

Superior Court of California County of Santa Clara

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JUVENILE JUSTICE COURT

Judicial Inspection of Juvenile Detention Facility for Suitability

Cal. Welf. & Inst. Code § 209¹

- ☒ **Juvenile Hall / Secure Youth Treatment Facility (S.Y.T.F.)**
- ☐ **William F. James Ranch / Learning Independence for Tomorrow (L.I.F.T.)**

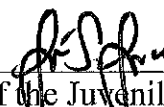
Date of Inspection: 9/03/2024

Judicial Findings

- ☒ The facility was found to be within the minimum standards adopted by the Board of Corrections as noted on the attached and is suitable for the confinement of minors.
- ☐ The facility was found to not be within the minimum standard adopted by the Board of Correction as noted on the attached and is not suitable for the confinement of minors.

Date: 12/20/2024

Hon. Jose S. Franco
Judge of the Superior Court
County of Santa Clara


Judge of the Juvenile Justice Court
Superior Court of California
County of Santa Clara

¹ Pursuant to Cal. Welf. & Inst. Code § 209, the Juvenile Justice Court judges annually inspect each juvenile commitment facility in Santa Clara County that was used for the confinement of any minor for more than 24 hours in the preceding calendar year to make findings whether the facility is a suitable place for the confinement of minors.

Annual Judicial Inspection of Juvenile Hall 2024 (WIC 209)

Pursuant to the requirement of Welfare and Institutions Code section 209, Judge Jose S. Franco and Judge Sunil R. Kulkarni performed the annual judicial inspection of the Santa Clara County Juvenile Hall (including the Secure Youth Treatment Facility) located at 840 Guadalupe Parkway, San Jose, CA on September 3, 2024. They were accompanied by the Santa Clara County Juvenile Probation Department's Institutions Division Co-Managers of Juvenile Hall, Ashanti Hayes and Trina Gauthier.

This year's inspection found that Juvenile Hall continues to function with the same high quality of collaboration, supervision, and service-delivery as those described in previous reports. Therefore, the judges find that the facility meets the minimum standards adopted by the Board of State and Community Corrections and in compliance with Titles 15 and 24 of the California Code of Regulations.

Overview

This year's inspection included the intake and processing area, Juvenile Custody Health Services medical clinic, two living units, school classrooms, and the Secure Youth Treatment Facility (SYTF). The judges were provided with the informational Juvenile Hall Youth Orientation Guide which is provided to youth entering the facility and information on the short film explaining what how juvenile hall functions and what is expected. The collaboration between Juvenile Hall staff, staff from the Behavioral Health Services Department, and the medical clinic continues to function as noted in previous reports.

As in 2023, the judges observed copies of the Youth Bill of Rights posted prominently throughout Juvenile Hall as required by Welfare and Institutions Code section 224.71.

The judges toured the full Juvenile Custody Health Services (JCHS) medical clinic in Juvenile Hall and met with medical staff. The medical clinic continues to implement Covid-19 precautions and has two rooms available for youth who test positive. It has an x-ray room, telehealth services for youth at the Juvenile Rehabilitation Facility (Ranch), and a secure room for medication. The medical clinic has a dedicated dental office and optometric office and offers other services such as dermatological care. If there is a medical issue that cannot be handled by the clinic, the youth is taken to the county's Valley Medical Center for examination and treatment. Medical clinic staff continues to explore efforts for a continuity of health services for youth released into the community, and collaborate with other professionals and youth to create programs around health and awareness.

The judges observed youth and staff in classrooms, in the living units, and in the Secure Youth Treatment Facility (SYTF). Juvenile Hall provides a wide array of programs and services in

collaboration with the Santa Clara County Office of Education, community-based organizations, and local faith leaders. On September 3, 2024, there were a total of 62 youth in Juvenile Hall (56 youth in boys units and 6 youth in the girls unit). Given the small population of juvenile hall, each youth is provided with an individual room (cell). Staffing ratio follows statutory standards and requirements as well as compliance with the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA). At the time of the tour and inspection, youth were noticeably engaged in available programs, education, and physical activity within the unit.

