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AUDITOR-CONTROLLER

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF AUDITOR-CONTROLLER**

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March 19, 2007

TO: Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, Chairman
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

FROM: J. Tyler McCauley 
Auditor-Controller

SUBJECT: **DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT –
FEBRUARY 2007 MONITORING RESULTS**

As requested, attached are the results of the Auditor-Controller (A-C) monitoring review of the County's juvenile halls for February 2007. The monitoring reviews are used to measure Los Angeles County's (County) progress in implementing the 52 recommendations (referred to as paragraphs) contained in the Department of Justice (DOJ) settlement agreement. The paragraphs covered by this report do not include the paragraphs that have been fully implemented or paragraphs that are undergoing formal monitoring by the DOJ.

Background

In December 2004, the A-C assumed oversight responsibility of the Quality Assurance Unit (QA Unit) as directed by your Board. The QA Unit was established to conduct on-going monitoring of the County's progress implementing the paragraphs contained in the DOJ settlement agreement. The QA Unit consists of staff from the A-C, Probation Department (Probation), the Department of Mental Health (DMH), and Juvenile Court Health Services (JCHS). The QA Unit works and consults with the DOJ monitors regularly. The DOJ monitors are a group of subject matter experts designated by the DOJ to assess the County and the Los Angeles County Department of Education's (LACOE) progress to implement the 52 paragraphs.

LACOE has been designated as the lead agency for five of the 52 paragraphs and monitors their own progress implementing these paragraphs. LACOE reports are

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submitted to the A-C and DOJ monitors monthly. The status of each of LACOE's paragraphs is discussed beginning on page eleven of Attachment 2 of this report.

Implementation Status Summary

The compliance rate noted below for each paragraph is based on our testwork, discussions with the DOJ monitors and the compliance rates for overlapping paragraphs. For example, use of force includes paragraphs 18, 28, 29, and 32.

As of March 1, 2007, 20 of the 52 paragraphs have been fully implemented. In addition, since January 2007, the DOJ began formal monitoring of nine paragraphs (10, 18, 22, 23, 24, 44, 52, 53, and 54). Before a paragraph is considered implemented, it must undergo formal monitoring by the DOJ monitors for one year. During the formal monitoring period, the DOJ monitors evaluate the County's compliance with the paragraphs' provisions. The DOJ will classify paragraphs as implemented if the County maintains substantial compliance with the paragraphs' provisions during the formal monitoring period.

For five of the remaining 23 paragraphs, LACOE staff monitor the implementation status. For the remaining 18 paragraphs, we noted the following:

- 2 paragraphs showed a 90% compliance rate.
- 6 paragraphs showed an 80% compliance rate.
- 7 paragraphs showed a 70% compliance rate.
- 3 paragraphs showed a less than 70% compliance rate.

Overall, the compliance rates for the 18 paragraphs did not significantly change from the compliance rates reported for January 2007 monitoring in our February 21, 2007 report. Attachment 1 contains a summary of the status of 18 paragraphs not yet in formal monitoring. The details of our February 2007 monitoring review for the 18 paragraphs and the compliance rate for each are addressed in Attachment 2.

Implementation Status of Key Paragraphs

Based on discussions with the DOJ monitors, Probation and other members of the implementation team, in December 2006 we classified seven of the eighteen paragraphs as key paragraphs. The paragraphs focus on the County's need to improve the provision of essential mental health services to children assigned to the juvenile halls and a reduction in the level of violence. Four of the seven paragraphs (10, 18, 22 and 24) entered formal monitoring in February 2007. The following are the remaining key paragraphs with a brief description and the current monitoring results.

Paragraph 27:

The County shall provide sufficient staff supervision to keep residents reasonably safe from harm and allow rehabilitative activities to occur successfully.

DOJ maintains a desired staffing level of one staff per eight minors. The State of California standard staffing level is one staff per ten minors. During February 2007, we reviewed the staffing ratios for a selected number of living quarters and Special Handling Units at the three juvenile halls. The staffing ratios ranged from 4 to 13 minors to 1 Probation staff. In addition, the staffing ratios for Level III supervision at the three juvenile halls were 1 minor to 1 Probation staff in accordance with Probation policy.

According to Probation, the County is on schedule to request formal monitoring by the target date.

