

JUVENILE JUSTICE DELINQUENCY PREVENTION COMMISSION

JTC INSPECTION REPORT

Please respond to the sections that apply to the facility you are inspecting

Facility Name: EDC Juvenile Treatment Center

Inspection Date: 4/29/2019

Facility Capacity: 40

Last Inspection: 6/1/2018

Address: 1041 Al Tahoe Drive
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150

Telephone Number: 530-373-7980

FAX Number: 530-543-6978

Superintendent: Andrew Craven

Staff Interviewed: Kyle, Kaci, David, Karla, Karen

Type of Facility: ☒ Juvenile Hall ☐ Camp ☐ Co-Ed?

Presiding Juvenile Court Judge: Honorable Judge Stracener

Commission Chair: Tiffany Rolston

Telephone No.

Signature

Commission Inspection Team: Tracy Lauth

Larry Berger

Major Concerns and Recommendations:

The JTC is undergoing significant changes in the coming twelve months. With the closure of the Placerville Juvenile Hall, all youth will be transferred and housed at the JTC. Staff reassignments, transfers and cuts are creating stress and staff shortages. With increased population, the second POD will soon open and a second classroom will be added. A major concern is the lack of suitable activity areas for both summer and winter months. The outside lacks grass and the inside is very cold. This should be addressed immediately to provide a comfortable and safe place for the youth to participate in recreational activities. It is therefore recommended that the playing field get grass or artificial turf and that the covered recreation area is heated.

JUVENILE JUSTICE DELINQUENCY PREVENTION COMMISSION

JTC INSPECTION REPORT

AREA REVIEWED: Please Check

QUALITY OF LIFE

- ☒ Physical Plant
- ☒ Meals/Nutrition
- ☒ Mental Health
- ☒ Physical/Dental Health
- ☒ Religious Services
- ☒ Volunteer Involvement
- ☒ Visiting
- ☒ Volunteer Involvement
- ☐ Other

PROGRAMS

- ☒ Education
- ☒ Vocation/Employability
- ☒ Community Service
- ☐ Victim/Gang Awareness
- ☒ Substance Abuse
- ☐ Other

PERSONS INTERVIEWED

- ☒ Minors
- ☐ Superintendent
- ☒ Medical/Psyche. Staff
- ☒ School Staff
- ☒ Supervisor
- ☒ Child Supervision Staff
(Counselors)
- ☒ Food Services Staff
- ☐ Other

GENERAL INFORMATION

Has the facility exceeded capacity since the last inspection?

No

Does the facility house minors under Section 601 of the Welfare & Institutions Code?

☐ Yes ☒ No

If "yes", are 601's separated from 602's?

Date of Last Fire Drill: 1/3/2019

SINCE THE LAST INSPECTION INDICATE:

Number of Suicides: 0

Number of Attempted Suicides: 1

Number of Deaths From Other Causes:

0

Number of Escapes:

0

JUVENILE JUSTICE DELINQUENCY PREVENTION COMMISSION

JTC INSPECTION REPORT

SLEEPING ROOMS (Cells)

Comments:

The facility has two (2) housing units (POD) with a maximum capacity of twenty (20) minors in each POD. With the consolidation of the two facilities, staff is working on a plan to assign minors to each POD. Each unit/block has six (6) single occupancy and seven (7) double occupancy sleeping rooms. All sleeping rooms have one (1) toilet and one (1) wash basin. Probation staff assess each minor to determine whether they are to be housed in a single or double occupancy sleeping room. All rooms meet the standards.

LOCAL INSPECTIONS

Fire: ☐ No ☒ Yes **Date:** 4/18 and 04/2
(Health & Safety Code Section 13146.1)

***Medical/Mental Health:** ☐ No ☒ Yes **Date:** 12/14/2018

***Environmental Health:** ☐ No ☒ Yes **Date:** 9/20/2018

***Nutritional Health:** ☐ No ☒ Yes **Date:** 5/8/2018
(Health & Safety Code Section 101045)

Facility Safety and Security: #

STAFFING

Staff To Child Ratio - Awake and Sleeping:

Both awake and asleep they maintain a 10:1 ratio. The day of the inspection there were four officers, one supervisor and thirteen youth.