The 2023 Juvenile Hall Inspection Report prepared by the Santa Clara County Justice Commission, dated May 7, 2024, details the different services and programs offered to youth in Juvenile Hall.

Secure Youth Treatment Facility

The Santa Clara County Secure Youth Treatment Facility (SYTF) continues to be a “work-in-progress” as noted in the Santa Clara County Juvenile Justice Commission’s SYTF Inspection Report dated October 1, 2024. A core team of juvenile justice partners meet monthly to discuss issues, updates, and areas of improvement at all levels of the SYTF program from the Individualized Rehabilitation Plan (IRP) to programs, educational and vocational activities, Less Restrictive Programs such as Learning Independence for Tomorrow (LIFT) and Pine Grove Youth Conservation Camp, and individualized release planning of youth. As a result, improvements and new programs/opportunities for youth are made available to meet their stated needs in the IRP on an ongoing basis. There exists a strong collaborative relationship between the juvenile justice system partners and service providers.

The SYTF Program provides a wide array of services by various partners such as the Behavioral Health Services Department, the County Office of Education, community-based organizations, and Juvenile Hall counselors. Those involved in working with SYTF youth include clinicians, psychosocial occupational therapists, rehabilitation counselors, college liaisons, and community-based organization service providers. Youth participate in both group counseling and individual sessions with treatment providers, including the University of Cincinnati Corrections Institute Cognitive Behavioral Intervention, and in periodic Child and Family Team (CFT) meetings. Trade programs and vocational skills (concrete, construction, forklift driving certification, food handling certification, etc.) are also available to youth in SYTF. The commitment to evidence-based programs and services is evident.

Currently, male SYTF youth are housed in two units of Juvenile Hall. One of the two units, the A3 living unit, has been remodeled and repainted to provide less of an institutional environment. The individual rooms (cells) have been furnished with wood furniture (a single bed, a desk, and a bookcase). A couch and lounge chairs have been included in the general living area of the unit. The unit has been equipped with a kitchen/kitchenette area for youth to prepare a meal or snack. During the inspection, youth were independently and actively

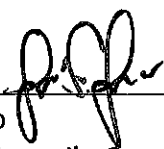
engaged with service providers, online education, and trades programs. The structured routine involving education, enrichment activities, service delivery to youth, and leisure time was evident. The second SYTF unit, A2 living unit, is scheduled to be remodeled and repainted in the near future.

The one female SYTF youth is housed in the sole Girls Unit of Juvenile Hall with non-SYTF girls. The concerns noted in the 2023 Judges report remain, but the Juvenile Probation Department (JPD) has started to explore refurbishing two rooms for SYTF girls and is committed to providing the same level of programming and services as those offered in the SYTF boys units. The same level of interaction and socialization with peers (which is outside of JPD's control) is not available to the sole SYTF youth in the girls unit since the juvenile hall girls population continues to be low and for short periods of time as part of the ongoing work of the Juvenile Justice Gender Responsive Collaborative. (The population of girls in juvenile hall ranged between 1 and 8 girls throughout most of 2024). As noted in 2023, these low numbers create challenges in fashioning and sustaining appropriate supportive programming for the small number of girls housed in the Juvenile Hall general population and even more so for girls housed in the SYTF program.

Closing

The strong collaborative relationship in support of youth continues through the support planning for youth as they prepare to re-enter the community and return home. This includes a review of the IRP, a JAIS risk assessment, intensive supervision, case management, coordination of services and resources, referrals, and ongoing participation in CFT meetings.

The Santa Clara County Juvenile Justice Court judges wish to thank the Juvenile Probation Department and all the staff at Juvenile Hall for their tireless and thoughtful dedication to the care and well-being of our in-custody youth. The judges also wish to commend the Juvenile Probation Department for their dynamic efforts in working with other organizations and treatment/service providers for the betterment of the youth.



