

JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMISSION JUVENILE HALLS AND CAMPS INSPECTION REPORT

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

Facility Name: Sonoma County Juvenile Hall **Inspection Date:** 1/28/2016
Facility Capacity: 140 **Last Inspection:** 2/24/2015
Address: 7425 Rancho Los Guilicos Rd **Telephone Number:** 707-565-6210
Santa Rosa, CA 95409 **FAX Number:** 707-565-6389
Superintendent: Marty Mitchell **Staff Interviewed:** (please see page 4)

Type of Facility: Juvenile Hall Camp Co-Ed?

Presiding Juvenile Court Judge: Hon. Judges Marcoida and Gnos

Commission Chair: Mary Cone

Telephone No. 707-696-6497

Signature

Commission Inspection Team: Jody Edwards

Robert Faux

Dennis Ruggiero

Major Concerns and Recommendations:

Mental Health issues have dominated staff's time at the Hall for a number of years. The juvenile hall offers crisis intervention and stabilization not treatment. For years they have worked with the community to get youth into treatment programs. Now they are talking of bringing treatment in house. We encourage them to make this happen. There are many challenges associated with educating this fluid population of youth. We recommend that education is made relevant and any opportunity to ensure they are mastering content rather than measuring seat time is taken.

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AREA REVIEWED: Please Check

QUALITY OF LIFE	PROGRAMS	PERSONS INTERVIEWED
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Physical Plant <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Meals/Nutrition <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mental Health <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Physical/Dental Health <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious Services <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Volunter Involvement <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Visiting <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Volunter Involvement <input type="checkbox"/> Other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education <input type="checkbox"/> Vocation/Employability <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Community Service <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Victim/Gang Awareness <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Substance Abuse <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minors <input type="checkbox"/> Superintendent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Medical/Psyche. Staff <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> School Staff <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supervisor <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Child Supervision Staff (Counselors) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Food Services Staff <input type="checkbox"/> Other

GENERAL INFORMATION

Has the facility exceeded capacity since the last inspection?

No. Capacity is 140 residents. Population on day of inspection was 61 overall, with 11 females, 50 males, and 2 being prosecuted as adults. Overall this is low given capacity.

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: 12/15/2015

SINCE THE LAST INSPECTION INDICATE:

Number of Suicides: 0

Number of Attempted Suicides: 0

Number of Deaths From Other Causes: 0

Number of Escapes: 0

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SLEEPING ROOMS (Cells)

Comments:

Rooms are of adequate size with basic facilities. Many of the utility services are monitored remotely from a central command location.

LOCAL INSPECTIONS

Fire: No Yes **Date:** 10/27/2015
(Health & Safety Code Section 13146.1)

***Medical/Mental Health:** No Yes **Date:** 12/16/2015

***Environmental Health:** No Yes **Date:** 9/29/2015

***Nutritional Health:** No Yes **Date:** 11/2/2015
(Health & Safety Code Section 101045)

Facility Safety and Security:

STAFFING

Staff To Child Ratio - Awake and Sleeping:

1:10 during waking hours. 1:30 during sleeping. Often ratio is lower. State mandate is 1 staff for 10 residents. Currently it is more like 1 to 6. The low ratio provides the opportunity for better interaction with the residents.

Communication In Language Minor Can Understand?

Yes. All residents have a minimum of conversational English. English as a second language instruction is part of the school curriculum. Parents who are not English proficient are provided staff translators as necessary. There are 16 spots for Spanish speaking staff, one is always available.

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STAFFING (Continued)

Diversity of Staff:

There are at least 16 bilingual staff in the budget. Major ethnic groups are well represented. Backgrounds include sociology majors or criminal justice majors. Several have experience working in group homes. The majority are under 30. On average they lose 6 people a year, none to involuntary termination. They get promoted to probation, social services, relocate or retire.

Staff/Minor Interactions:

Staff is expected to establish positive communication with residents. "Conflict Resolution" is a way of resolving a problem residents are having with another resident. In an effort to help resolve an issue, staff will sit down with the residents and act as a mediator. Often, when a neutral party is present during a conflict, the people having a problem can resolve their issues by having a mediator help them get their points across in a positive and respectful manner. The housing units are designed with an emphasis on environmental quality contributing to lessening tensions and assisting staff in managing the population.