Communication In Language Minor Can Understand?

English is the primary language. There are eight spanish speaking staff members available for translation. There is also a multi-lingual telephone-based translation service available 24/7.

JUVENILE JUSTICE DELINQUENCY PREVENTION COMMISSION

JTC INSPECTION REPORT

STAFFING (Continued)

Diversity of Staff:

At the time of the inspection: Assistant Superintendant, female caucasian, three Supervisors, all male, two caucasian and one Filipino, Two Seniors, one male, one female, both caucasian, Nine DPO's, six males, two hispanic and one caucasian, three females all caucasian, eight EHDPO four males, two hispanic, two caucasian and four females, one hispanic and three caucasian, Kitchen Staff included one caucasian supervisor, one part time hispanic female and one part time hispanic male and one EH hispanic male. Mental Health has one female caucasian supervisor and one EH caucasian female. Admin consists of one caucasian female.

Staff/Minor Interactions:

Staff and youth interact in a relaxed and respectful manner.

Staff Interviews - Comments:

The staff seem dedicated to their jobs and enjoy interacting with the youth. However, the consolidation of the two facilities has caused a great deal of stress. Management has gone above and beyond to address these concerns and remain optimistic of a positive outcome.

CONDITIONS OF GROUNDS

Lawns, Playing Fields, Blacktop, Asphalt, Other:

The playing field needs to be addressed immediately - especially with the consolidation of the two facilities and the increase of youth. the lawn is dead, there is mostly dirt/mud. The inside playing court has no heat and is un-usable in cold winter and spring months. It was uncomfortable on the day of the inspection.

EXTERIOR OF BUILDING

General Condition, Paint, Roof, Drains/Gutters, Other:

The exterior of the facility appears to be clean and in good condition.

JUVENILE JUSTICE DELINQUENCY PREVENTION COMMISSION

JTC INSPECTION REPORT

INTERIOR OF BUILDING

Walls, Paint, Floors, Drains, Plumbing Fixtures Working, Air Vents, Windows:

The interior of the facility appears clean and well maintained. The showers in the unit have chipped paint. There is currently a plan in place to repaint.

Are cleaning fluids and chemicals labeled and safely stored?

Yes

Weapons Locker Location:

There are six weapon storage lockers outside the intake area.

Recreation/Sports Equipment:

Adequate supply in good condition.

Are the hallways clear and doors propped open?

Hallways were clear, doors were secured and security systems were in working order.

JUVENILE JUSTICE DELINQUENCY PREVENTION COMMISSION

JTC INSPECTION REPORT

INTERIOR OF BUILDING (Continued)

Court Holding Area - (If present) Access to drinking water and toilet?

Sleeping Rooms/Dormitories:

All sleeping rooms have one toilet and one was basin. The rooms were clean and in good condition.

BEDS - Type? 12" off the floor:

Yes

Art, books, personal possessions allowed in sleeping rooms?

Yes. To promote good oral; hygiene, the youth are allowed to keep their toothbrushes in their rooms during the day and are encouraged to use them as often as they like.

Graffiti Present?

None present. The staff is doing an excellent job removing graffiti quickly.

JUVENILE JUSTICE DELINQUENCY PREVENTION COMMISSION

JTC INSPECTION REPORT

INTERIOR OF BUILDING (Continued)

Ample Blankets?

Yes. Two blankets are issued upon arrival and additional available if needed.

Study Area:

Ample study area is provided.

Adequate Lighting:

The lighting is fine. However, some attention should be given to the amount of exposure the youth have to fluorescent lighting especially when they are unable to go outside into the natural light due to weather conditions.

Temperature:

The facility is kept at 72 degrees

ORIENTATION OF MINORS

Are minors oriented to rules and procedures?

