

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

Muskegon River Youth Center
8506 South Academy Way
Ladoga, IN 47954
October 7th- 8th, 2014

Juvenile Detention Standards Audit Team Members

Ashley Barnett
JDAI Juvenile Justice Strategist
IDOC, Division of Youth Services
(317) 607-1703
abarnett2@idoc.IN.gov

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

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

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

Michelle Mosier
Compliance Monitor of the Youth Law T.E.A.M. of Indiana
445 N. Pennsylvania Street, Suite 520
Indianapolis, IN 46204
(317)916-0786
m Mosier@youthlawteam.org

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I. Introduction

The annual inspection for compliance of the Indiana Juvenile Detention Standards, pursuant to 210 IAC 6, of the Muskegon River Youth Center was conducted on October 7th and 8th, 2014. The audit team consisted of the following individuals: Chance Sweat, IDOC Division of Youth Services of Juvenile Detention Inspections; Kellie Whitcomb, IDOC, DYS, Director of Re-Entry and External Relations; Ashley Barnett, JDAI Juvenile Justice Strategist; Laurie Elliott, Youth Law T.E.A.M. of Indiana, Staff Attorney; and Michelle Mosier, Youth Law T.E.A.M. of Indiana, Compliance Monitor.

The 2014 inspection constitutes the 1st annual inspection of the Muskegon River Youth Center. The inspection consisted of a facility tour, youth interviews, and a review of policy and procedure relating to the Indiana Juvenile Detention Standards. In accordance with the aforementioned code, compliance with 100% of the mandatory standards and at least 90% of the recommended standards is required to attain “full compliance.”

II. Facility Demographics

Rated Capacity: 74

Actual Population: 17

Average Daily Population for the last 12 months: 22

Average Length of Stay: 17.3 days

Full-Time Staff: 33

Part-Time Staff: 2

Contracted Staff: 3

Counties Served: Adams, Benton, Clay, Cass, Daviess, Fayette, Franklin, Fountain, LaGrange, Newton, Jasper, Kosciusko, Parke, Perry, Putnam, Ripley, Starke, Steuben, Vanderburgh, Brown (Ohio), Hamilton (Ohio), Marshall (Ohio), Branch (MI), Cass (MI), Mont Calm (MI), Ross Common (MI)

Data System: PBS and Quest

III. Facility Description

The Muskegon River Youth Center opened in March of 2014 and is located in Ladoga, Indiana. Ashley Taflinger, Facility Director, and Jeff Coomer, Operations Director jointly oversees the detention facility’s operations. Ron Hunter, CEO, is the governing authority for the Muskegon River Youth Center.

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Muskegon River Youth Center is a 74 bed detention facility. It consists of three floors. The first floor contains: an indoor gymnasium, medical area, kitchen, intake and reception area, personal property storage area, and the laundry/storage area. The second floor includes: the main control station, eight dorm rooms (with five sets of bunk beds in each), four day rooms, two classrooms, administration offices, two youth bath/shower rooms, and six isolation rooms. The third floor consists of the education area and a large storage room. Each day room is equipped with numerous surveillance cameras, game tables, and a storage closet. The outdoor recreation area is surrounded by a security fence and cameras.

IV. Facility Tour

A tour of the juvenile detention facility was given by Ashley Taflinger, Facility Director, and Lieh Miels, Facility Program Director. The facility's sanitation level was found to be satisfactory. The medical department appeared to be very organized and medication inventory logs were accurate and up to date. The nurse on-site was friendly and very knowledgeable about the medical department and the operations of the facility.

The education department is located on the second and third floors. The educational area is equipped with several laptops for the use of online education programs including: APEX, NovaStar, and Edgenuity (used in Ohio schools). Juveniles were positively interacting with staff while participating in classroom activities. The center has a nice outside recreational area that includes a food garden. The indoor recreational area has a full sized basketball court, which is also used for dining and multipurpose activities.

V. Conditions of Confinement

A. Security

Detention staff is trained to use verbal de-escalation techniques with the youth. All staff is trained in defensive tactics through Safety Crisis Management Techniques. The center does not use OC spray, nor do they have a restraint chair or any other immobilization devices. Muskegon does use isolation cells for behavior violations, programming disruptions, and for out of control behaviors. All isolation incidents are approved by the facility director or designee. Juveniles must be monitored visually by staff on the unit.

The facility operates on two separate shifts. The youth center staff work 12 hour shift(i.e. 6:00 AM- 6:00 PM), with every other weekend off.

B. Environmental Conditions

The center offers a safe and secure environment for all juvenile detainees. All areas of the detention center, including the youth dorm areas, were clean and orderly. Sanitation in the facility was found to be satisfactory in all living areas. The residents furniture was functional and in good condition.

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All staff wear khaki pants or jeans with a polo shirt. Female youth residents wear tan khaki pants, maroon polo shirts, white t-shirts, white socks, grey sweat shirts, and sandal shoes. Male residents wear the same clothing as female residents, with the exception of blue pants. All youth are given gym shoes for recreation.

