



Tulsa County Juvenile Detention Home

8.13.24 BOCC UPDATE

TIMELINE:

7.15.24- The Oklahoma Juvenile Affairs Executive Director and Staff met with Tulsa County Officials and stated they would shut down the Juvenile Detention Home, which is housed in the Family Center for Juvenile Justice building, if immediate management changes were not made.

7.19.24- The Tulsa County BOCC held a special meeting and voted to take over management of the Juvenile Detention Home from the Juvenile Bureau. The BOCC approved the hiring of David Parker to manage the facility. Parker was previously the Jail Administrator at David L. Moss for four years and has more than 30 years' experience in the detention field. The management changes went into effect immediately following the BOCC approval.

The Juvenile Bureau, non-detention side, which is also housed at the Family Center for Juvenile Justice building, will remain under the management of the Judge Kevin Gray, Chief Judge of the Juvenile Division as required under Oklahoma law.

7.30.24- Penny Lewis was hired as Assistant Manager of the Juvenile Detention Home. Lewis has over 30 years' experience in corrections and specializes in auditing and compliance. She was most recently the Chief Compliance Officer for the Oklahoma Department of Corrections.

7.31.24- The Oklahoma Office of Juvenile Affairs extended the Board of County Commissioners' probationary licensure of the Juvenile Detention Home for another 60 days.

8.6.24- A Public Guardian from the Oklahoma Department of Human Services visited the Juvenile Detention Home and spoke with residents and staff. At conclusion of the visit, the Guardian verbally stated there were no concerns.

ACTION STEPS TAKEN:

1. The new Assistant Manager is actively working on staffing and policies.
2. An office space for the Public Defender's Office was created directly next to the Manager's for increased collaboration.
3. Tulsa County Sheriff Detention Officers and Deputies were brought in to help with staffing.
4. In addition to daily oversight and support at the facility, the BOCC has implemented a formal weekly status report and progress update discussion from the Juvenile Detention Home leadership to ensure changes continue progressing at an acceptable pace. The report will be given at the regularly scheduled Monday morning BOCC meetings.
5. Libraries are being created and residents can now take books into their rooms.

UPCOMING:

1. An advisory committee is being formed for the Juvenile Detention Home.
2. New programming implementation for life skills.
3. A media day for tours and interviews is being scheduled.

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