Yes. Upon arrival they are given both written and verbal orientation. (see attachment__)

JUVENILE JUSTICE DELINQUENCY PREVENTION COMMISSION

JTC INSPECTION REPORT

ORIENTATION OF MINORS (Continued)

Are rules and grievance procedures posted?

Yes

Are rules and grievance procedures understood by minors?

Yes

Minors Interviewed - Comments:

The inspection team dined with the youth during the inspection. It was a special day as a local non-profit comes in and together with the youth, prepare a hot nutritious lunch. We then all dined together. The youth were relaxed, respectful of authority yet comfortable sharing stories and laughing. The staff must be commended for creating a family atmosphere of warmth and genuine concern for the welfare of the youth.

MEALS/NUTRITION

Kitchen - Clean; Are Knives and Chemicals Locked?

Yes

Have the youths working in the kitchen been trained?

There are none designated at this time. On the day of the inspection the youth were working together with community volunteers. They were observed using gloves and hair nets and following proper kitchen procedures.

JUVENILE JUSTICE DELINQUENCY PREVENTION COMMISSION

JTC INSPECTION REPORT

MEALS/NUTRITION (Continued)

Are meals served or cafeteria style?

Meals are served cafeteria style from a cart. On the day of the inspection the food was served family style with everyone seated together at a long table.

Are minors permitted to converse during meals?

Yes, and encouraged.

Are staff present and supervising?

Yes. They interact with the youth during meals.

Is a weekly menu prepared? Is it posted?

Yes

Are servings ample, nutritious and appetizing?

Yes. We dined on enchilada casserole, mexican rice, beans, corn, fresh green salad with housemade dressing, and banana cream dessert. It was delicious, ample servings including seconds were provided and everyone left satisfied.

JUVENILE JUSTICE DELINQUENCY PREVENTION COMMISSION

JTC INSPECTION REPORT

MEALS/NUTRITION (Continued)

Are weaker youths protected from having food taken from them?

No sharing or trading of food is allowed. We observed good supervision and interaction with all youth equally.

Length of time allowed to eat:

Generally thirty minutes is allowed but no one is rushed and everyone has a chance to eat their meal.

PERSONAL APPEARANCE OF MINORS

Appearance?

Everyone was clean, well-groomed and appropriately dressed.

SHOWERS - Frequency, Privacy Maintained, Supervised by Staff? Any assault by other youths?

Youth may shower daily under the supervision of staff. Private stalls are provided for security and safety. There were no reported incidents of assaults while showering.

CONDITION OF CLOTHING - Does clothing fit? Clothing appropriate to the weather?

At intake everyone is issued two complete sets of clothing including sweatshirt, pants, t-shirt, shorts, undergarments, socks and shoes. A coat is issued when the weather conditions change. After they shower the youth collects their clothes and loops a tether through them. They receive their own clothing back after washing.

JUVENILE JUSTICE DELINQUENCY PREVENTION COMMISSION

JTC INSPECTION REPORT

PROGRAMS

RECREATION - Types and amount each day:

Per Title 15, structured and unstructured recreation is provided seven days a week. A minimum of three hours Monday - Friday and a minimum of five hours on holidays and weekends. Lake Tahoe is a high-altitude facility getting snow as much as five months out of the year. The fact that the indoor recreation area is unheated and the outside area has no real play field greatly impacts the ability to deliver high-quality exercise. In cold months, the youth are confined to their units due to weather.

EXERCISE - Daily schedule and amount of time each day:

Access to religious services:

Imams will not attend to incarcerated muslim youth. Our inspection took place during Ramadan. The staff has made accommodations for Ramadan and the required fasting. A chaplain coordinates volunteers from various faiths as needed. All youth have access to one-on-one faith based counseling upon request. Church services are held Thursday night for one hour and bible study is held Wednesday night for one hour. Attendance varies.

