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DEPUTY AUDITOR GENERAL

June 12, 2012

The Honorable Carl Seel, Chair
Joint Legislative Audit Committee

The Honorable Rick Murphy, Vice Chair
Joint Legislative Audit Committee

Dear Representative Seel and Senator Murphy:

Our Office has recently completed a 30-month followup of the Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections—Suicide Prevention and Violence and Abuse Reduction Efforts regarding the implementation status of the 12 audit recommendations (including sub-parts of the recommendations) presented in the performance audit report released in September 2009 (Auditor General Report No. 09-09). As the attached grid indicates:

- All 12 recommendations have been implemented.

Unless otherwise directed by the Joint Legislative Audit Committee, this concludes our follow-up work on the Department's efforts to implement the recommendations from the September 2009 performance audit report.

Sincerely,

Dale Chapman, Director
Performance Audit Division

DC:ss
Attachment

cc: Charles Flanagan, Director
Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections

Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections—Suicide Prevention and Violence and Abuse Reduction Efforts

Auditor General Report No. 09-09

30-Month Follow-Up Report

Recommendation	Status/Additional Explanation
Finding 1: Department has improved suicide prevention practices, which promote safety, but minor improvements are possible	
1.1 The Department should continue its plan to modify current procedures to develop and implement more specific guidelines for mental health staff related to the treatment expectations for juveniles who have been identified as having suicidal or self-injurious behaviors.	Implemented at 30 months
1.2 The Department should continue to monitor juveniles' treatment plans to ensure that they address the suicidal or self-injurious behavior and that its modified procedures have been implemented by all staff.	Implemented at 30 months
1.3 The Department should expand its regular assessments of its separation practices to include the review of unnecessary and/or inappropriate referrals for juveniles exhibiting suicidal and/or self-injurious behavior and take appropriate actions based on what it finds.	Implemented at 30 months
1.4 The Department should ensure that juveniles are not placed in suicide-proof smocks unless a qualified mental health professional deems it necessary as stated in policy. If suicide-proof smocks are not used appropriately, the Department should take steps to realign facility practices with its procedures and best practices.	Implemented at 30 months
1.5 The Department should ensure that its staff prepare an incident report for all juveniles placed on its daily suicide prevention status list	Implemented at 30 months

Recommendation**Status/Additional Explanation****Finding 2: Department data shows decreased juvenile violence at its facilities; Department should continue its efforts to reduce violence**

2.1 The Department should review its staff resources and assess whether it has sufficient staff to maintain staff-to-juvenile ratios agreed to with the U.S. Department of Justice or needs additional staff to do so. If additional staff resources are needed, the Department should review and consider various options for obtaining these resources, including shifting internal staff resources or working with the Legislature to obtain additional staff resources.

Implemented at 30 months

2.2 The Department should continue to monitor the level of violence within its secure care facilities, assess whether its actions and practices are having a positive impact on reducing violence, and adjust when necessary if it finds that these actions and practices no longer help to sustain reduced levels of violence.

Implemented at 30 months

2.3 The Department should review documentation for incident debriefings to ensure that supervisors conduct debriefings within the time frame allotted and include direct care staff involved in the incident, as required by procedure.

Implemented at 30 months**Finding 3: Department has taken some successful steps to address abuse, but can further strengthen staff awareness of appropriate staff-juvenile boundaries**

3.1 The Department should launch an awareness campaign that continually reinforces appropriate staff juvenile boundaries and the range of behaviors that may violate these boundaries by doing the following:

a. Adapt its current trainings on boundaries to an annual refresher required of all staff, and

Implemented at 30 months

b. Provide staff with a daily visual reminder, similar to the ACAB posters, that reinforces the need for staff-juvenile boundaries and further prioritizes staff-juvenile boundaries as a safety issue.

Implemented at 30 months

3.2 The Department should consistently provide all OJT written debriefings to secure care facility superintendents.

Implemented at 6 months

Recommendation**Status/Additional Explanation**

3.3 The Department should improve its process for systematically analyzing OJT written debriefing information to help:

Implemented at 30 months

- a. Identify staff-juvenile boundary issues at secure care facilities;
 - b. Determine the prevalence of such issues at secure care facilities;
 - c. Develop and implement action plans to address any problems; and
 - d. Follow up on the implementation of action plans to ensure that the actions addressed the problems.
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