

Indiana Department of Correction, Division of Youth Services
2014 Juvenile Detention Inspection - Compliance Report

Lake County Juvenile Center
3000 West 93rd Avenue
Crown Point, IN 46307
April 29th – 30th, 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 Lake County Juvenile Center was conducted on April 29th and 30th, 2014, by the following team: representing the Youth Law T.E.A.M. of Indiana was Amy Karozos, Staff Attorney; and representing the IDOC, Division of Youth Service were Marc Kniola, Director of Programs; Yul Lee, JDAI Juvenile Justice Strategist; Kellie Whitcomb, Director of Reentry and External Relations; and Chance Sweat, Director of Juvenile Detention Inspections.

The 2014 inspection constitutes the 17th annual inspection of the Lake County Juvenile Center. The inspection consisted of the facility tours, staff and youth interviews, and a review of facility 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.

II. Facility Demographics

Rated Capacity: 146

Actual Population on the first day of the inspection: 52

Average Daily Population for the last 12 months: 59

Average Length of Stay: 17 days

Full Time Staff: 50

Part- Time Staff: 11

Contracted Staff: 17

Counties served: Lake (Facility is able to, but not currently receiving youth from other counties.)

Data system: Quest

III. Facility Description

The Lake County Juvenile Center is located in the city of Crown Point, Indiana. The Juvenile Center opened in 1977 and was expanded in 2002. The Lake County Juvenile Center contains the 144 bed Juvenile Center, Juvenile Probation offices, Juvenile Courts, the Prosecutor and Clerk’s offices, as well as CASA.

The Lake County Juvenile Center Superintendent E.R. Bennett oversees the detention operations as well as the Security Detention Alternatives Program (House Arrest and Intensive Probation). Judge Thomas P. Stefaniak, Jr. is the facility governing authority.

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The 146- bed secure detention facility consists of 4 separate 16- bed housing units/pods, and 4-wings.

Each of the housing units/s is comprised of the following: central control station; game tables; telephones, and a television.

IV. Facility Tour

The team toured the entire facility. Detention staff Dan Arendas, Assistant Director of Detention and Mr. Clayton, Shift Supervisor accompanied the team on the tour and provided information regarding facility operations. The facility was found to be neat, clean, and orderly. Detention staff interviewed was well versed in policy and procedures, and were respectful and supportive of administration. Juveniles were observed to be positively interacting with staff in the dining hall, in class rooms, and in their dayrooms and individual cells. The Juvenile Center has a nice indoor gymnasium area.

V. Conditions of Confinement

A. Security

Youth Care Workers at the Center are trained to use de- escalation techniques with the youth. Additionally, they are trained in use of and defensive tactics through Aikido Control Techniques. The Center does not use restraint chair, OC spray or any other immobilization devices or techniques. The Center does use in room restriction for behavior violations and medical isolation. All isolation incidents is approved by an administrative designee and monitored visual by unit staff.

Youth Care Workers work 8 hour shifts, 5 days a week. Staff uniforms are not required, the required attire includes a polo shirts and jeans/pants with utility belts while on duty.

B. Environment Conditions

The Juvenile Center opened in 1997 and appeared to provide a safe and secure environment. The facility was found to be clean and orderly, and sanitation in the facility was found to be good. The resident's furniture is functional and in good condition.

Youth at the Center wear grey sweat shirt tops and white / orange scrub type pants with their own gym shoes. The Juvenile Center issues slip- on shower shoes at admission.

Points of concern included:

- Youth are not provided with complete sets of bedding, they do not receive sheets, pillows or pillow cases.
- Youth report that they must share hygiene items, including bars or pieces of soap and combs.

C. Food Service

Meals are prepared at the Center by contracted food service providers. Youth receive and eat their meals in the dining area of the Center. The most recent Indiana State Department of Health inspection was conducted on April 9th, 2014; one “critical” item was noted and corrected the same day.

D. Medical/ Mental Health Care Services

The Center’s medical department consists of: one physician, Dr. Aaron Johns; and three nursing staff, 1- RN and 2- LPN’s. Through contracted services: the physician visits the detention center at least twice per week and is on-call 24 hours per day; nursing services are available 24 hours per day, 7 days per week; and the Center has total of 15 health-trained staff.

The Center’s mental health care is provided by one psychologist, Dr. Ron Ruff; and two mental health therapists.

E. Educational Program

The Education Director position is currently vacant. Youth attend a day-time education program, daily for 4 hours per day. The day-time education program at the Center is staffed by 1 licensed teacher and detention center non-licensed staff. Ms. Gerard is licensed in and teaches Language Arts. Other classes provided include: Physical Education, Arts and Crafts, and Life Skills.

The Merrillville Community School Corporation provides evening instruction 2 to 3 evenings per week. The evening instruction is provided by licensed teachers and can include: credit recovery, GED preparation; and remedial education programs.

Point of concern:

- None of the youth interviewed were working on academics that would result in credit when they are released. Although the facility allows for home school work to be done, it seems few youth receive work from their home schools. The art class, which counts as one hour of their 4 hour education program, was a concern as the youth reported only coloring from coloring books or writing letters.

F. Visitation

The Center provides private visitation rooms for youth and their parents or guardians 3 days per week. The Center also 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 appeared open, not hesitant, and seemed to feel comfortable about talking about their experience at the facility. Youth interviewed reported that they knew 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 and mental health care. The youth reported being served three meals a day, (including two hot meals).