Medical/Mental Health Services:

Treatment is provided on a multi-disciplinary team approach including RN, Psyche, and MFT. Services are provided on-site and well managed. Wellpath and the staff work diligently to provide regular and urgent care as needed to all youth. There is an RN on-site and available six days a week and communicates regularly with staff, the youth, and family members any concerns or needs. The staff together with Wellpath go above and beyond providing care including but not limited to dental, orthopedic, cardio-vascular, mental health, preventative, educational and follow-up services. The youth clearly respond to this care and feel that the staff is concerned about their well being. In most cases, this is the first and best care that the youth receive inside or outside the facility.

Volunteer Program:

The JTC enjoys a robust volunteer program including CASA, Juvenile Services Council, AA, Religious services, Speaker Series, Yoga, Boys and Girls Club, pregnancy and parenting classes and alternating eight to twelve week education series including Live Violence Free and nutrition classes.

JUVENILE JUSTICE DELINQUENCY PREVENTION COMMISSION

JTC INSPECTION REPORT

PROGRAMS (Continued)

Counseling and Casework:

Each DPO is assigned youth (number depending on population). Case plans and goals are established in coordination with the Treatment Team.

Family Reunification Planning:

The goal is 100% reunification. Youth meet once a week with a licensed counselor (MFT). Over the course of sixteen weeks, the youth and their family will gradually work towards successful reunification. Temporary Release of 4 hours and up to 72 hours are introduced. A Family Reunification Planning Panel treatment team reviews the status of school work, sessions with parents, parents attendance at sessions, to determine TR status.

Substance Abuse Counseling:

Tahoe Youth and Family Services , a CBO contracts with the JTC to provide on-going counseling. A MATRIX Model Treatment Team consisting of Program Coordinator, Supervisor, Field Officer, Teacher, AOD Counselor and Clinician work with the youth and their family. Sessions are held in groups or individual depending on needs.

Victim Awareness Classes:

Live Violence Free, a CBO provides a twenty week Healthy Relationship program that follows the youth into their transition.

Gang Awareness Classes:

JUVENILE JUSTICE DELINQUENCY PREVENTION COMMISSION

JTC INSPECTION REPORT

PROGRAMS (Continued)

Sexual Harassment Classes:

Provided through Healthy Relationships Program by Live Violence Free

Parenting Classes:

As needed. There are no pregnant minors at the JTC at this time. If needed, the MATRIX Model is offered on a case-by-case basis.

Vocational Classes:

The facility DPO's work with eligible youth using curriculum including filling out job applications, participating in mock job interviews, wearing appropriate interview attire, and understanding appropriate work behavior.

Community Service:

This program is available for Honor and Job Status and allows outside privileges. At the time of this inspection there were no youth approved for community service work outside of the facility

Work Program:

The facility offers a variety of work programs including food preparation under kitchen staff management, cleaning the facility, and supervised work in the facility's laundry room. Volunteers can also work in food distribution through El Dorado County Food Bank.

JUVENILE JUSTICE DELINQUENCY PREVENTION COMMISSION

JTC INSPECTION REPORT

PROGRAMS (Continued)

Other:

The facility has a female dog named 'Petra' which has affectionately been adopted as the house mascot. She has free access to most areas in the facility except during mealtime or when other activities are underway not appropriate for her attendance. The Challenge program also allows youth to attend LTCC online or in person when they have completed MATRIX and MRT.

DISCIPLINE OF MINORS

Frequency and Type:

Discipline is handled informally between the DPO and the youth. All disciplinary matters are reviewed by the Supervisor and/or Superintendent. All significant misconduct warranting formal disciplinary measures, as loss of privileges, is documented on a Special Incident Report (SIR). The Superintendent or Assistant Superintendent review all SIR's and what measures were taken by staff to resolve the problem.

GRIEVANCES

Number and Type:

TELEPHONE

Access:

Every youth enters the facility with a "Full Status" classification allowing a minimum of two calls per week. Further access to phone calls is available on a case by case basis. Unlimited confidential phone calls are arranged between youth and attorney regardless of status. All calls are free of charge.