Jose S. Franco
Judge of the Juvenile Court



Date

FACILITY INSPECTION AREAS

I. Staffing Requirements

- ☒ Meets minimum requirement for juvenile facilities
☐ Does not meet minimum Requirements

Minimum standards:

1. The facility has an adequate number of personnel to carry out the program.
2. The facility has an adequate number of supervisory level staff to adequately supervise staff.
3. The facility has assigned an adequate number of child supervision staff to provide continuous wide-awake supervision.
 - a. Awake: At least one wide-awake child supervision staff member is assigned for (each ten minors housed in Juvenile Hall) (each fifteen minors housed in a juvenile camp or ranch).
 - b. Asleep: At least one wide-awake child supervision staff member is assigned for each thirty minors.
 - c. At least two wide-awake child supervision staff members are on duty at all times. (If not, backup services are provided for immediate response to emergencies.)
4. The facility (does) (does not) house both males and females. The facility (does) (does not) have at least one male and one female on duty at all times.
5. The facility has at least one person on duty at all times who has training in general fire and life safety.

II. Policy and Procedure Manuals

- ☒ Meets minimum requirement for juvenile facilities
☐ Does not meet minimum Requirements

Minimum standards:

1. The facility manual is available to all employees, is reviewed annually and is updated as necessary.
2. Staff is aware of updates and changes as the changes become effective.
3. The staff is aware of the facility's security policy regarding contraband, physical counts of minors, searches, staffing, perimeter security, fencing and lighting, vehicles, duress alarms, firearms control, training, chemical agents and mechanical restraint devices.
4. The staff is aware of the facility's emergency plans, including the taking of hostages, escapes and disturbances.
5. The staff has knowledge of the evacuation plans.

6. The staff has knowledge of the proper searches for body and property to be conducted on minors and visitors.
7. The staff has knowledge of proper use of restraints, safety rooms and use of force.
8. The staff is aware of the proper writing of incident reports.
9. An orientation is provided to the minors prior to placement in living areas.
10. For minors held 30 days or more, an assessment and plan is developed for each minor within 40 minutes of admission which includes the following elements:
 - a. A statement of the minor's problems (including substance abuse history, educational, vocational, counseling and family reunification);
 - b. For pre-adjudicated minors: objectives and time frames for the resolution of identified problems; and a plan for meeting the objectives (including a description of program resources need and individual responsible for assuring orientation of the plan);
 - c. For post-adjudicated minors; periodic evaluation/progress towards the objectives; periodic review with the minor; a transition/aftercare plan completed prior to release; and contact with the San Andreas Regional Center for Developmentally Disabled, if applicable);
11. Appropriate counseling and casework services are available to provide assistance with personal problems/needs as they arise, assistance in contacting parents, attorneys, clergymen, probation officers or other public officials when requested, and appropriate services (e.g. substance abuse, family crisis/reunification, counseling, public health and mental health).

III. Population

- ☒ Meets minimum requirement for juvenile facilities
☐ Does not meet minimum Requirements

Population capacity: 348

Present status: 62

Length of time over capacity: N/A

[Note: include only if facility is in noncompliance with population capacity.]

Though noncompliance arises from sustained occupancy levels that are above the population capacity permitted by applicable minimum standards, I find pursuant to W&I § 209(e) that the facility is not unsuitable for the confinement of minors because the conditions of the facility do not pose a serious risk to the health, safety or welfare of minors confined in the facility. I have considered the totality of the conditions, including the extent and duration of overpopulation as well as staffing, program, physical plant and medical and mental health care conditions in the facility. This finding does not exempt the facility from having to correct any violations that are not directly related to overpopulation of the facility.