Targeted Date to Request Formal Monitoring: August 2007

Paragraph 28:

The County shall develop and implement policies, procedures, and practices to restrict the use of oleoresin capsicum (OC) spray to appropriate circumstances, enable supervisors to maintain appropriate controls over spray use and storage, restrict the carrying of OC spray to only those individuals who need to carry and use it, prevent whenever possible the use of OC spray on populations for whom its use is contraindicated or contrary to doctors' instructions, and ensure that decontamination occurs properly.

Oleoresin capsicum, "pepper spray," is a pepper based non-lethal chemical restraint. Minors who are sprayed with OC spray are to be decontaminated by flushing the sprayed area with cold water. Probation developed policies governing the use of OC spray that conform to the above requirements. During the month of January 2007, 10 separate incidents were reported in which staff used OC spray on minors. Four incidents occurred at Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall and six incidents occurred at Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Hall. According to the investigation reports, the use of OC spray in six of the 10 incidents was appropriate. In the remaining four incidents the probation officers did not attempt physical intervention prior to using the OC spray as required.

Three of the 10 minors sprayed with OC were taking psychotropic medication. The minors were sprayed after verbal and physical intervention failed to deescalate their violent behavior. All of the ten youths received the appropriate medical attention within 30 minutes of being sprayed with OC.

The County requested formal monitoring for this paragraph in February 2007; however, the DOJ has not yet responded to the County's request.

Paragraph 32

The County shall develop and implement a system for review of uses of force and alleged child abuse by senior management so that they may use the information gathered to improve training and supervision of staff, guide staff discipline, and/or make policy or programmatic changes as needed.

During the monitoring period, a total of 92 use of force incidents were reported in the three juvenile halls, 36 at Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Hall, 32 at Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall and 24 at Central Juvenile Hall. Of the 92 minors involved in the uses of force, 68 (74%) received medical treatment within 30 minutes of the use of force. Of the remaining 24 minors, 19 received medical treatment within one to five hours of the use of force, two minors received medical treatment the following day and three minors refused medical treatment.

Probation supervisory staff did not always submit the completed review of the use of force to management within 48 hours of the incident as required. We reviewed the documentation packets of the 92 use of force incidents and noted 21 (23%) of the packets were completed from one to eight days after the 48 hour reporting timeline established by Probation. Three (3%) of the 92 reports did not list a submission date. As a result, we were unable to determine if the packets were submitted for review within the required timeframes.

Targeted Date to Request Formal Monitoring: May 2007

If you have any questions, please contact me or have your staff call Don Chadwick at (626) 293-1102.

Attachments

JTM:MO:DC

c: David E. Janssen, Chief Administrative Officer
 Robert B. Taylor, Chief Probation Officer
 Sachi A. Hamai, Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
 Dr. Bruce Chernof, Director, Department of Health Services
 Dr. Marvin J. Southard, Director, Department of Mental Health
 Dr. Darline P. Robles, Superintendent, Los Angeles County Office of Education
 Justice Deputies
 Children Services Deputies
 Education Deputies
 Audit Committee

**AUDITOR-CONTROLLER (A/C) QUALITY ASSURANCE UNIT SUMMARY OF MONITORING RESULTS
OF THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT**

A/C Audit Results				
	Dec-06	Jan-07	Feb-07	Substantial Compliance (1)
Paragraph 11: Treatment Planning	76%	74%	75%	80%
Paragraph 12: Case Management	49%	47%	52%	85%
Paragraph 13-A: Counseling Services			69%	80% (2)
Paragraph 13-B: Counseling Services	50%	55%	50%	50% (2)
Paragraph 15: Individualized Behavior Modification	70%	70%	70%	(3)
Paragraph 16: Substance Abuse	70%	70%	70%	Implementation of Contract Service Providers
Paragraph 25: Management of Suicidal Youth	80%	75%	75%	(3)
Paragraph 26: Care for Self - Harming Youth	85%	95%	90%	90%
Paragraph 27: Staffing	80%	80%	80%	(3)
Paragraph 28: Chemical Restraint	80%	80%	85%	90%
Paragraph 29: Use of Force	95%	95%	95%	95%
Paragraph 31: Child Abuse Investigation	50%	50%	50%	DOJ had not set a substantial compliance rate yet.
Paragraph 32: Use of Force Review	80%	80%	80%	90%
Paragraph 33: Rehabilitation and Behavior Management	70%	70%	70%	(3)
Paragraph 35: Reduce Youth and Youth Violence	80%	80%	80%	(3)
Paragraph 41: Medical Records Transfer	75%	75%	80%	(4)
Paragraph 45: Hygiene	70%	70%	75%	80%
Paragraph 46-50	n/a	n/a	n/a	(5)
Paragraph 55: Youth Hygiene	70%	70%	70%	75%
Paragraph 56: System	85%	85%	85%	100%