Staff Interviews - Comments:

Sheralynn Freitas – Deputy Chief Probation Officer; Marty Mitchell, Hall Director; Kristen Vela, Health Program Manager; Maria de Rosario Lopez, Assistant Director; Kilee Wilson, Assistant Director; Cliff Schleuter, Administrator of Alternative Education. Staff at our general meeting were asked to comment on their major concerns: Marty - Mental health and suicide. My staff is great, don't worry about them; Cliff – concern about how to apply the changing educational practices and procedures within this setting. Sheralyn - biggest liability is someone who escapes but we haven't had that problem. The next biggest liability is someone hurting themselves or others.

CONDITIONS OF GROUNDS

Lawns, Playing Fields, Blacktop, Asphalt, Other:

The facility is 10 years old and has more than adequate outdoor playing fields for recreation. Excellent covered basketball/volleyball courts for bad weather.

EXTERIOR OF BUILDING

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

The facility is in good condition. It is clean and well maintained by contract agency.

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INTERIOR OF BUILDING

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

The Facility is 10 years old and is good condition.

Are cleaning fluids and chemicals labeled and safely stored?

Yes.

Weapons Locker Location:

In the vehicle sallyport as well as outside the main facility. There is also a locked room/armory for restraints and chemical agents.

Recreation/Sports Equipment:

Are the hallways clear and doors propped open?

Hallways are clear and doors are locked at all times. All doors have cameras and are monitor/operated remotely from a central command location.

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INTERIOR OF BUILDING (Continued)

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

Yes. Court Holding Area is comfortable. Youth can watch tv while waiting. They were separated by classification for security and appropriateness. Privacy rooms for attorney consultations is good.

Sleeping Rooms/Dormitories:

Areas are clean. Floors are clear of debris.

BEDS - Type? 12" off the floor:

Cement platform beds with mattress and pillow.

Art, books, personal possessions allowed in sleeping rooms?

Cubicles are located in the platform beds for personal items. Every housing unit has a "library", which consists of a book cart with various types of reading material. Every resident is allowed to have two books in their room at any given time.

Graffiti Present?

Yes, some. Staff deal with it promptly and appropriately when noticed.

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INTERIOR OF BUILDING (Continued)

Ample Blankets?

Yes. Upon arrival residents are issued the standard bedding bundle consisting of two sheets, two blankets and one towel. Residents have the opportunity to exchange sheets once a week, and blankets every other Saturday. A fresh towel is provided every day. A mattress is provided on each bed. Ample Blankets: residents get foam shaped mattress-pillow solid unit.

Study Area:

Clean classrooms with individual desks.

Adequate Lighting:

Yes. Units are designed with excellent lighting.

Temperature:

Comfortable in all rooms.

ORIENTATION OF MINORS

Are minors oriented to rules and procedures?

Yes. There is an orientation during the first week that includes a handout about the rules, policies, grievance procedures, and the point system that translates into levels with corresponding increased privileges. Unit staff meet with each minor for the first five days to go over and explain the handouts. Minors sign that they have received and understand this information. Information about their rights, a weekly activities schedule, and other information about Juvenile Hall is posted in the units. Each minor has a complete physical with the first 72 hours.

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ORIENTATION OF MINORS (Continued)

Are rules and grievance procedures posted?

Yes. Each unit has rules and procedures clearly posted.

Are rules and grievance procedures understood by minors?

Yes. JJC liaison reviews greivances monthly. Rules are categorized as either Major Rules or Minor Rules. Major rule violations result in modified programs tailored to assist the residents with modifying the behavior that got them to violate the rules. Violations of Minor Rules typically result in failure to earn points. The list of Major & Minor Rules is posted in the bulletin board and reviewed monthly with supervisors.

Minors Interviewed - Comments:

See attached page.

MEALS/NUTRITION

Kitchen - Clean; Are Knives and Chemicals Locked?

The kitchen is well organized and clean. Knives and chemicals can only be accessed by staff through two sallyport doors. Well equiped also. Special warming units to deliver food to units.

Have the youths working in the kitchen been trained?

No minors work in the kitchen.

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MEALS/NUTRITION (Continued)

Are meals served or cafeteria style?

They are served in the day room of each unit. The goal of the kitchen is to provide residents with healthy, nutritious and good tasting food. The menu is varied and includes dishes from a wide range of ethnic backgrounds. If residents have any food allergies or have medical or religious food requirements, residents can notify staff. A "Special Diet" form will be filled out and sent to the kitchen. Once notified, the kitchen will make a special food tray to meet resident needs.

Are minors permitted to converse during meals?

Yes. At individual tables.

Are staff present and supervising?

Yes.

Is a weekly menu prepared? Is it posted?

Yes. There is a weekly menu posted.

Are servings ample, nutritious and appetizing?

Yes. There are also morning and afternoon snacks.

