

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

Porter County Juvenile Services Center
1660 South State Road 2
Valparaiso, IN 46385
September 23rd – 24th, 2014

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I. Introduction

The annual inspection of the Porter County Juvenile Services Center, for compliance with the Indiana Juvenile Detention Standards, pursuant to 210 IAC 6, was conducted on September 23rd -24th 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; Yul Lee, JDAI Juvenile Justice Strategist; and Tashi Teuschler, JDAI Juvenile Justice Strategist.

The 2014 inspection constitutes the 18th annual inspection of the Porter 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% 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: 24
Actual Population: 11
Average Daily Population for the last 12 months: 11.53
Average Length of Stay: 10.5 days
Full Time Staff: 31
Part- Time Staff: 14
Contracted Staff: 4
Counties served: Porter and Jasper
Data system: Quest

III. Facility Description

The Porter County Juvenile Services Center is located in the city of Valparaiso, Indiana. The Center opened in June 1994 with new updated renovations in 2012. The Porter County Juvenile Services Center contains 24 beds and is on the same grounds as the Porter County Circuit Juvenile court.

The Porter County Juvenile Services Center Facility Director, Alison Cox, oversees the detention operations with the assistance of Assistant Facility Director, Becky Lutz. Judge Mary R. Harper and Porter County Circuit serve as the facility governing authority.

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The 24 bed detention facility consists of: main control station; 2 resident ranges; a multipurpose area; quiet room; classrooms; arts and crafts room; gym; dining hall; medical room; and 20 single bed cells; 2 double bed cells; and, if needed, 2 single bed cells can be used as isolation cells in the intake area. Each unit/pod has a day room with game tables, shower, and storage closet. The facility contains an intake area, medical office, and on-site school.

The outside perimeter of the facility is equipped with numerous surveillance cameras.

IV. Facility Tour

The team toured the entire facility. Alison Cox, Facility Director, and Becky Lutz, Assistant Facility Director, accompanied the team on the tour and were more than willing to answer the team's questions concerning facility operations. The facility was currently in the process of replacing the roof and just replaced the carpets and freshly painted showers in both resident ranges. Even with all the construction going on, the facility's sanitation level was above standard. Detention staff interviewed were friendly and knowledgeable in policy and procedures.

The medical department appeared to be neat and very organized. Nursing staff was friendly and very knowledgeable about the medical department and facility operations.

The education department is located near main control of the facility. The classroom area is equipped with several computers for PLATO credit recovery, on-line home school programs, and a TASC prep program. The detention center has nice outside recreation area with a half court basketball area, interior courtyard, and visitation area. The indoor recreation area is centrally located in the middle of the facility directly in front of the main control area. Juveniles were observed to be positively interacting with staff and education staff while participating in classroom activities.

V. Conditions of Confinement

A. Security

Youth Detention staff at the detention center are not trained in specific de-escalation techniques. All staff are trained in defensive tactics through NCI/APT techniques. The center does not use OC spray, and does not have a restraint chair or any other immobilization devices. The center does use room restriction for behavior violations, programming disruption, and /or out of control behavior. All isolation incidents are approved by the facility director or designee, and juveniles are monitored visually by unit staff.

B. Environmental Conditions

The detention center offers a safe and relaxing environment. All areas of the detention center, including the youth dorm areas, were clean and organized. Sanitation in the facility was found to be above standard. The residents' furniture is functional and in good condition.

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All staff uniforms consist of khaki pants or jeans with a blue polo shirt for line staff and khaki pants with a green polo shirt for Supervisors/Administration staff.

Youth residents at the center wear khaki uniforms with a white t-shirt, a grey sweat shirt, and sandal shoes.

C. Food Service

The detention center has a small kitchen in which all meals are prepared by Porter County Juvenile Services Center kitchen staff. The kitchen staff were friendly and knowledgeable of food service production. Staff was more than willing to provide documentation for review. The kitchen production area, freezers, refrigerators, and dry storage areas were very clean and organized. The kitchen dish tank area appeared to have high level of calcium build up on the pipes and hoses due to hard water with no water softener system. Youth eat in the dining hall area while being supervised. Staff also eat in the dining hall. On the day of the tour, the youth were served country fried chicken, with ketchup, diced fruit cocktail, salad, wheat bread, milk, and green beans for lunch. The serving trays were clean, and the food appearance was good.

D. Medical Services

The Porter County Juvenile Services Center contracts medical services through a private physician, Dr. John Foster, with the assistance of 2 registered nurses. The doctor visits the center once a week, on Fridays, for sick calls and evaluations. The doctor is on-call 24 hours per day. Nursing services are available 24 hours per day, 7days per week. All staff is trained in CPR/first aid, AED and medication distribution.

The center contracts mental health services through Porter Starke Services. The contract provides 2 on-call psychologists. Youth Services Bureau provides 2 part-time therapists.

E. Educational Program

The education program is overseen by Alison Cox, Facility Director and education staff consists of one licensed teacher, Mr. Mark Schaffer. Porter County Community School Corporation does not provide teachers for the center's education program. The residents attend school 12 months a year/5 days a week, with 7 hours of instructional focus per day and one hour of physical education per day. The school program includes computer access to PLATO credit recovery courses; home school programs; TASC prep, and remedial work.

F. Visitation

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

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.

Staff gave us privacy and allowed access to all juveniles. The youth were open, not hesitant, and seemed to feel secure about talking about the facility. Youth reported that they knew the rules and felt safe. 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 and knew how to contact their attorney. The youth reported being served three meals a day, including two hot meals.

VII. Special Affiliations

Porter County Juvenile Services Center participates in the Indiana Juvenile Detention Association (IJDA), Performance Base Standards (PBS), Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI), and the Indiana Mental Health Screening, Assessment and Treatment Project.

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 Porter 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.

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

Respectfully submitted,

C. Sweat

Chance Sweat

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cc: Christine Blessinger- Acting Executive Director of Juvenile Services
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Honorable Mary R. Harper; Juvenile Judge, Porter County
Alison Cox – Facility Director, Porter County Juvenile Services Center
File

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**Standards determined to be non- applicable and non- compliant from Total 301 Standards- 26 Mandatory and 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)