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April 20, 2020

Lee Seale, Chief Probation Officer
Sacramento County Probation Department
9750 Business Park Drive, Suite 220
Sacramento, CA 95827

**SACRAMENTO YOUTH DETENTION FACILITY
BSCC # 7437
2018-2020 BIENNIAL INSPECTION PURSUANT TO WIC 209 and 885**

Dear Chief Seale:

This letter is to advise you that the 2018/2020 biennial inspection of the Sacramento County Youth Detention Facility has been completed, pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code Section 209 and 885. A pre-inspection briefing was held on April 30, 2019, and the facility was inspected on January 28-31, 2020. Division Chief Dave Semon, as well as his staff and collaborative partners, made the inspection process seamless and represented the facility and their respective agencies in an exemplary manner. We appreciate the time and energy spent preparing for, organizing and participating in the inspection, especially given the amount of documentation requested.

The complete Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) inspection report is enclosed and consists of: this transmittal letter; the Title 15 Procedures checklist outlining Title 15 requirements for both facilities; a Physical Plant Evaluation checklist outlining Title 24 requirements for the design of the facilities, and; a Living Area Space Evaluation (LASE) summarizing the physical plant configuration and showing the rated capacity of each facility.

Local Inspections

In addition to the biennial inspection by the BSCC, Title 15, Section 1313 and statute also require local inspections from the following: county building inspector or person designated by the Board of Supervisors; fire authority having jurisdiction; local health officer; county Superintendent of Schools; Juvenile Court; and the Juvenile Justice Commission. Results of those inspections are considered a part of this report and the dates of the local inspections may be found in the accompanying Procedures Checklist. There are no compliance issues relating to your local inspections.

Inspection Scope

The inspection included a review of the Sacramento County Youth Detention Facility Policy and Procedure Manual. Our audit consisted of a review of only those policies and procedures related

specifically to the applicable regulations outlined in Title 15, Minimum Standards for Juvenile Facilities¹ and verification that the complete manual is compliant with Regulation 1324, Policy and Procedures Manual. After the review of the manual, we reviewed documentation to assure that practice and policies are consistent with Title 15. We followed that review with a physical plant tour and interviews with administration, facility staff, collaborative partners and youth.

Inspection Results

Operations

We reviewed numerous incident reports, grievances, admission and classification reports, separation and room confinement incidents, and disciplinary reports and findings to ensure compliance with and application of newly implemented Title 15 Regulations, and to ensure procedures and process were consistent. Although some documentation revealed minor issues with consistency, overall, the documentation shows a pattern and practice of compliance with both policies and Title 15 standards. We were impressed with the detail in policy, expectations, and audit of policies related to new regulations.

It is important to note your documented Case Plans, Chrono's and agency responses to individual youth needs exceeded expectations. Your team is vested in providing wraparound services for youth in detention from intake, through detention and prior to release. The coordination with field probation staff for re-entry services into the community is inclusive of needs as they relate to strengths, interests, ambition, triggers, and coping skills; all geared toward providing support services which include housing, job assistance, education, medical and mental health referrals, community reintegration and transportation; just to name a few. It is clear your team places great value on successful transitions for youth.

During our on-site inspection, we interviewed facility staff and collaborative partners including probation, medical, mental health and educational staff. The intent was to verify that facility staff has a well-developed relationship with collaborative partners to ensure appropriate treatment of the youth. Relationships were positive and our conversations revealed a genuine interest in doing the best for youth, especially given the change in regulations directed to individual treatment and assessment. Each spoke about their own positive team and partnership amongst staff, administration, teachers, medical, and mental health staff to best meet the needs of all youth in the facility.

We observed daily unit operations, noticing that the interactions between youth and staff appeared respectful and engaging. Staff had conversations with youth in calm tones, and reactions appeared genuine and reciprocated. We asked youth about this in interviews and it was confirmed that was 'normal.' Our observations confirmed youth and staff relationships were strong, which was the intent of regulation changes. This type of relationship between youth and staff was in line with the intent of revisions to regulations.

¹ BSCC does not review all of your policies and procedures. We do not "approve" your policies and procedures nor do we review them for constitutional or legal issues. We recommend agencies seek review through their legal advisor, risk manager and other persons deemed appropriate.

Education

The Sacramento County Office of Education (SCOE) operates the El Centro School at the facility. Staffing includes the Principal, nine teachers, an Intensive Skill Building teacher, two ROP instructors (Culinary and Construction – NCCT), one RSP teacher, one college SOAR teacher, a Guidance Counselor, three Transition Specialists, two Special Education teachers, a school Psychologist and two Homeless and Foster Youth Specialist. This is a comprehensive strategy to promote education and vocational standards which exceed regulation. The SCOE provides approximately 285 minutes of instruction each day to students, including a college curriculum through Sacramento City College, South Lake Tahoe Community College, Feather River College, Lassen Correspondence College and Folsom Lake College. This post-secondary opportunity is available to all students upon graduation, and some youth can dually enroll in both El Centro School and local college courses. Students use computers and Chrome books in and out of the classroom to facilitate online learning.