Footnotes:

- (1) Substantial compliance is the level of compliance set by DOJ that the County must achieve for the respective paragraph to be granted formal monitoring.
- (2) Paragraph 13-A measures the adequacy of treatment; Paragraph 13-B measures improvement in the client's condition.
- (3) These paragraphs do not have an actual set percentage of substantial compliance. DOJ is monitoring these paragraphs by monitoring and observing the environmental change brought about by the reduction of use of force, reduction of youth on youth violence, appropriate management of suicidal youth and an environment free of fear and intimidation.
- (4) DOJ has indicated this paragraph will be in substantial compliance when a program for an electronic medical record (EMR) has been identified, funding for the EMR has been appropriated and an implementation plan with an implementation date has been developed.
- (5) Paragraphs 46-50 are monitored by LACOE and are outside the scope of this report.

**QUALITY ASSURANCE UNIT
MONTHLY MONITORING RESULTS
FOR FEBRUARY 2007**

Scope of Review

The paragraphs covered by this report do not include the paragraphs that have been fully implemented or paragraphs that are undergoing formal monitoring by the Department of Justice (DOJ). As of March 1, 2007, 20 of the 52 paragraphs have been fully implemented. In addition, since January 2007, the DOJ began formal monitoring of nine paragraphs (10, 18, 22, 23, 24, 44, 52, 53, and 54). For five of the remaining 23 paragraphs, LACOE staff monitor the implementation status. Our monitoring review covered the remaining 18 paragraphs.

The compliance rate that we identified for each paragraph is based on our testwork, discussions with the DOJ monitors and compliance rate for the overlapping paragraphs. For example, use of force includes paragraphs 18, 28, 29, and 32.

PARAGRAPH 11: Treatment Planning

The County shall develop and implement policies and procedures, and practices for interdisciplinary treatment planning for youth with serious mental health needs, which allow for the ongoing identification, goal setting, and monitoring of youths' target symptoms. As permitted by law, a representative of LACOE shall share information with regard to the youth's academic performance and school-related behaviors, and shall also be responsible for sharing needed information from the treatment planning process with education professionals serving those youth.

Current Compliance Rate: 75%

Comments:

Based on documentation maintained by Probation staff, it appeared that DMH services were provided to the minors. However, the minors' case files lack adequate documentation to support the services. These findings have been noted in prior monitoring reviews and discussed with DMH management. In January 2007, DMH management hired three quality integrity staff to develop training for DMH personnel to ensure DMH complies with the DOJ standards.

PARAGRAPH 12: Case Management

The County shall develop and implement policies, procedures, and practices for case management, which would allow for the implementation of the treatment plans and ensure that treatment planning follows each youth from facility to facility.

Current Compliance Rate: 52%

Comments:

DMH staff do not always document follow-up contacts with the minors as required. In addition, the staff do not always document efforts to contact the parents/guardians when the initial attempt to contact them fails. Both of these issues have been noted in prior monitoring reports and discussed with DMH management. As noted above, DMH management hired three quality integrity staff to develop training for DMH personnel to ensure DMH complies with DOJ standards.

PARAGRAPH 13: Counseling Services

The County shall develop and implement policies, procedures and practices to ensure the availability of sufficient and adequate counseling services that meet the goal of ameliorating target symptoms of identified mental illness.

Current Compliance Rate: A. First screen 69%, B. Second screen 50%

Comments:

During February 2007, the DOJ set the compliance level for Paragraph 13. A (first screen) at 80%. During DOJ's last visit in March 2007, they agreed to set the compliance level for Paragraph 13. B (second screen) to 50%.

The Brief Symptom Inventory (BSI) is a standardized instrument that reflects subjective distress. The initial BSI is administered to a minor upon admission. A second BSI is administered three weeks after admission to determine if there has been any improvement in the clients' symptoms.

Paragraph 13 consists of two parts, screen 1 and screen 2. Screen 1 measures the adequacy of the treatment contacts to the minor by DMH staff. Screen 2 measures if there are improvements in the clients' symptoms when the results of the second BSI are compared to the first BSI.

