

Ada County Juvenile Detention Center

PREA AUDIT FINDINGS

Ada County Juvenile Detention Center

Ada County, Idaho

2014

NARRATIVE:

The on-site audit of the Ada County Juvenile Detention Center (ACJDC) in Boise, Idaho occurred on June 23-26, 2014. The audit began in the late morning of June 23 and concluded in the early afternoon on June 26, with a total of three days on-site. The audit began with an entrance meeting that included Ada County Juvenile Court Services (ACJCS) Director, Jan Wallace; ACJCS Training Division Manager and PREA Coordinator, Ken Jenkins; ACJCS Detention Manager, Terry Shaffer; ACJCS Assistant Detention Manager, Richard Maher; ACJCS Data Analysis Division Manager, Deborah Fulkerson; Ada County Commissioner, Dave Case; and, PREA Auditor, Anne M. Nelsen. The entrance meeting included an introduction and overview of the schedule for the three-day audit period. The agency provided a PowerPoint overview of the agency and of the detention center. The agency also provided the auditor with the training that is provided for all contactors, volunteers and interns who may have contact with residents. Following the entrance meeting a comprehensive tour of the facility was provided. After completing the tour, auditor interviews began and continued throughout the subsequent three days.

Prior to the audit, the auditor requested a list of specialized staff members and contractors to be interviewed. The PREA Coordinator provided the auditor with that list, including contact information. Interviews were conducted the week before the site visit with Sergeant Paul Soffle, Sexual Abuse Investigator, Ada County Sheriff's Office; Bart Hamilton, Internal Investigator (staff-on-resident sexual abuse allegations), Ada County Department of Human Resource Management, and Bethany Calley, Director, Ada County Department of Human Resource Management. One interview occurred subsequent to the site visit. That interview was with Maureen Wishkowski, from the Women and Children's Alliance (WCA) of Boise, the local rape crisis agency. All other interviews were conducted during the site visit.

Those specific individuals interviewed included Ken Jenkins, ACJCS Division Training Manager and PREA Coordinator; Terry Shaffer, ACJCS Detention Manager; Richard Maher, ACJCS Assistant Detention Manager; Jan Wallace, Director, ACJCS; Gail Saldana, ACJDC Nurse Manager; Joyce Luke, Boise School District and ACJDC Lead Teacher; Wendy Seagreaves, ACJCS Clinical Supervisor; Marty Elhart, ACJDC Youth Development Specialist; Rachel Burcholz, ACJCS HR Specialist; Bill Dorsey, Day Shift Supervisor; Roderick Hay, Day Shift Supervisor; Steve McClain, Night Shift Supervisor; Aime Williams, Night Shift Supervisor; Cindy Cook, SAFE Coordinator, St. Alphonsus Hospital; and, Amy Thompson, Manager of Clinical Operations and Programs, Warm Springs Counseling Center.

In addition, a number of line staff members were interviewed during the audit. Those interviewees were selected randomly from schedules of staff members on duty on the days of the audit. Included in those interviews were Kassie Mitchell, Wendy Cerovski, Mark Burcholz, Brian Mayer, Brady Frederick, Kristy Jones, Kathryn Gines, William Phelps and Rod Murphy.

Finally, interviews were conducted of residents who represented specific PREA categories as well as from all living units or groups at the facility. There were no residents who reported sexual victimization during risk screening at admission, no youth who identified as gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender or intersex, and no youth with limited English proficiency or literacy skills at the time of the audit. There were 34 to 36 youth listed on the daily population reports during the audit but three were listed as in the hospital. Of the remaining 31 to 33 youth, interviews were conducted with 11. Residents interviewed included residents housed in each of the two

male pods and the one female pod and one resident housed in an observation room. Those interviews included: MM, IS, DS, AH, RS, KS, JK, BO, DJ, KV, and KB.

I was at the facility during parts of all four shifts in order to interview staff and observe activities.

An Exit Meeting was held the final day of the audit with the same individuals present, except for Commissioner Case. During that meeting I complimented those present for choosing to complete their PREA during the first year of the three-year cycle. I recognized the enormous amount of work that was required, especially since they do not have peer facilities to refer to who have completed the process in prior years. I also remarked on the organization of the PREA Coordinator, the Assistant Detention Manager and others, both prior to and during the audit. Their work and effort made the process more straightforward and less problematic and helped to ensure that the audit went smoothly and that no time was wasted. I noted the apparent high quality and commitment of the facility staff. Many employees have been at the facility for many years and bring an abundance of experience and expertise that cannot be easily replaced. And, I pointed out that the residents interviewed consistently expressed a sense of well-being and safety. I emphasized that I could not offer specific information about what my report would state and that I would be compiling that report over the coming 30 days, reviewing the Pre-Audit Questionnaire, the supporting documents, my observations from my tour and information derived from interviews.

