



Juvenile Court of Memphis and Shelby County
616 ADAMS AVENUE MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE 38105

MEMORANDUM:

To: Countywide Juvenile Justice Consortium (CJJC), Shelby County, Tennessee

From: Pamela Skelton, CAO, Memphis and Shelby County Juvenile Court (Court)

Date: May 20, 2016

Subject: Response to CJJC Inquires and Recommendations

Response by Juvenile Court to CJJC Recommendations

Public Feedback Report No. 5

1. The Consortium would like to recommend that records be kept on attorneys visiting their clients and that each attorney be required (or strongly encouraged) to visit their clients within a specified number of hours after their client has been detained.

Response: The Court acknowledges this recommendation and shares these concerns. The Court does track attorney visits made to the detention facility, and the Panel Coordinator has been

advised of this recommendation and will continue to remind attorneys to visit and communicate with their clients.

2. The Consortium would like to recommend that all children be offered the opportunity to attend school even if they decline to go on any day.

Response: Please see attached response from Chief Inspector Deidra Bridgeforth regarding this recommendation. We all agree that education is VERY important and will do all we can to support Hope Academy.

3. The Consortium understands that the Court has adopted a goal of having volunteer parent liaisons who are independent from their child's attorney or probation officer. The Consortium supports the Court in this and continues with its recommendation that the Court have one or more parent liaison(s) provided free of charge to all parents with children who have delinquency matters.

Response: The Court opted to hire two (2) part-time persons to work at the front desk with our full-time receptionist. The Court will begin to train these persons shortly on providing information to parents and guardians regarding delinquency matters, and have prepared the attached pamphlet which is handed out at the Court and included in written correspondence from the probation department. The Court has attached a copy of this pamphlet.

Business Meeting Report #2

Questions/Concerns and Responses

1. Are there any youth, in the detention center, with mental illnesses?

Response: The Court is of the understanding that there are children in the detention facility with mental illnesses. The Court does not have, and cannot provide particulars, due to the fact that this information is confidential and all medical issues are handled by the contract medical provider, CCS.

2. What were the results from the site visit on March 31, 2016, where Judge Michael and Pam Skelton met with Mark Soler?

Response: The Judge and other Court folks typically meet with Mr. Soler after each bi-monthly JDAI meeting. Our particular topics this meeting included setting goals for 2016 to ask the County Commission for a Case Expeditor position and to continue to work with JDAI to determine other detention alternatives for the Court.

3. May the Consortium be invited to attend any training event involving incarcerated youth?

Response: We are unclear as to what training events you would like to attend. Please review the attached information provided by Chief Inspector Bridgeforth and let us know what you might like to attend...we can certainly try to make accommodations for any event that is not confidential to a particular youth.

4. Explain the Memphis and Shelby County trauma audit and how effective has it been in addressing juveniles and their families.

Response: The National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ) sent a trauma audit team to the Court in February to perform a court-wide audit to assist us in being more effective in understanding the role of traumatic exposure in the lives of children and in engaging resources and interventions that address child traumatic stress. We are awaiting

the results of this audit and have been informed that the NCJFCJ is running a bit behind in their work and we should expect a draft by the end of May. Becoming a trauma-informed Court is a goal and we hope to have assistance from the NCJFCJ moving forward to assist us with training and assisting youth and families.

- 5. If the Consortium develops an informal pamphlet about the Consortium, may some of them be placed at the Court's welcome desk?**

Response: Absolutely, yes!

Chief Inspector Deidra Bridgeforth
Shelby County Sheriff's Office
Juvenile Detention Services
May 19, 2016

RE: Response to Countywide Juvenile Justice Consortium, Shelby County, Tennessee

Juvenile Detention Services provides education to youth in confinement. Hope Academy is located inside detention and has the current capacity to serve forty-five (45) youth. The Sheriff's Office has built an additional classroom that would allow an additional fifteen (15) youth to attend school. The Sheriff's Office is striving provide the opportunity for at least sixty (60) youth to attend school beginning the 2016-2017 school year. The Sheriff's Office supports Hope Academy in ensuring that every child attends school. Hope Academy follows the Shelby County Schools guidelines and is responsible for the selection process of the youth that attend school. There are occasions where some of the youth may miss class due to reasons beyond juvenile detention's control such as court appearances and medical or dental appointments etc. In this event, another youth will be added to the daily school roster to ensure that each day the class is full to capacity.

Juvenile Detention Services provides all youth with hygiene items. In the event that there is a request from parents for the youth to use receive items not supplied by Juvenile Detention Services, this actions requires approval and authorization from the on-site medical provider. The Sheriff's Office continues to evaluate the quality of the hygiene items to ensure that they are effective and produce the good results.

Each youth is provided breakfast, lunch, dinner, plus an evening snack daily. The snack consist of a sandwich, chips and juice. Each meal meets caloric and nutritional standards. There may be instances where youth do not like a certain meal item and decide not to eat the entire meal. All youth are orientated to the positive behavior management system upon arrival and educated through pamphlets and poster boards. This is a behavior rewards system that allows youth to earn points every day by simple participating in activities and following rules. Youth are given rewards in the source of food items three (3) times a week. The food rewards were identified through surveys from the youth. You are rewarded items such as ice cream, honey bun, hot chips, cookies, candy etc.

Each youth is orientated on facility operations. Youth are informed to fill out a sick form themselves to receive nonemergency medical treatment. In the event of an emergency, detention staff will contact medical immediately as according to policy.

Children are receiving books to include bibles. The Sheriff's Office is currently hosting book drives and has received several books as the results. Children are allow to take books upon release and books continue to be replenished due to the book drives.

Juvenile Detentions ensures that the youth's rooms are equipped with bedding. Some youth remove the mattress from the bed area and place it on the floor to lay down, voluntarily. When the youth are asked why the mattress is on floor, they reply, "Because I can talk and hear other youth better through the vent on the door". Some youth have stated that they like to feel the air blowing on their faces through the vent.

Supervisors are stationed on the housing unit to assist in supervising staff and youth. This also affords our kids to interact and have consistent contact with both line staff and supervisors. It is our job to ensure all kids are in a safe and healthy environment. All staff are trained to be professional when performing all duties. All complaints are investigated formally or informally and all staff are held accountable.