During our February 2007 review, DMH staff did not consistently document their deliveries of services to the minors or their contacts with the minors. Of the 29 case files reviewed, 24 case files (83%) did not have adequate documentation of services and contacts with the minors.

PARAGRAPH 15: Individualized Behavior Modification

The County shall develop and implement individualized behavior modification programs for individual youth where appropriate. If warranted, LACOE will develop and implement Behavior Support Plans which will be incorporated into youths' Individual Learning Plans. If a special education pupil requires a Behavior Support Plan or Behavior Intervention Plan, the IEP team shall include this need in the IEP.

Current Compliance Rate: 70%**Comments:**

The DOJ monitor and DMH have not developed a specific audit tool for this paragraph. The DOJ Monitor and DMH believe that the Individualized Behavior Modification Planning (IBMP) process outlined in Paragraph 33 addresses the minors' needs related to this paragraph. DMH management stated that the type of intervention addressed in this paragraph is rare and does not lend itself to regular sampling and auditing.

PARAGRAPH 16: Substance Abuse

The County shall develop and implement policies, procedures, and practices to address substance use disorders appropriately.

Current Compliance Rate: 70%**Comments:**

The compliance rate is based on our assessment of the initial screening process, the drug education program, and the follow-up process. Generally, the screening process is sufficient. However, the County needs to improve the drug education/drug awareness and follow up process. For example, on a voluntary basis, Atlantic Recovery, Tarzana Treatment and Narcotics Anonymous are providing treatment and counseling to the minors at the three juvenile halls. However, due to a lack of a contract, the service providers cannot provide level of service the minors require. Probation management is in the process of preparing a "Request for Proposal" for a contract with mental health service providers to provide substance abuse services at the juvenile halls. In the interim, Probation is working with DMH and the Department of Health Services to utilize existing providers under contract with these departments to provide substance abuse services at the three juvenile halls.

PARAGRAPH 25: Management of Suicidal Youth

The County and LACOE shall develop and implement policies, procedures, and practices to ensure that mental health staff are sufficiently involved with probation and education staff in the management of youth exhibiting suicidal behaviors, including creation of individual behavior modification programs (County) and, if needed, creation for a youth of a Behavior Support Plan or a Behavior Intervention Plan (LACOE), and decisions about appropriate clothing, bedding, and housing (County).

Current Compliance Rate: 75%

Comments:

Probation staff are providing adequate supervision of youth placed on Level III supervision. However, as noted in Paragraph 26, DMH personnel do not always review the minors' behavior charts. As a result, minors with histories of self harm may not receive the appropriate level of supervision. The Individual Behavior Management Plan (IBMP) committees are reviewing and classifying all the self-harm incidents that occurred during the period of our review. A policy requiring building supervisors to promptly review and evaluate attempted suicides that occur in their units is being drafted and was forwarded to the DOJ monitors for review at the end of January 2007. The policy will also require a tracking system so that all incidents are assigned a unique identifier, i.e., identifying sequential numbers, properly reported, routed and maintained in a centralized location.

Each minor placed on Level III supervision must have an Enhanced Supervision Observation form initiated and maintained during their assignment to Level III supervision status. Probation staff must document the minor's behavior on this form at least once every four hours.

During our February 2007 review we reviewed the files of 511 minors on Level III supervision at the three juvenile halls. The files for 40 (8%) of the 511 forms did not contain the Enhanced Supervision Observation form. The following is the breakdown by juvenile hall:

- Nine of 177 sampled at Central Juvenile Hall.
- Twenty-nine of 246 sampled at Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Hall.
- Two of 88 sampled at Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall.

The common errors in the 471 forms reviewed were missing dates, times and Senior Detention Service Officers' signatures.

PARAGRAPH 26: Care for Self – Harming Youth

The County shall develop a continuum of services and responses to meet the needs of self-harming youth, including revised supervision practices to minimize incidents of self-harm and appropriate access to hospital services and specialized residential facilities.

Current Compliance Rate: 90%

Comments:

Each juvenile hall must maintain a Mental Health Psychiatric Hospital log, indicating minors requiring transfer to a higher level of care and a Transportation log documenting minors transferred to a higher level of care. We reviewed the Mental Health Psychiatric

Hospital log and the Transportation log at each juvenile hall and noted they were current and accurate.

