



El Dorado County Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Commission

June 30, 2019

Attention Stakeholders:

Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC)

Honorable Suzanne Kingsbury
Honorable Warren Stracener

El Dorado County Board of Supervisors (BOS)

Chief of Probation Brian Richart

2019 Juvenile Justice Facility Inspection - Juvenile Treatment Center Deficiency Notice

In accordance with [California Welfare and Institutions Code \(WIC\)](#) Section 225 through 231, each county is to have a Juvenile Justice Commission (JJC) to inquire into the administration of juvenile justice in their counties.

The [El Dorado County Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Commission's](#) (EDC JJDPC) mission is to serve the interests of at-risk youth, encourage and support the planning and evaluation of programs which prevent delinquency, and provide a leadership forum for citizen action.

Juvenile Justice Facility Inspection - Material Deficiency Notice

A material deficiency is reported in 2019's Juvenile Treatment Facility (JTC) in South Lake Tahoe. The JTC is undergoing significant changes in the coming two to three years. With the May 2019 closure of the Placerville Juvenile Hall, all El Dorado County and out-of-county youth have now been transferred and housed at the JTC.

A major concern at JTC has been the lack of suitable activity areas for both summer and winter months. These concerns have been reported repeatedly in past years and are now unacceptable for current conditions.

- 1) The outside exercise lawn and landscaping is depressing and dirty, with long-dead sod and clods of bare mud and dirt. The space is insufficiently landscaped to accommodate Title 15 large muscle exercise under current conditions.
- 2) The covered recreation space is typically very cold, as [SLT JTC Temperatures](#) annually average from 23 to 50 degrees Fahrenheit. Facility construction dates back to original, turn-of-the-century approved design with large gaps between the roofline and top of the enclosure walls. The building is frequently exposed to freezing winds and snow of the High Sierras, accelerated with climate change resulting in snow through July. The space is insufficiently heated to accommodate Title 15 large muscle exercise under many conditions.



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Requested Mitigation and County Response

The El Dorado County JJDPC requests a formal response from the Department of Probation and the Board of Supervisors **no later than August 31, 2019** with a proposed mitigation plan.

These deficiencies should be addressed immediately to provide a comfortable and safe place for the youth to participate in recreational activities. The Juvenile Justice Commission requests that the covered recreation area is heated and the playing field upgraded to green sod or artificial turf.

Title 15 CCR § 1371 Programs, Recreation, and Exercise

Legal Authority is Title 15; Crime Prevention and Corrections; Division 1. Board of State and Community Corrections; Chapter 1. Board of State and Community Corrections; Subchapter 5. Minimum Standards for Juvenile Facilities; Article 6. Programs and Activities.

Title 15 CCR § 1371 Programs, Recreation, and Exercise.

- The facility administrator shall develop and implement written policies and procedures for programs, **recreation, and exercise for all youth**. The intent is to minimize the amount of time youth are in their rooms or their bed area.
- Juvenile facilities shall provide the opportunity for programs, **recreation, and exercise a minimum of three hours a day during the week and five hours a day each Saturday, Sunday or other non-school days, of which one hour shall be an outdoor activity, weather permitting**.
- A youth's participation in programs, **recreation, and exercise** may be suspended only upon a written finding by the administrator/manager or designee that a youth represents a threat to the safety and security of the facility. Such program, recreation, and exercise schedule shall be posted in the living units.
- There will be a written annual review of the programs, **recreation, and exercise** by the responsible agency to ensure content offered is current, consistent, and relevant to the population.

Attached please find our annual report. We look forward to your response and working together for a prompt solution. Please contact me for further information.

Respectfully,

Tiffany J. Rolston

Chair, El Dorado County Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (EDC JJDPC)

Email: tiffany.rolston@edcgov.us