

**County of Riverside**  
**Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Commission (JJJPC)**  
**INSPECTION REPORT - JUVENILE FACILITY**  
**2020**

<b>Facility Name and Address</b>	Southwest Juvenile Hall 30755-C Auld Road, Murrieta, CA 92563
<b>Date of Inspection</b>	November 18, 2020
<b>Phone</b>	(951) 600-6750
<b>Contact Person and Title</b>	Larry Mease, Division Director
<b>JJPC Inspectors</b>	Dennis June, Laurel Cook, Christopher Collopy and John Hunneman

**Staff Interviewed**

	<b>Name</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Agency</b>
1.	Larry Mease	Division Director	Probation
2.	Dwayne George	Supervising Administrator	Behavioral Health
3.			
4.			
5.			

**Inspection Concerns/ Recommendations**

When questioned if staff have been receptive to the new state regulations, we were advised that most staff have 5 years or less experience, fifteen have completed CORE this year and staff, generally, are receptive to the newer guidelines. In sessions of 4 hours, training being provided to staff addressing concerns, as noted by BSCC, to improve documentation for youth placed on temporary group removal (TGR), not tied to discipline, and an assessment to be implemented for the use of restraints during movement. It appears documentation was a primary issue and that is being addressed in this training opportunity. Staff are engaged in the training and new accountability elements introduced.

It was noted; however, youth continue to be locked in their room during shift change as it has been determined to be an 'operational need.' Staff need to be diligent and keep this confinement to a minimum as it can lead to excessive, unwarranted room confinement.

## Agency Inspections

Agency	Date of Last Inspection	Comments/ Concerns
JJDPC	6/12/19	
Building & Safety	June 11, 2020	
Health	Suspended 6/25/20 (4/18/19)	
Court	October 16, 2020	
RCOE	October 26, 2020	
BSCC	January 2020	
Behavioral Health	Suspended 6/25/20 (4/18/19)	
Fire Marshall	Suspended - Covid	Staff will be submitting a self-inspection report in lieu of an actual inspection

**S – Satisfactory**

**N.I. – Needs Improvement**

	S	N.I.	Comments
Building Exterior	X		
Building Interior	X		Visiting room and office area currently undergoing renovation.
Field(s)	X		
Court yard(s)	X		
Other	X		Postings: Activity Calendar, Programming Safety: Smoke Alarms, Fire Extinguishers, Evacuation Plan

## Additional Information

Commissioner Laurel Cook, Chair, Commissioner John Hunneman, Commissioner Christopher Collopy

Southwest Juvenile Hall has a population cap at 99 youth with an average daily population of 47.

**BEHAVIORAL HEALTH:**

Behavioral Health- Dwayne George, Director

Mr. George states Behavioral Health has improved services provided to the youth. They have initiated more weekly group counseling sessions, i.e., trauma and anger disorders. Counseling is offered 7 days a week, 1 hour per day. He stated Behavioral Health at juvenile halls are not required by a court order. Substance abuse counseling is provided by both clinical therapist and some unlicensed therapists. There is a desire to provide Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Programs (SAPT) county wide .

Behavioral Health programs:

- Seeking Safety: Covers Trauma and Substance Abuse and offered 2 times weekly for the girls
- New Direction: Covers criminal/addictive thinking, relapse prevention and community re-entry.

Substance Abuse groups will be added to the boy's program in December.

- Anger Management: STAMP (Short Term Anger Management Program)
- ART:(Aggression Replacement Training)
- SAPT: (Substance Abuse Prevention/Treatment)- The YTEC substance abuse counselor is scheduled to run 2 groups at SJH, 1 day a week.
- Also provided are Functional Family Therapy, anger management groups, STAMP (Short Term Anger Management Program)

Protocol for Depression/Suicide Watch:

- Grades from 24/7 with observation by PCO to 5-minute intervals.
- Remains in place until BH can conduct assessment.
- Must be evaluated by licensed therapist within 72 hours.

Chapman University program

- Anger management
- Peer counseling

Mr. George also reports they have moved from a 'Triage Treatment' model to a caseload model. The first assessment is 'MAYSI' which determines risk. Youth are evaluated by licensed therapist or clinician within 72 hours of intake. Although they do not have 24 hour in person coverage, they do have a 24 hour on call service and are physically at the facility 7:30 am - 8:00 pm, 7 days a week and estimates about 60-65% of the youth are on psychotropic medication.