In January 2007, one of the DOJ monitors with co-responsibility for Paragraph 26 indicated that the physical plant issues related to the paragraph are in substantial compliance. In March 2007, a Level I minor set fire to his mattress in his living quarters at Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Hall. The minor had been transferred between Los Padrinos, Barry J. Nidorf and Central Juvenile Halls since his arrest on December 1, 2006. The minor was briefly on Level II supervision at Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Hall in late January 2007, and on Levels I, II and III at Central Juvenile Hall during mid-February 2007 prior to his transfer back to Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Hall. On February 26, 2007, a psychiatrist cleared the minor for transfer to the camps. The minor had been on Level I supervision since February 21, 2007. The minor's behavior chart was transported to Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Hall with the minor prior to his transfer to the camps. However, the DMH contract agency staff at Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Hall did not review the minor's chart. As a result, staff were not aware of the minor's prior self harm behavior. Review of available documentation is critical to ensure the safety on minors in County custody.

PARAGRAPH 27: Staffing

The County shall provide sufficient staff supervision to keep residents reasonably safe from harm and allow rehabilitative activities to occur successfully.

Current Compliance Rate: 83%

Comments:

DOJ maintains a desired staffing level of one staff per eight minors. The State of California standard staffing level is one staff per ten minors. During February 2007, we reviewed the staffing ratios for a selected number of living quarters and Special Handling Units at the three juvenile halls. The staffing ratios ranged from 4 to 13 minors to 1 Probation staff. In addition, the staffing ratios for Level III supervision at the three juvenile halls were 1 minor to 1 Probation staff in accordance with Probation policy.

PARAGRAPH 28: Chemical Restraint

The county shall develop and implement policies, procedures, and practices to restrict the use of oleoresin capsicum (OC) spray to appropriate circumstances, enable supervisors to maintain appropriate controls over spray use and storage, restrict the carrying of OC spray to only those individuals who need to carry and use it, prevent whenever possible the use of OC spray on populations for whom its use is contraindicated or contrary to doctors' instructions, and ensure that decontamination occurs properly.

Current Compliance Rate: 85%

Comments:

Oleoresin capsicum, "pepper spray," is a pepper based non-lethal chemical restraint. Minors who are sprayed with OC spray are to be decontaminated by flushing the sprayed area with cold water. Probation developed policies governing the use of OC spray that conform to the above requirements. During the month of January 2007, 10 separate incidents were reported in which staff used OC spray on minors. Four incidents occurred at Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall and six incidents occurred at Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Hall. According to the investigation reports, the use of OC spray in six of the 10 incidents was appropriate. In the remaining four incidents the probation officers did not attempt physical intervention prior to using the OC spray as required.

Three of the 10 minors sprayed with OC were taking psychotropic medication. The minors were sprayed after verbal and physical intervention failed to deescalate their violent behavior. All of the ten youths received the appropriate medical attention within 30 minutes of being sprayed with OC.

PARAGRAPH 29: Use of Force

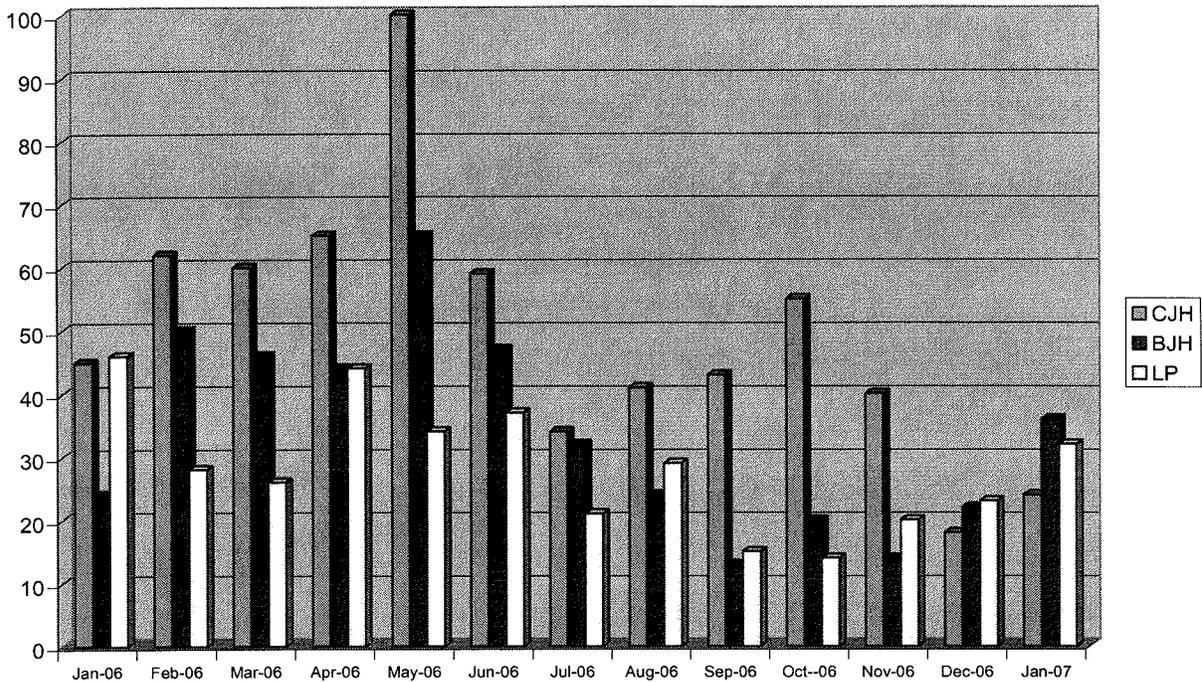
The County shall develop and implement a comprehensive policy and accompanying practices governing use of force, ensuring that the least amount of force necessary for the safety of staff, youth residents, and visitors is used on youth.

