

CAMP AFFLERBAUGH RECEIVES PERFECT BSCC RATING

CAMP RATES HIGH MARKS FOR EXCELLENCE THROUGHOUT PANDEMIC

The Board of State Community Corrections (BSCC) is an independent statutory agency that provides adult and juvenile criminal justice systems leadership. Among their numerous tasks, they are charged with conducting regular facility inspections and developing standards for selecting and training local corrections officers, probation officers, and administrators. The BSCC also ensures that facilities meet recent legislative mandates to provide program space for rehabilitation. Their overarching goal is to protect public safety, reduce recidivism and improve outcomes for offenders.

Camp Afflerbaugh first met BSCC Inspector Southwell in 2019 for their 2018-2020 inspection. At that time, they passed inspection with no corrective plan ordered. Because of the pandemic Ms. Southwell did not visit Camp Afflerbaugh again until earlier this year. The BSCC maintained contact and continued to monitor the facility's compliance in 2021.

Ms. Southwell returned to Camp Afflerbaugh in April of 2022 to perform a three-day inspection of the facility's compliance with Title 15: Minimum standards for local detention facilities, and Title 24: Building energy efficiency standards. She toured the facility with probation's Management Services Bureau, checking laundry status, cleanliness of the dormitories, and other items. She also interviewed the youth and probation staff. Camp Afflerbaugh again passed with a 100 rating and with no corrective action plan ordered.

"As a manager, what's been most rewarding for me is having my entire team come together and say we can do this and seeing that there is hope for us as a department," said Director B. Mendez. "For us to be one of the four lone standing camps that met the compliance rate, with zero deficiencies, and no corrective action plan, I am really on cloud nine."

Assistant Director C. Rossi, Supervising Deputy Probation Officer M. Hernandez, and Deputy Probation Officers O. Lopez and J. Sanchez were instrumental in the quality assurance component, training staff, and mentoring of their peers during the detailed inspection process. ITC E. Antunez also played an essential role, uploading over a hundred documents during the inspection cycle.



Camp Afflerbaugh



The grounds of Camp Afflerbaugh

In the wake of the pandemic, Camp Afflerbaugh staff still managed to make the youth their primary focus. "Our driving force is to make a difference in the youth's preparedness for their camp stay and get them ready for their return to the community," said Director Mendez.

BSCC standards require that the youth participate in rehabilitative groups for at least an hour every day. "We were under quarantine, and CBOs couldn't come in, so the staff stepped up, and they led the groups allowing us to achieve the minimum standard set forth by BSCC," said Supervisor M. Hernandez. "Our staff was instrumental in scheduling virtual calls with parents and making sure those visits happened."

DPO O. Lopez, Camp Afflerbaugh's Program Coordinator, started virtual programming with several agencies. Camp Afflerbaugh Deputies created, implemented, and facilitated various other programs, including Arts for Incarcerated Youth. Religious services also continued. "The youth we work with are used to a routine, so continuing programming and their daily routine was instrumental in them succeeding," said DPO Lopez. "We tried to keep everything as normal as possible."

"Camp Afflerbaugh never stopped. We continued doing what was expected of us, maintaining documentation, and Ms. Southwell noticed," said Director Mendez. "She even complimented the staff during the inspection debriefing with management, stating how clean the camp was and that if she had a child that required detention in LA County, she would want them to be at Camp Afflerbaugh."

Congratulations, Camp Afflerbaugh, on earning a 100 rating across the board and meeting all the BSCC regulations. The Los Angeles County Probation Department salutes you. Job well done!