An Initial Report was provided to the agency on July 11, 2014. That report included the Auditor Compliance Tool and the Audit Findings/Initial Summary. In the Auditor Compliance Tool, each standard was rated and a narrative explanation of the rationale for each rating was included. The Audit Findings/Initial Summary included a summary of the number and percentage of standards that were met, not met, exempt, or not applicable (see below.) Recommendations for achieving compliance with each standard were provided for use in developing a Corrective Action Plan (CAP.) The agency then proceeded to develop their CAP, collaborating with this auditor in that process.

Corrective Active Plans (CAP) were developed and collaboratively by the agency and this auditor and were all adopted. Those plans were comprehensive and addressed all areas of concern. In many cases, the CAP exceeded the requirements of the standard, further illustrating the agency's commitment to safety of residents.

DESCRIPTION OF FACILITY CHARACTERISTICS:

The Ada County Juvenile Detention Center is a 71-bed secure juvenile detention facility located in a mixed neighborhood of residences and business in Boise, Idaho. It is attached to the Ada County Juvenile Court building, which houses other agency functions including Court, Probation Services, Programs Division, and Administration. The facility is about 20 years old and has been very well maintained, is in excellent condition and was very clean. The facility has five separate pods but only three are currently in use. The facility has participated in the Annie E. Casey Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI) and the average population has decreased as a result of those efforts. The number of residents reported during the 12 months prior to the audit ranged from 25 to 50. The facility has a school area, dayroom, multi-purpose rooms, a half-court gymnasium, full kitchen, control room, five observation rooms, three small outdoor recreation areas, a garden, and necessary support areas. All sleeping rooms are individual with no rooms assigned to more than one resident. Each of the pods has a separate room for the one individual shower so all showers are conducted separately.

The facility has an average daily population of 35 residents last year, the average length of stay was 10.7 days, there are 37 full-time and 13 on-call staff members who work directly with youth. There are six medical staff and 12 kitchen staff. The facility contracts for some medical, dental and mental health services. The schoolteachers are employed by the Boise School District. The agency uses volunteers and interns for a variety of services.

SUMMARY OF AUDIT FINDINGS:

This auditor completed a site visit of the Ada County Juvenile Detention Center on June 23-26, 2014. Based on review of the Pre-Audit Questionnaire and accompanying documents, documents reviewed and interviews conducted during and shortly after the site visit, and my subsequent review of documents, along with conversations and email communication with key agency and facility staff the following results are determined in the Initial Report:

Standards met (no corrective action needed): 108

Standard not met (requiring corrective action): 47

Not exempt from standard: 1

Not applicable standards: 23

The facility met 69% of the 156 applicable standards at the time of the initial report. It should be noted that in almost all cases, recommended corrective action was minimal and generally required promulgating or revising written policies and procedures. Because the facility has almost no examples of allegations of sexual abuse or sexual harassment, including accompanying investigations, it was particularly important to provide verification of compliance by implementing written policy of what is expected in such cases.

Final Report:

The agency developed Corrective Action Plans for each of the standards that had been found out of compliance in the Initial Report, working collaboratively with this auditor in doing so. The agency completed corrective action plans for each of the 47 standards that were not met at the time of the audit and was subsequently found to meet or exceed all of them. **The Ada County Juvenile Detention Center now meets or exceeds 100% of applicable and non-exempt PREA Juvenile Facilities standards.** The agency compliance is as follows:

Standards exceeded: 8

Standards met (no corrective action needed): 147

Standard not met (requiring corrective action): 0

Not exempt from standard: 1

Not applicable standards: 23

The agency and facility worked diligently and professionally to address this auditor's concerns and to develop and achieve Corrective Action Plans.

This auditor found the agency and the facility employees to be extremely dedicated to providing quality services to the youth in their custody. They exhibited high levels of commitment on every level. In particular, the organization and planning by the PREA Coordinator, the Detention Manager and the Assistant Detention Manager helped to ensure that the audit experience and corrective action process were successful. The CAP assistance of the Ada County Human Resources staff and others further enhanced the experience and helped to achieve the a successful PREA audit. The Ada County Juvenile Court Services and the Ada County Juvenile Detention Center staff, contractors and volunteers are committed to caring for young people in order to help them to achieve success in their future lives.

AUDITOR CERTIFICATION:

The auditor certifies that the contents of this report are accurate to the best of her knowledge and no conflict of interest exists with respect to her ability to conduct an audit of the agency under review.

Anne M. Nelsen, MSW, MPA

November 22, 2014

Auditor Signature

Date