School staff also work with youth on Independent Living curriculums, including: resume writing, food handler certificates, business office skills and money management. Youth can work on credit recovery with tablets to assist in meeting educational goals more quickly. We observed youth in the classroom be encouraged by teachers and responsive to school rules. Youth at any stage in school participate in activities to meet their needs identified in the Educational Assessment, given to all youth detained in the facility.

Programming

The programs offered by the facility and agency partners are expansive and coordinated with activities planned in and out of the living unit. Every aspect of the operational plan has an intensive focus on treatment for the youth, evidenced by the ability to match any of a youth's identified needs to a number of relevant services or programs. The attached procedures checklist identifies numerous opportunities. Just to articulate a few, programs such as the following are geared to meet the needs of youth for behavior change: Alternatives to Violence which teaches peaceful conflict resolution techniques; Another Choice Another Way which is a discussion group on everyday issues; The Beat Within, a program that encourages literacy, self-expression, and critical thinking skills; Bridge Network, a program which assists in building healthy family relationships; Project Teach, which assists homeless youth; Safety Health Opportunity Practice (SHOP), an EBP to assist with thought processes; Skills Training Enrichment Program (STEP)-Pro-Social development; Scholars Obtaining Academic Responsibility (SOAR)-college program; and, Trauma Informed Care, a 10 week trauma curriculum for youth assessed into the program.

Although classified as a Juvenile Hall, the YDF provides extensive opportunities to all youth in detention. The services provided are facilitated by collaborative partnerships, outside volunteers and probation staff. Individualized case plans are completed for these youth with specific goals and objectives for their stay. Each youth in detention participate in programming with a focus on making positive behavior changes to address the behaviors leading to their incarceration.

The facility takes great strides to emphasizes positive school, work, and unit behavior through their structured schedule and behavior programming options, reinforced with consistent staff responses to

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negative behavior. This provides for clear expectations of youth behavior. The staff support natural consequences so that youth may learn from mistakes.

Title 15, CCR Minimum Standards

During our visit, we offered minor technical assistance recommendations to staff to enhance operations for future compliance inspections, given the changes to regulations this cycle. Several procedures and policy matters were discussed and edited prior to the completion of this letter. Those efforts are appreciated. The attached Procedures Checklist provides a detailed overview of the inspection findings. Upon final review of all documentation and upon the conclusion of this report, we find no items of noncompliance at the Sacramento County Youth Detention Facility and there is no corrective action required.

Title 24, CCR Physical Plant

There were no changes made to the physical plant since the previous inspection, however, there were changes found to unit rooms and space designations, resulting in the change to the rated capacity to 417 youth in detention. On the day of the inspection, the population was 100 youth in detention, 94 male youth and 6 female youth.

It is significant to note the use of non-occupied living units. You have two units used to provide distinct post-secondary opportunities; one for SOAR, a college program with a full-time teacher through the SCOE and the second, a vocational education program offering culinary and construction programs with two teachers through the SCOE. Additionally, you have an Orientation Unit, which provides youth the opportunity to understand their responsibilities and expectations while in detention.

Training

The most recent Standards and Training for Corrections audit reports, that the Sacramento County Probation Department is compliant with all relevant regulations and mandates.

Sacramento County Probation facilitates Core Training for new staff prior to them working in the facility. This, as well as current and ongoing annual training for all facility staff classifications, is provided at the facility in the established training rooms. The process to update training based on new regulations was timely and allowed staff to understand of the intent of regulation revisions in their day to day operations.

Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act Compliance Monitoring

There have been no violations of JJDPA this inspection cycle and no areas of non-compliance were noted.

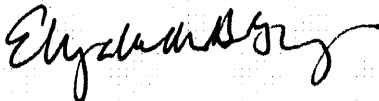
We are very impressed with the overall operations, programming and staffing of the Sacramento County Youth Detention Facility. We would again like to thank you and compliment staff for their dedication, thoroughness and responsiveness. You have every reason to be proud of your Chief Deputy and his

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staff. They are doing an outstanding job in caring for the youth in their care. This concludes our 2018-2020 inspection report.

We are available to assist as needed and are always happy to provide technical assistance when requested. We look forward to continuing to work together. Please do not hesitate to email me at Elizabeth.gong@bscc.ca.gov or call (916) 324-9153 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth Gong
Field Representative
Facilities Standards and Operations Division

Enclosures

cc: Presiding Judge, Juvenile Court, Sacramento County*
Chair, Juvenile Justice Commission, Sacramento County*
Chair, Board of Supervisors, Sacramento County*
County Administrator, Sacramento County*
Marlon Yarber, Assistant Chief Probation Officer, Sacramento County Probation
Dave Semon, Division Chief, Sacramento County Probation Department, YDF

*Copies of full inspection are available upon request.