Current Compliance Rate: 95%**Comments:**

The Probation Department has trained its employees in "Safe Crisis Management," which emphasizes programming and de-escalation techniques. The training also included the proper use of physical and chemical restraints. Based on the number of reported incidents, it appears that overall the use of force has declined over the last six months, as depicted in the chart below.

In the past, the DOJ monitor had stated that although Probation has implemented policy and training to comply with this paragraph, the DOJ monitor will not grant formal monitoring until the related Paragraphs 18, 28 and 32, are also ready for formal monitoring. In January 2007, the DOJ monitor indicated to the project manager that DOJ will consider formal monitoring for each paragraph on each paragraph's merit.

USE OF FORCE



PARAGRAPH 31: Child Abuse Investigation

The County shall develop and implement a system for the timely, thorough, and independent investigation of alleged child abuse.

Current Compliance Rate: 50%

Comments:

Probation’s Child Abuse Investigation Unit (Unit) consists of five investigators. The Unit rarely closes a case within the 30 day time frame as required. During our current monitoring review, we reviewed 22 cases that were opened during December 2006 and January 2007. As of February 22, 2007, 19 of the 22 cases were still open. The Unit has a total of 29 open cases. Four of the 29 have been open for over 90 days. The Child Abuse Investigation Unit staff did not provide an explanation as to why the cases were not being closed within the timeframe established by the Department.

In addition, since the inception of our review, we noted the case files did not contain documentation that indicated law enforcement was notified when a child abuse incident occurred. Probation indicated that they plan to develop a policy to address this issue.

The Unit needs to document when they are notified of a possible child abuse incident, when they responded, when the appropriate law enforcement agency was notified, and when they followed up with the law enforcement agency to determine the disposition of the criminal investigation, if any.

In December 2006 Probation requested County Counsel to identify an individual to serve as an independent counsel to staff an "Office of Independent Review" within Probation; however, an independent counsel has not been identified.

PARAGRAPH 32: Use of Force Review

The County shall develop and implement a system for review of uses of force and alleged child abuse by senior management so that they may use the information gathered to improve training and supervision of staff, guide staff discipline, and/or make policy or programmatic changes as needed.

Current Compliance Rate: 80%

Comments:

During the monitoring period, a total of 92 use of force incidents were reported in the three juvenile halls, 36 at Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Hall, 32 at Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall and 24 at Central Juvenile Hall. Of the 92 minors involved in the uses of force, 68 (74%) received medical treatment within 30 minutes of the use of force. Of the remaining 24 minors, 19 received medical treatment within one to five hours of the use of force, two minors received medical treatment the following day and three minors refused medical treatment.

Probation supervisory staff did not always submit the completed review of the use of force to management within 48 hours of the incident as required. We reviewed the documentation packets of the 92 use of force incidents and noted 21 (23%) of the packets were completed from one to eight days after the 48 hour reporting timeline established by Probation. Three (3%) of the 92 reports did not list a submission date. As a result, we were unable to determine when the packets were submitted for review.

PARAGRAPH 33: Rehabilitation and Behavioral Management

The County shall provide adequate rehabilitative programming and gender-specific programming, where appropriate. The County and LACOE shall provide a facility-wide behavioral management system that is implemented throughout the day, including school time.