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MEALS/NUTRITION (Continued)

Are weaker youths protected from having food taken from them?

Yes. The set up is always monitored by staff.

Length of time allowed to eat:

20 or more minutes for each meal

PERSONAL APPEARANCE OF MINORS

Appearance?

Residents are clean and well clothed. Hair cuts are offered monthly. Grooming products and grooming opportunities are provided to the youth daily. Personal hygiene is an important element of daily life. It is important to take care of yourself. Residents are encouraged take the time to comb hair, brush teeth, use deodorant, shower and to keep clothing in good shape to feel better overall.

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

Residents are expected to shower in privacy on a daily basis to maintain good health. It is also a courtesy to your fellow residents. Each resident receives a toothbrush, toothbrush cap, bar of soap and a comb for their use.

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

Clothing is appropriate for the season. Juveniles change personal items daily and outwear every other day. When residents booked into Juvenile Hall, they are issued the following items: Boys: Pants, t-shirt, boxers, socks, shower shoes, shoes, shorts and a sweatshirt. Girls: Pants, t-shirt, underwear, bra, socks, shower shoes, shoes, shorts and a sweatshirt. They are responsible for maintaining the condition of the clothing issued. All clothing items will be exchanged based on the posted schedule in housing units.

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PROGRAMS

RECREATION - Types and amount each day:

There is a minimum of 3 hours a day on weekdays and five hours on weekends. They receive at least one hour a day for large muscle exercise. Physical activity opportunities are offered twice a day with very good equipment and playing surfaces giving residents significant energy outlets.

EXERCISE - Daily schedule and amount of time each day:

45 minutes during school and at least one hour in the afternoon. If they want they can have more on the small recreation yards.

Access to religious services:

Several spiritual volunteers are onsite. Literature is provided. About 75% of the residents seek spiritual counseling/services. No incentive is given for attending, nor will penalties be imposed for not attending religious services/counseling. Once a week, a nondenominational service is held at the Juvenile Hall for those residents that specifically request to attend. Attendance is voluntary. Residents are allowed to participate in normal program activities if they elect not to participate in religious programs.

Medical/Mental Health Services:

There is a doctor one day a week and a psychiatrist one day a week, as well as two fulltime mental health staff and one RN on weekdays and one on the weekend. Protocols are developed for consultations. The most common mental health issue is depression, both situational (being locked up) and clinical. Having pediatric psychiatrist 2/week plus full-time behavioral health personnel on site is impressive. However, most counseling is directed towards crisis intervention with many needing longer term treatment. Mental health services are mostly for crisis intervention and stabilization. There is some need for longer term therapy.

Volunteer Program:

Volunteer coordinators facilitate spiritual advising, library services, tutoring, arts and crafts, and friendly visitors.

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PROGRAMS (Continued)

Counseling and Casework:

Mental health counselors can meet with residents and help deal with feelings. Residents can access a counselor by requesting this service from a JCC. Mental health staff is not on duty 24 hours a day. In some cases, the resident may not be able to meet with a counselor until the next day. In the event that the mental health counselor is not in the facility, residents always have the option of talking with the housing unit staff. Most counseling is directed towards crisis intervention with many needing longer term treatment.

Family Reunification Planning:

Juvenile Hall works in coordination with Probation and works with families with youth participating in the Quest and Odessey programs. The Boys and Girls Club has a special service just for residents. Part of their office on Dutton houses the REACH Program. They have two mentors who help navigate their pre and post release plans. The released youth can hang out there. For parents: Counselors try to have a connection with parents once a week. Parents are asked what help they need as residents are preparing for release. A restorative justice program is available for the youth who has created a rift with their parents.

Substance Abuse Counseling:

NA has classes once a week. Alcohol and Other Drug Services evaluation services are offered through County Mental Health. Substance abuse counseling is very focused on diversion/prevention of relapse with meth, marijuana, prescription drugs and alcohol, all very common issues. Yet, relapses not uncommon, just like with adults.

Victim Awareness Classes:

Yes, through Verity

Gang Awareness Classes:

Yes, they do have gang awareness intervention and use pro-social evidence-based programs to offer options other than gang membership. The Boys and Girls Club of Central Sonoma County does not have specific targeted gang programming, but do give youth alternatives to the gang lifestyle and create a space where gang kids program together.

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PROGRAMS (Continued)

Sexual Harassment Classes:

Sexual Harassment classes are offered by Verity through their Healthy Relationships and Teen Assault Prevention classes. In addition, SCOE also includes Sexual Harassment training in their Sex Education classes.