### **VISITING:**

During the past year, as a result of COVID-19, in person visits have been suspended and replaced with weekly zoom visits and increased (3) phone calls. It is anticipated that zoom visits will continue when in person visits resume as they have been a positive change for the youth. Youth are permitted Zoom visits with family members.

### **COVID-19 TESTING:**

At the time of the inspection, -0- youth were positive for the coronavirus. They administer rapid tests with results within 15 minutes. There is a covid-19 response plan in place in all juvenile institutions.

### **EDUCATION:**

In September, RCOE resumed classes via zoom and have created incentives for the youth to increase their engagement. Initially, subsequent the onset of COVID-19 and classroom restrictions, the youth had remote instruction using packets. In person instruction has been intermittent during COVID-19. Riverside Community College offers online classes 3 times weekly.

### **PROGRAMMING:**

Regarding programming: during the week, they provide 1 hour for programs, 1 hour for large muscle activities, and 1 hour supervised free time. On the weekends, 5 hours is set aside for programs.

- Sensational Saturdays: Incentive based program where youth, in each group, participate in movie nights, special meals, treats, etc. Attendance is based on points earned during the week.

### **NOTES:**

The visiting room and office area currently undergoing renovation.

The inspection team met in the cafeteria, which was clean and well-organized.

Three shifts:

- 1: 11pm-7am,
- 2: 7am-3pm,
- 3: 3pm-11pm

There is a desire, by staff, to be proactive in educating and increasing the involvement of parents and community, to let them know what probation does, that good things are being done and youth are cared for.

**YOUTH INTERVIEWS:**

Conducted by: Commissioner Christopher Collopy

17-year-old Ricardo/Richard

- At SWJH for 2 years/2 months.
- Graduated HS
- Has not been able to sign up for college. Indicated staff did not have time to assist him.
- Single mother. Father is serving three consecutive life sentences.
- Wants to become a rapper.
- Indicates food is ok.
- Staff treat him well.
- Has become peer counselor to newer youth to advise them on making the best of their time at SWJH.
- Likes Zoom calls but wishes his girlfriend could be included.
- Funds for phone calls are difficult for single Mom.
- Nights are very cold. Desires cold weather gear, sweats, or other warmer clothes.
- Wants access to additional books. Says book collection is out of date. Wants to see more urban, relatable information.

Commissioners Cook and Hunneman met separately with two of the youth, both female, one who had been at the facility for two years and the other about a month.

Brianna, 18, a two-year resident had mostly positive things to say about staff.

- She said that they were willing to engage the residents and they were supportive.
- Brianna has regular family visits via Zoom.
- She has graduated from high school and is taking online classes at Riverside Community College in hopes of becoming a nurse.

Jennifer, 18, has been at the facility for about a month. She is from the Coachella Valley and spent a few days at the Indio facility before being transferred to Southwest.

- She has traveled from Southwest to Indio several times for court appearances.
- Jennifer said the staff at Southwest was much more responsive to her needs than the Indio staff. "It's way better here," she said.
- I asked if there was much tension in the facility or if it was fairly mellow. "Things are calm," she said. "I haven't seen any drama since I've been here."
- Jennifer has also graduated from high school and is taking on-line college courses through Chapman University.

Both young women said the food at the facility was good and that Vegan and Vegetarian options were available

We wish to thank the Managers and Staff for their assistance with our inspection.

Respectfully submitted by the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Commission (JJJPC).

Dennis June, Christopher Collopy, and John Hunneman  
Commissioners / Inspectors

Laurel Cook   
Commissioner Chair / Inspector / Report

February 1, 2021  
Date

cc: Juvenile Presiding Judge of the Superior Court  
Chief Probation Officer  
Chief Deputy Probation Officer of Institutions  
Division Director of Facility  
Board of State & Community Corrections (BSCC)

Chairman of the Board of Supervisors  
County Executive Officer  
Director of Behavioral Health Services (RUHS)  
Office of Education Executive Director

Rev. December 2020