

Anne M. Nelsen, MSW, MPA
1644 Jamestown Drive
Salt Lake City, Utah 84121
annenmelsen@gmail.com

(801) 272-4982

November 22, 2014

Jan Wallace
Director
Ada County Juvenile Court Services
6300 W. Denton
Boise, Idaho 83704

RE: Ada County Juvenile
Detention--PREA
Certification

Dear Jan:

Please accept my congratulations on the successful PREA audit of the Ada County Juvenile Detention Center (ACJDC). You and your staff are to be commended for the outstanding work being done at the ACJDC and throughout your department on behalf of young people and their families.

I had a positive on-site audit in June of this year and submitted my Initial Findings approximately three weeks after that. Along with the Initial Audit Summary, I sent the Initial Auditor Compliance Tool that detailed each standard and indicated if each one was met or not met or if they were non-applicable or exempt. Ken Jenkins, Terry Shaffer, Richard Maher and the staff at the ACJDC have been working diligently since receiving that report to develop and meet Corrective Action Plans on the standards that were found out of compliance. I have received, reviewed and approved the final pieces of documentation needed to verify compliance with one hundred percent of the applicable Juvenile PREA Standards at the Ada County Juvenile Detention Center.

As Ken and I have discussed, it has been a team effort and I cannot stress enough how much I have enjoyed and appreciated working with him, Terry, Richard and all of the ACJDC and ACJCS staff. Your legal advisors, research and data management staff, human resource specialists, clinicians, investigators and others have been exceptionally helpful and supportive of the process. The ACJDC is an impressive, highly professional organization and a credit to your department and to Ada County. The ACJDC is clearly a

facility that has dedicated staff members who are committed to helping young people turn their lives around and become successful citizens. As I have indicated to Ken, I have shared some of your ideas and practices with other agencies as I have the opportunity to visit and consult around the country. One of the things that I have particularly enjoyed about conducting PREA audits is the opportunity to be the conduit in “paying it forward.” When an agency or facility is doing something impressive, I appreciate their generosity in sharing experiences with peers elsewhere. Your staff has been very willing to do that. You and your employees are all to be commended for your work on behalf of youth and on behalf of the juvenile justice profession.

As you probably know, the ACJCS is required to post the Audit Report on your agency web site. The PREA Resource Center has determined that only Audit Summary must be posted. I am attaching that document as part of the Auditor Compliance Tool and as a separate document to make it easier for you to separate the Audit Report for posting. The Auditor Compliance Tool provides information and details for agency use. I hope that will be of value to you as you continue to achieve excellence in the field of juvenile justice. Please let me know if you have any questions or if there is anything else you need from me.

Once again, thank you for the opportunity to serve as your first PREA auditor. We have learned together and I consider myself lucky to be able to conduct an audit of such an outstanding facility.

Very truly yours,

Anne M. Nelsen, MSW, MPA

Anne M. Nelsen, MSW, MPA
PREA Auditor

Attach.

Cc: Ken Jenkins
Terry Shaffer
Richard Maher