Parenting Classes:

Parenting classes are not offered at Juvenile Hall, but referrals to the California Parenting Institute are made by case counselors in the Quest and Odyssey programs.

Vocational Classes:

Vocational classes are not offered at Juvenile Hall, but students who have graduated High School or have obtained their GED are allowed to research a variety of vocational programs and classes via the internet. In addition, such students are allowed to take online classes at the JC, including classes that fulfill requirements for a vocational program. The Boys and Girls Club at Juvenile Hall provides vocational workshops on a rotating schedule.

Community Service:

Community Service possibilities available at Juvenile Hall are limited. There are two ways the residents are exposed to community services, via the Girls Scouts and via volunteer work within the Juvenile Hall by Odyssey and Quest students that are fulfilling a school expulsion requirement. Through the Girl Scouts, the female residents work on community service projects throughout the year, but especially during the holiday season. This year they made scarves to be donated to the homeless and made care packages to be given to the victims of drugs and alcohol.

Work Program:

Residents are responsible for the daily cleaning of their rooms and their common areas. Staff teach them basic housekeeping skills and try to give opportunities to all residents on a rotating basis. Some residents also have the opportunity to participate in work projects related to removing graffiti and deep cleaning of the recreational court yards. During Spring and Summer, residents from the Quest and Odyssey programs also work on garden projects. Juvenile Hall has 5 garden boxes that the residents tend to. Juvenile Hall is in the process of developing a work program to be piloted in the near future.

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PROGRAMS (Continued)

Other:

Juvenile Hall offers numerous programs. These include Agression Replacement Training, Boys Council, Girls Circle, Girl Scouts, Adolescent Treatment Program, Narcotic Anonymous, Tutoring, Skills Program, Spiritual Advising, Individual Counseling by Verity and California Parenting Institute, My Strength, Helathy Relationships, Teen Assault Prevention, Sex Education, Family Functional Therapy, and numerous programs offered within the Juvenile Hall by the Boys and Girls Club. Examples of those programs include Money Matters, Adulthood 101, and workshops related to employment.

DISCIPLINE OF MINORS

Frequency and Type:

The discipline of minors at Juvenile Hall takes place when a minor commits an infraction that requires some type of corrective action. The model is progressive discipline and the least restrictive measures are used to obtain the desired results. Disciplinary actions range from a verbal correction all the way to the filing of new charges. Juvenile Hall operates on a point system. Residents have the opportunity to earn points for complying with rules and expectations. if they do not comply, they do not earn certain points depending on the infraction. Points earn residents daily privileges, so the more points they earn, the more privileges they will receive.

GRIEVANCES

Number and Type:

Between 1 and 5 written grievances are filed by residents monthly in 2015. The forms are readily available. The grievance is usually surrounding interactions with staff and residents. The grievance is reviewed by the administration. An investigation is conducted through conversations with parties involved. Actions through mediation and counseling result in resolution. Whenever possible, grievances will be settled informally by the staff person who received it. Every effort will be made to have questions and concerns answered as promptly as possible. Grievances may be either oral or written and equal weight is given to each type. The majority of grievances are that too many privilege points taken for minor infractions.

TELEPHONE

Access:

Juvenile Hall provides residents with the opportunity to have access to telephones to maintain contact with family, the community and legal services. Residents have the opportunity to make 3 initial phone calls and they can earn unlimited phone calls through the behavioral management/point system.

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CORRESPONDENCE

Postage Free:

Juvenile Hall provides 3 postage stamps per week to each resident to send mail to family and friends. Residents are allowed to send unlimited official mail through our internal system without requiring postage stamps. Parents/guardians are allowed to supply as many stamps as they wish and Juvenile Hall staff will make those stamps available to the resident, as requested by such resident.

INCOMING/OUTGOING - Is mail read?

Mail is opened, inspected for contraband, and scanned for content that may jeopardize the safety and security of the resident or others. If, during the scanning process, contraband or content that compromises safety and security is found, mail will be read.

Confidential Correspondence:

Confidential mail may be opened by authorized staff and inspected in the presence of the resident, only when it is obvious that it contains minor contraband such as staples or paper clips. Under no other circumstances is mail to or from public officials, judges, or attorneys opened or read.

VISITING

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

Juvenile Hall allows each resident the opportunity to visit with authorized visitors to foster a healthy emotional climate, develop and strengthen family relationships, and improve individual morale. Each resident is afforded two one-hour visiting sessions per week. One session is scheduled during the week and one on weekends. Juvenile Hall makes every effort to afford visits outside of this schedule when it is clear that the authorized visitor is not able to visit during scheduled days/times.