Current Compliance Rate: 70%

Comments:

IBMP and Interagency meetings are held weekly. As part of our February 2007 monitoring, we will randomly attend one IBMP meeting a month to determine whether protocols and processes utilized at each facility are consistently applied. The EXCEL program is a complex program that Probation originally planned to administer uniformly among the three juvenile halls.

The County has determined that the Life Enhancement and Assessment of Personal Skills (LEAPS) programs will facilitate counseling of minors more effectively than EXCEL and decided to replace EXCEL with LEAPS. On January 22, 2007, LEAPS was implemented at all three juvenile halls. We will closely monitor the progress of LEAPS during our future reviews.

PARAGRAPH 35: Reduce Youth and Youth Violence

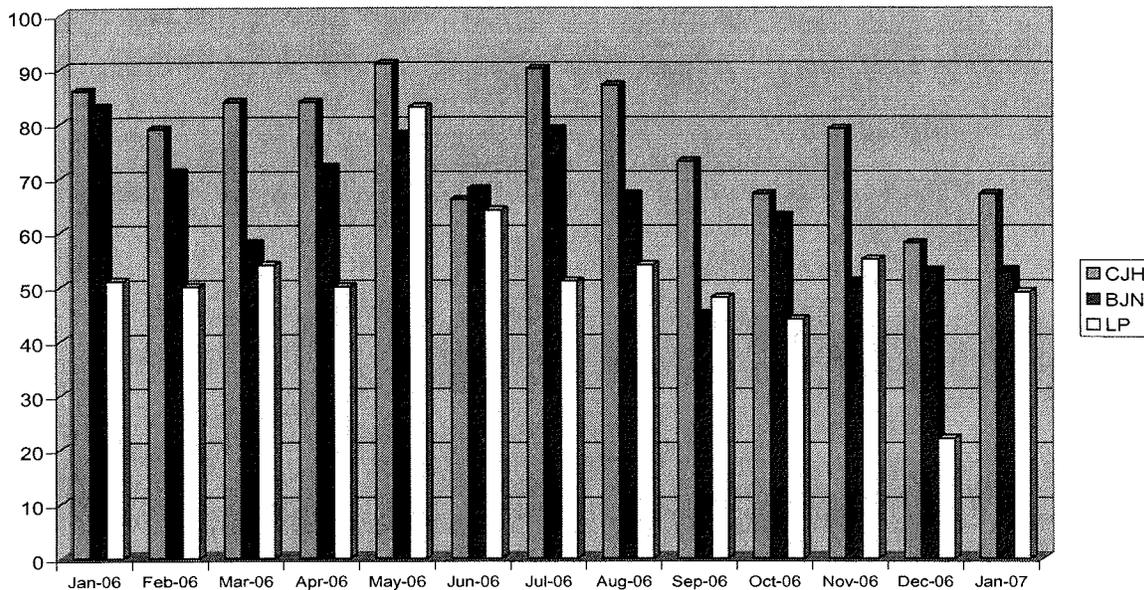
The County and LACOE shall develop and implement strategies for reducing youth on youth violence that includes training staff in appropriate behavior management, recognition and response to gang dynamics, and violence reduction techniques.

Current Compliance Rate: 80%

Comments:

The overall incidents of youth on youth violence in the three juvenile halls increased to 169 incidents in January 2007 compared to 133 incidents in December 2006. Over the last twelve months the juvenile halls have experienced a reduction in youth on youth violence. It appears that youth on youth violence is tied directly to levels of Probation staff and their training. As Probation continues to increase the number of trained staff at the juvenile halls, a continued reduction of youth on youth violence should result. In addition, minors involved in three or more incidents are being referred to IBMP for review.

Youth on Youth Violence



PARAGRAPH 41: Medical Records Transfer

The County shall develop and implement an effective system for transferring medical records from one facility to another so that youth receive timely and consistent medical services.

Current Compliance Rate: 80%

Comments:

Medical records are being transferred manually from one juvenile hall to another in a timely manner, and medical staff are documenting when medical records are sent or received. Probation and JCHS managers are meeting monthly to gather information and select an appropriate electronic medical record system that will meet the needs of JCHS staff. Probation and JCHS have not yet identified an electronic medical record system or a planned implementation date. However, Probation and JCHS are considering the feasibility of using a system that the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department has in place in the County Jail. On March 2, 2007, Probation and JCHS management met with representatives from the Sheriff’s Department to discuss using the Sheriff’s system, and scheduled a meeting in late March 2007 to discuss contractual issues related to using the Sheriff’s system. In addition, Probation included the funding for an electronic medical record system in their FY 07-08 budget request.