JUVENILE JUSTICE DELINQUENCY PREVENTION COMMISSION

JTC INSPECTION REPORT

CORRESPONDENCE

Postage Free:

Unlimited free postage is provided for every youth.

INCOMING/OUTGOING - Is mail read?

All mail is inspected for contraband. Mail is opened in the youth's presence. Any concerns about security or inappropriate content are promptly addressed.

Confidential Correspondence:

Title 15 is followed. Confidential correspondence is opened by the youth in the presence of staff.

VISITING

Adequate space, convenient times or accommodations to parent work schedule, etc. special visits:

JTC has a dedicated visiting center with abundant space. Visiting is conducted two days a week. Wednesday evenings for 60 minutes and Sunday afternoons for 90 minutes. Special visits may be arranged through a Supervisor. Non-Contact visits may also be arranged as appropriate. The facility is amenable to making any arrangements necessary to accommodate work, out of town family or extenuating circumstances which will benefit the youth. Honor Status youth may now have treats brought in as a special visiting privilege.

Do staff supervise visits?

Yes. Staff are always present and directly supervise all visits. Control Room staff also monitor the visits.

JUVENILE JUSTICE DELINQUENCY PREVENTION COMMISSION

JTC INSPECTION REPORT

VISITING

Adequate privacy during visits?

Yes. The visiting room is large enough to afford reasonable privacy during visits.

Have all minors had visits? If no, give reasons:

All youth in custody have had a visit. Staff make special arrangements when possible to accommodate visitors unavailable to visit during regular visiting hours. Out of area youth don't receive as many visitors.

SCHOOL

TEACHERS - Number of full-time; frequency of substitutes:

One full-time teacher. Once the two facilities are combined they will add a teacher.

Number of minors attending school:

There are currently 13 youth in the facility. There is 100% participation

Number of minors in each classroom:

Presently there are 13 youth in one classroom. Each youth is evaluated in order to assess their academic status and needs. Future concerns have been expressed about the changes and adjustments that will have to be made when the Placerville facility closes.

JUVENILE JUSTICE DELINQUENCY PREVENTION COMMISSION

JTC INSPECTION REPORT

SCHOOL (Continued)

Number of minors on independent study:

Teachers tailor each program to the needs of the student. GED testing is provided

Atmosphere of Classroom:

The minors sit at individual desks. The classroom is carpeted, nicely organized and the environment is quite comfortable.

Adequate Supplies? Books, paper, computers, etc.

The classroom is adequately supplied

Activities and Coursework:

As previously noted, coursework and activities are based on each individual's needs. This provides a school approved, monitored, computer-generated curriculum for each youth's academic level.

Are minors required to do homework?

Only if a youth is close to graduation or completing a course of work that can be completed in the living unit. This is determined by the teacher and the treatment team.

JUVENILE JUSTICE DELINQUENCY PREVENTION COMMISSION

JTC INSPECTION REPORT

SCHOOL (Continued)

Number of minors not attending. Reason?

During the time of the inspection school had been completed for the morning and there were no youth present.

Relationship between school and juvenile hall staff:

There is close communication between school and Probation staff. Each morning school and probation staff meet to update students' behavioral status.

Describe access to school, recreation, exercise and recreation for minors confined to their rooms:

Facility protocols are in place for education staff to visit the room daily to afford the minor an opportunity to work on their weekly education plan. There were no youth on room confinement during this inspection.

ACCESS TO MEDICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

No significant changes since last report

JUVENILE JUSTICE DELINQUENCY PREVENTION COMMISSION JTC INSPECTION REPORT

Distribution of Juvenile Justice Commission Inspection Reports

Board of State and Community Corrections Recommendation

The Board of State and Community Corrections recommends commissions prepare and submit an inspection report for each juvenile hall and camp inspected by the commission. We suggest that copies of inspection reports be distributed to the Chief Probation Officer and other pertinent county agencies as directed by the court.

Please submit your annual report to the court and mail a copy to:

**ALLISON GANTER, DEPUTY DIRECTOR
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