Do staff supervise visits?

Yes

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VISITING

Adequate privacy during visits?

Visits with authorized visitors, other than legal, take place in the common area of the visitation room. These visits are supervised but allow plenty of room for privacy. Legal visits take place in a private locked room.

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

Yes, all minors are allowed visits, either by authorized family members or guardians, or by friendly visitors that Juvenile Hall provides through the volunteer program. Visiting experienced by about 50% of the resident. Transportation of families without resources is an issue. The Boys and Grls Club occasionally assists with transportation.

SCHOOL

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

The Sonoma County Office of Education (SCOE) provides educational services to the Juvenile Hall. SCOE provides one permanent teacher for each housing unit. In addition, they provide an RSP teacher, an ESL teacher, a School Counselor/therapist and a principal that oversees the Juvenile Hall educational program. Substitutes are used to cover for permanent teachers when permanent teachers call in for a variety of reasons. Substitute teachers are also used when Juvenile Hall determines that a residents must be away from the group, usually for safety and security reasons.

Number of minors attending school:

All residents are expected to attend school. The number varies daily, as there are new admits and releases on a regular basis. Attendance ranges from high 40s to low 100s. This fluctuates but currently 61 students are being served in the 5 classrooms.

Number of minors in each classroom:

The maximum capacity of each classroom is 21 students but it ranges from as low as 6 students all the way up to 21. Although this varies, currently there is a range of 8 - 20 students in the unit classrooms. There are some occasions when youth who are on restriction get one-on-one schooling, but only those youths who are an immediate threat to others.

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SCHOOL (Continued)

Number of minors on independent study:

They do not offer an independent studies program.

Atmosphere of Classroom:

Special challenges associated with teaching in the hall are the fluidity. Youth can be in the hall for 5 days or they can be in one unit and two weeks later change to a different one. Another one of these challenges is mental illness. Many youth with mental illness end up at the hall. Cliff described the mission as credit recovery and youth earn credits for working on curriculum. At the hall, youth can earn ½ credit for 6 hours of seat time not for passing tests to show they have acquired the knowledge. This is different than at a public high school. There a youth will earn 30 credits per semester (on average) but only if they pass the test at the end of the semester.

Adequate Supplies? Books, paper, computers, etc.

The Sonoma County Office of Education provides adequate supplies, including text books, other books, paper, and computers. Only one classroom was observed in passing. It appeared there were textbooks, supplies, papers and computers as in any public school classroom.

Activities and Coursework:

The activities and coursework is similar to regular high school out in the community with the exception of field trips and labs. Students can earn a HS diploma or the GED and when they do are recognized at a ceremony in the visiting area with parents and family invited. The departmentalized curriculum allows teachers to move between units in a rotational basis so they can present their expertise in greater depth in the core subject areas. An issue is the high mobility and short stay of most minors and this makes the use of test scores a questionable metric. The challenge is to ensure students are mastering content, rather than just measuring "seat time".

Are minors required to do homework?

No. Homework is optional for those students that have the desire to earn extra credit. The teacher interviewed said he gives no homework.

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SCHOOL (Continued)

Number of minors not attending. Reason?

All students are required to attend school, but from time to time they will have students absent due to illness or refusal to go to school. The number of students not attending is minimum and it varies daily.

Relationship between school and juvenile hall staff:

Cliff, the SCOE administrator describes the relationship between school and Juvenile Hall as a healthy, productive one. Cliff is regularly on site to provide leadership in the educational program and facilitate a positive working relationship with the Probation staff. This relationship allows for open conversations and a high degree of cooperation. The classrooms are configured based on where the youth are housed in the hall rather than by educational needs. They follow the lead of the Hall on this issue and the hall's main concern is safety.

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

Access to school, recreation, and exercise for all residents exceeds title XV mandates. Juvenile Hall has well-supplied classrooms, well-equipped large exercise facilities (recreational yards) and a large field with amazing views. Juvenile Hall programming allows for plenty of opportunities to use recreational yards and the field on a daily basis.

ACCESS TO MEDICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

The medical staff at the Juvenile Hall provides routine medical care for all residents in custody. Their Health Services Department provides medical and dental care as well as mental health services. Residents have at their disposal several nurses, a medical doctor, a psychiatrist, a dentist, several therapists, and a drug and alcohol counselor. There is a modern, well equipped dental office on site.

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Distribution of Juvenile Justice Commission Inspection Reports

Corrections Standards Authority Recommendation

The Corrections Standards Authority 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 GANTNER, DEPUTY DIRECTOR
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