PARAGRAPH 45: Hygiene

The County shall ensure that medical and pharmaceutical areas are maintained hygienically, and shall establish an infection control program.

Current Compliance Rate: 75%

Comments:

We began using the revised audit tool that was approved by DOJ in January 2007. During our February 2007 monitoring review, we inspected a random sample of three living quarters used by minors, two examination rooms, a medication preparation room, two restrooms, two storage rooms, a nurse's station, medical records room, and a physician's office located in the medical module at each juvenile hall. Overall, the sanitary conditions of the medical modules at Los Padrinos and Central Juvenile Halls have greatly improved. The condition at Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Hall medical module has improved. However, during our review at Barry J. Nidorf we noted holes in the walls within the medical module and dirty walls in one on the restrooms in the medical module. The Management Services Bureau staff are being more assertive to ensure the medical modules are clean.

To achieve formal monitoring on Paragraph 45, Probation needs to amend their contracts with the vendors providing custodial services to the three halls to ensure the services are consistent and in compliance with the Juvenile Court Health Services Infection Control and Environment of Care Plans. Probation must also closely monitor the quality of the services provided by the contracted vendors and intervene appropriately if the quality fails to meet the established standards. In March 2007 Probation received approval from the Board of Supervisors to hire 18 custodians for the juvenile halls. Probation plans to use County custodial staff to provide custodial services at the juvenile halls to ensure the services are consistent and in compliance with the Juvenile Court Health Services Infection Control and Environment of Care Plans.

PARAGRAPHS 46 to 50

Paragraphs 46 through 50 are audited by LACOE's internal auditors under the supervision of LACOE management. The anticipated formal monitoring dates are based on the dates identified in the Department of Justice Settlement Agreement Extension – Leadership and Oversight Responsibility Report, dated January 4, 2007.

PARAGRAPH 46: Special Education

The County and LACOE shall develop and implement a systematic, comprehensive process to locate, screen, identify and provide appropriate services to all youth through age 21 with disabilities who require special education services.

Targeted Date to Request Formal Monitoring: August 2007

PARAGRAPH 47: Related Services

LACOE shall provide related services to special education students with needs for these services.

Targeted Date to Request Formal Monitoring: June 2007

PARAGRAPH 48: Parent Participation

The County and LACOE shall utilize a range of methods to facilitate parent participation in Individualized Educational Program (IEP) meetings.

Targeted Date to Request Formal Monitoring: April 2007

PARAGRAPH 49: Transition Planning and Services

The County and LACOE shall provide adequate transition planning and services for all eligible youth with disabilities.

Targeted Date to Request Formal Monitoring: April 2007

PARAGRAPH 50: Materials, Space and Equipment

The County and LACOE shall ensure that all classes, including those held inside residential units, have appropriate materials, space and equipment.

Targeted Date to Request Formal Monitoring: April 2007

PARAGRAPH 55: Youth Hygiene

The County and LACOE shall ensure that youth have adequate hygiene opportunities, including sanitary personal hygiene products. The county shall ensure that youth have adequate linens, bedding and clothing.

Current Compliance Rate: 70%

Comments:

Paragraph 55 is audited by Probation's Management Services Bureau (MSB) auditors. We review MSB's audit on a monthly basis. The percentage of compliance is based on the MSB auditors' reports and our discussions with the DOJ monitor.

We conducted walk-through inspections of the living quarters, supply rooms and laundry at all three juvenile halls. We interviewed Probation staff and inspected MSB's documentation related to inventories for clothing, hygiene items and cleaning supplies. The living quarters reviewed were in good condition, the supply rooms were adequately stocked and the laundries were clean. MSB's documentation was in order.

Paragraph 56: System

The County and LACOE shall revise and/or institute quality assurance systems to ensure implementation of the provisions addressed in this Agreement.

Current Compliance Rate: 85%

Comments:

The County has established a quality assurance program for the three juvenile halls. Data is being gathered in a variety of areas. The Quality Assurance Unit is now completing periodic compliance audits at the juvenile halls and issuing monthly status reports to the Board of Supervisors.