Points of concern include:

- Juveniles reported they could not call attorneys, and none knew their attorney's contact information, although all had appointed attorneys. In order to contact their attorney, one youth said he would have to go through probation.
- Youth reported that the sleeping areas are uncomfortably cold. They receive up to 7 very thin and worn blankets each during the winter months, and are not allowed sheets or pillows. They are only allowed to sleep in their underwear and a sweatshirt. The youth's socks, t-shirts and pants are placed outside the rooms prior to bedtime.

VII. Special Affiliations

The Lake County Juvenile Center is an active participant in the Indiana Juvenile Detention Association (IJDA), the Indiana Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI) and the Indiana Mental Health Project. The Center has just recently joined IDOC, DYS and 5 other juvenile detention centers in the Council of Juvenile Correctional Administrators (CJCA), Performance-based Standards (PbS).

VIII. Inspection Findings

A. Review of Folders

- Policies need to be updated and approved, as deemed appropriate by the Judge.
- Provide documentation in each Standards Folder that fully supports compliance with all components of each standard.
- Highlight relevant information in the policy, procedure, and supporting documentation to demonstrate compliance with the specific requirements of each standard.

B. Recommendations

- Complete bedding is not provided to any juvenile. Recommend providing sheets, pillows and pillow cases to those juveniles who are in general population and who do not have any housing restrictions.

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- Blankets were found to be extremely worn and thin. Many juveniles had been given 6 or 7 blankets each to keep warm. Recommend replacing the worn and thin blanket with new.
- Juveniles must remove their outer clothing prior to going into their cells. Recommend that the Center allow juveniles who do not have any housing restriction, to either keep on their outer clothing or be provided sleeping shorts/shirts when placed in their cells.
- Juveniles are expected to share bars and/or pieces of soap and combs. Recommend providing juveniles individual combs and bars of soap, or consider using liquid soap that could be dispensed individually.
- Inside the pods, many of the pipe chase doors were found to be unsecured. Recommend that the pipe chase doors be secured at all times; supervisory staff conducts regular security checks to monitor compliance; and consider issuing the supervisory staff keys to the pipe chase doors to prevent the need to leave the doors unsecured.

C. Non-applicable and Non-compliant Standards

Of the 275 recommended compliance standards, three (3) were identified as non-applicable and nine (9) were found to be non-compliant. A list of these standards is attached to this Compliance Report.

IX. Conclusion

Lake County Juvenile Center was founded to be in compliance with 100% of the mandatory standards and 96.7 % of the recommended standards. The facility was well maintained and organized, and provides a safe and secure environment for the youth. The staff was very respectful, helpful and informative. It is important to note however, there are a few quality of life and conditions of confinement concerns that should be addressed, specifically related to the sharing of hygiene products, providing adequate bedding supplies, and clothing permitted during room confinement. This report will become 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: Michael Dempsey- Executive Director of Juvenile Services
Christine Blessinger- Assistant Executive Director of Juvenile Services
Kellie Whitcomb- Director of Reentry & External Relations
Honorable Thomas Stefaniak, Lake County
E.R. Bennett- Director of Lake County Juvenile Center
File

Standards determined to be non-applicable and non-compliant:

3 - 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)
- 4.235- When facilities do not have full-time, qualified, health-trained personnel, a health-trained staff member coordinates the health delivery services in the facility under the joint supervision of the responsible health authority and facility administrator. (ACA-4C-17)

9 - 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 reexaminations according to a defined need or schedule. (ACA-1C-14)

Comment: Physical exams prior to job assignment are not required by the county

- 1.47- Written policy, procedure, and practice provide for an annual written performance review of each employee. The review is based on defined criteria and the results are discussed with the employee. (ACA-1C-16)

Comment: Annual written performance evaluations are not completed

- 1.58- Written policy, procedure, and practice provide that all managerial staff receive 40 hours of training in addition to orientation training during their first year of employment and 40 hours of training each year thereafter. This training covers at a minimum the following areas:
 - general management
 - labor law
 - staff/management relations
 - the juvenile justice system
 - relationships with other service agencies (ACA-1D-08)

Comment: Records do not establish that standard is being met, managerial staff records do not show 40 hrs of orientation training during first year

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- 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.(ACA-2C-03)

Comment: *Sleeping rooms provide a bed and desk, but not a seat*

- 4.217- Written policy, procedure, and practice provide for the issue of suitable clean bedding and linen, including two sheets, pillow and pillowcase, one mattress, and sufficient blankets to provide comfort under existing temperature controls. There is provision for linen exchange at least weekly. Policy and procedure will address the special linen needs of the juveniles. (ACA-4B-12)

Comment: *Sheets, pillows and pillow cases are not provided. Blankets are extremely worn, resulting in some juveniles having 6 or 7 blankets.*

- 4.228 - Appropriate State and Federal licensure, certification, registration requirements and restrictions apply to personnel who provide health care services to juveniles. The duties and responsibilities of such personnel are governed by written job descriptions approved by the health authority. Verification of current credentials and job descriptions are on file in the facility. (ACA-4C-10)

Comment: *Health care service job descriptions have not been approved by Health Authority Medical personnel job descriptions have not been reviewed by responsible physician and the facility administrator.(A note on the job descriptions indicated a review by physician was conducted in 1996, and the note states, "in process of revision", however the form was not updated.)*

- 4.230- The specific duties of qualified medical personnel are governed by written job descriptions approved by the responsible physician and the facility administrator. (ACA-4C-12)

Comment: *Medical personnel job descriptions have not been reviewed by responsible physician and the facility administrator.(A note on the job descriptions indicated a review by physician was conducted in 1996, and the note states, "in process of revision", however the form was not updated.)*

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- 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 proof that drug & alcohol treatment is provided, no description of group counseling sessions being offered

- 5.273- There is a comprehensive education program for juveniles. (ACA-5C-01)

Comment: A comprehensive education program is not provided.