C. Food Service

The facility has a kitchen in which all meals are prepared by Muskegon River Youth Center kitchen staff. The kitchen staff was friendly, informative, and more than willing to provide documentation for review. The production area, freezers, refrigerators, and dry storage area were clean and organized. Youth eat in the dining area, while monitored by detention staff. The day of the tour, youth received mini corn dogs, tater tots, pineapple upside down cake, salad, wheat bread, milk, and green beans for lunch. The serving trays were clean and the food appearance was good.

D. Medical Services

The facility contracts medical services through a private physician. Dr. Kneiser oversees the medical responsibilities of the facility, with the help of a registered nurse. By contract, Dr. Kneiser visits the center once a week for sick calls and evaluations. He is on call 24 hours per day.

Muskegon River Youth Center contracts mental health care services through a private psychologist, Dr. Danielle Nance.

E. Educational Program

The education program is overseen by the Facility Director, Ashley Taflinger. The facility has 1 licensed teacher, Mrs. Barb Purvis. Montgomery County Community School Corporation does not provide teachers for the center's education program. Youth attend school all 12 months out of the year, five days a week, and six hours per day. Also, beyond the six hours of instructional time, youth participate in at least 1 hour physical education per day. The detention center has access to multiple online educational programs including: APEX, NovaStar, and Edgenuity (Ohio).

F. Visitation

The center provides visitation for youth and their parents/guardians. Visitation takes place 1 day per week. The center does not have the capability to offer non-contact visits.

VI. Interviews

Four youth (two males, two females) were interviewed using combined questions from the DOC detention youth inspections document and the Youth Law T.E.A.M. of Indiana suggested questions. Interview questions covered: Intake and Admissions; Social Services; Academic, Vocational, and Work; Library; Recreation; Living and Sleeping Areas; Discipline and Rule Violations; Access to Counsel; Medical Care; and Food Service.

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Staff gave us privacy and allowed access to all juveniles. All four juveniles interviewed stated that the food was good, hot, and that the amount of food they received was adequate. Youth also reported that the temperatures in the dorms were comfortable for sleeping. Youth stated that they cannot request additional blankets or sweatshirts; however, at the point of interview, it had not been needed. All youth reported feeling safe in the facility.

Youth also knew how to request medical assistance and how to file a grievance. All four youth described the grievance process in detail and seemed to have a good understanding of the process. All youth knew how to contact their attorneys. Youth reported they were offered visits with their families.

VII. Special Affiliations

Muskegon River Youth Center participates in Performance Base Standards (PBS).

VIII. Inspection Findings

A. Review of Folders

Folders were organized and easy to read.

B. Non- Applicable and Non- Compliant Standards

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

IX. Conclusion

The Muskegon River Youth Center is found to be in compliance with 100% of the mandatory standards and 97.40% of the recommended standards. The facility was well maintained and organized. The staff members were 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 Department 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
Ron Hunter; CEO- Muskegon River Youth Center
Ashley Taflinger- Facility Director, Muskegon River Youth Center
File

**Standards determined to be non- applicable and non- compliant from Total 301 Standards
- 26 Mandatory and 275 Recommended Standards:**

7-Non-Compliant:

- 1.8- Written policy, procedure, and practice provide that there exists a community advisory committee, representative of the community, that serves as a link between the program and the community.(ACA-1A-12)
- 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)
- 1.53- Written policy, procedure, and practice provide for an employee assistance program that is approved by the parent agency. (ACA-1C-23)
- 2.94- Living units are primarily designed for single occupancy sleeping rooms; multiple occupancy rooms do not exceed 20 percent of the bed capacity of the unit. (ACA-2C-01)

Comments: Facility exceeds 20% of the bed capacity allowed

- 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-03)

Comments: There's No toilet facility in youth cell / dorm area without staff assistance

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

Comments: Program is better, but is not a comprehensive education program

- 5.303- Written procedure for releasing juveniles include but are not limited to the following:
 - Verification of identity
 - Verification of release papers
 - Completion of release arrangements, including the person or agency to whom the juvenile is to be released
 - Return of personal effects
 - Completion of any pending action, such as grievances or claims for damaged or lost possessions
 - Medical screening and arrangements for community follow-up when needed
 - Transportation arrangements
 - Instructions on forwarding of mail (ACA-5H-02)

Comments: No documentation provided for #4, 5 or 8

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6-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)
- 1.30- Written policy, procedure, and practice demonstrate that the procedures for the collection, safeguarding, and disbursement of monies comply with the accounting procedures established by the state board of accounts and local policies. These procedures shall be reviewed annually and updated as needed. (ACA-1B-08)
- 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)
- 1.58- 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)
- 1.59- Written policy, procedure, and practice provide that all new juvenile staff care workers receive an additional 120 hours of training during their first year of employment. At a minimum this training covers the following areas:
- security procedures
 - supervision of juveniles
 - signs of suicide risks
 - suicide precautions
 - use-of-force regulations and tactics
 - report writing
 - juvenile rules of conduct
 - rights and responsibilities of juveniles
 - fire and emergency procedures
 - safety procedures
 - key control
 - interpersonal relations
 - social / cultural lifestyles of the juvenile population
 - communication skills
 - first aid/CPR
 - counseling techniques (ACA-1D-09)
- 1.59A- Written policy, procedure and practice provide that all juvenile staff care workers receive an additional 40 hours of training each calendar year.