located with the LaPorte County Circuit Juvenile Court.

Facility Director Erika Stallworth oversees the detention operations, along with Assistant Facility Director Dennis Orr. Judge Thomas Alevizos and LaPorte County Circuit Court, serve as the facility’s governing authority.

The LCJSC is a 12, single bed roomed detention facility with a main control station, two resident ranges, classroom, gym, dining hall, medical room, and a single-bed room located near the intake and main control areas that can be used as an isolation room. Each range has showers and a storage closet.

The LCJSC is equipped with numerous surveillance cameras, both inside and outside the facility. The rear perimeter of the facility is also controlled with fencing and razor wire.

IV. Facility Tour

Assistant Facility Director Dennis Orr led auditors on a facility tour and was more than willing to answer questions concerning facility operations. Sanitation levels in the facility were found to be satisfactory. The staff auditors were friendly and knowledgeable about their duties and responsibilities. The medical department was cluttered. The nurse was friendly and knowledgeable about the medical department and facility operations.

The education classroom is located near main control. The indoor recreation area is also located near the main control area of the facility.

V. Conditions of Confinement

A. Security

Detention staff at the center is trained to use TCI Techniques for de-escalation and TCI Techniques for defensive tactics when interacting with the youth. The LCJSC does not have a restraint chair or any other immobilization devices. Staff are equipped to use OC spray, but only after all de-escalation techniques are exhausted. LCJSC does use isolation and room restriction for managing behavior violations and program disruptions. All isolation incidents are approved by the Facility Director or designee, and juveniles are monitored visually by unit staff.

B. Environmental Conditions

The LCJSC appeared clean, and the residents' furniture was functional and in good condition. However, the LCJSC had several maintenance issues. The sleeping rooms were in need of fresh paint to cover gang graffiti. The intake area shower and unit showers were not working properly. The intake shelves were rusty and need to be replaced. The medical area needs to be de-cluttered.

Detention staff wear khaki pants, polo shirts with the county logo, and sweaters. Youth wear orange jumpsuits with white t-shirts and orange sandal shoes.

C. Food Service

The LCJSC has a kitchen, and all meals are prepared by LCJSC kitchen staff. The kitchen staff was friendly, knowledgeable about food service production, and more than willing to provide documentation for review. The kitchen production area, freezers, refrigerators, and dry storage areas were clean and organized. Staff supervise youth eating in the dining hall. On the day of the tour, youth received country fried chicken, mash potatoes, sliced oranges, carrots, wheat bread, and milk for lunch. The serving trays appeared clean, and the food's appearance was good.

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D. Medical Services

The LCJSC contracts medical services through IU Health LaPorte Hospital. All staff are trained in CPR/First Aid, AED and medication distribution.

The LCJSC mental health care services are provided by master's level counselors, two of which are licensed, paid for by LaPorte County.

E. Educational Program

The education program is overseen by Facility Director Erika Stallworth and Assistant Facility Director Dennis Orr. The LCJSC has three licensed educators provided by LaPorte County. The facility works closely with LaPorte Community School Corp and Michigan City Area Schools. Youth receive six hours of instruction each day, Monday through Friday, 12 months a year. They also participate in one hour of physical education each day, monitored by detention staff.

The school program includes computer access to (PLATO) credit recovery courses, on-line home school programs, TASC prep, and remedial work.

F. Visitation

The Center provides visitation area for youth and their parents or guardians. The Center does not have the capability to offer non- contact visits, if necessary

VI. Interviews

Three youth (2 male, 1 female) were interviewed using combined questions from the DOC 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.

The youth interviews occurred in a private setting. The youth were open and did not hesitate to share their experiences in the facility. The youth interviewed reported knowing the rules, feeling safe, and viewing the staff positively. All youth reported being able to call a parent or guardian upon arrival at the facility, knowing how to access medical and mental health services, and knowing how to contact their attorney. The youth reported being served three meals a day, including two hot meals.

VII. Special Affiliations

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

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VIII. 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, two (2) were identified as non-applicable and zero (0) standards were found to be non-compliant. A list of these standards is attached to this Compliance Report.

IX. Conclusion

The LaPorte County Juvenile Services Center was founded to be in compliance with 100% of the mandatory standards and 100% of 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

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cc: Christine Blessinger- Acting Executive Director of Juvenile Services
Kellie Whitcomb- Director of Reentry & External Relations
Honorable Thomas Alevizos; Judge, LaPorte County
Erika Stallworth – Facility Director, LaPorte County Juvenile Services Center
File

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**Standards determined to be non-applicable and non-compliant:
Total 301 Standards. 26 Mandatory. 275 Recommended.
Standard # and Remarks:**

2 -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)