IV. Room checks

- ☒ Meets minimum requirement for juvenile facilities
☐ Does not meet minimum Requirements

Minimum standards:

1. Staff does conduct one visual observation of minors every fifteen minutes when asleep or confined to a room. Audio/visual equipment does not replace direct visual observation.
2. All checks are documented.

V. Programs and Activities

- ☒ Meets minimum requirement for juvenile facilities
☐ Does not meet minimum Requirements

Minimum standards:

1. Education: The facility does provide an adequate level of education for minors learning abilities. Accommodations are made for minors with special needs, including non-English speaking minors. The number of teachers and classrooms is proportionate to the number of minors attending school in the facility. The classrooms have adequate supplies.
2. Social Awareness Programs: Appropriate programs are provided (e.g. victim awareness, conflict resolution, parenting skills and family reunification).
3. Recreation and Exercise (Minimum time is three hours per weekday, five hours each Saturday and Sunday or other non-school days): Appropriate recreation and exercise time is provided.
4. Religion: The minors have access to services, counseling and diets that are appropriate for their religion.
5. Work Programs and Vocational Training: Programs and training (are) (are not) available at this facility.
6. Visiting: Adequate opportunities are available for the minors to visit with their families.
7. Correspondence and Mail: Reviewing staff does practice adequate security and safety procedures while maintaining the confidentiality of the correspondence.
8. Telephone Access: Appropriate access to telephones is provided.
9. Legal Services (access and confidentiality): Minors have appropriate access to confidential interviews with their attorneys.

VI. Discipline

- ☒ Meets minimum requirement for juvenile facilities
☐ Does not meet minimum Requirements

Minimum standards:

1. The definitions of minor and major rule violations are clear to each minor.

VII. Health Services

- ☒ Meets minimum requirement for juvenile facilities
☐ Does not meet minimum Requirements

Minimum standards:

1. The facility has a physician who is responsible for clinical policy.
2. The facility has adequate materials, staff, supplies, space, equipment, and resource manuals.
3. First aid kits are readily accessible and staff aware of their locations.
4. Health education provided to the minors is age- and sex-appropriate.
5. Dental and mental health services are available and accessible to the minors.
6. Pharmaceuticals are secured.
7. The facility's suicide prevention plan does include trained staff to recognize the warning signs and counseling for the minors.
8. The facility's sexual assault plan (when the assault occurs in the facility) does include reporting the incident, examination and treatment for the minor-victim and investigation of the incident.

VIII. Food

- ☒ Meets minimum requirement for juvenile facilities
☐ Does not meet minimum Requirements

Minimum standards:

1. The minors are allowed a minimum of twenty minutes to consume each meal, except those on a medical diet prescribed by a physician may have time that exceeds the twenty minutes.
2. At least one meal each day is hot food.
3. Menus are planned up to one month in advance and retained for one year.

IX. Clothing and Personal Hygiene

- ☒ Meets minimum requirement for juvenile facilities
☐ Does not meet minimum Requirements

Minimum standards:

1. Clothing is clean, reasonably fitted and in good repair.
2. The facility has a contamination and/or vermin plan to clean, store or dispose of infested clothing, to eliminate spreading.
3. Minors are not deprived of showering or haircuts as part of discipline.

X. Bedding and Linen

- ☒ Meets minimum requirement for juvenile facilities
☐ Does not meet minimum Requirements

Minimum standards:

1. Bedding and linen are clean and in good repair.
2. The facility has a contamination and/or vermin plan to clean, store or dispose of infested bedding and linen, to eliminate spreading.

XI. Facility Sanitation and Safety

- ☒ Meets minimum requirement for juvenile facilities
☐ Does not meet minimum Requirements

Minimum standards:

1. The facility is clean and safe from hazards.
2. The facility has adequate lighting inside the facility and outside the perimeter.

XII. Smoke Free Environment

- ☒ Meets minimum requirement for juvenile facilities
☐ Does not meet minimum Requirements

Minimum standards:

1. Minors are prohibited from smoking.
2. Minors are free from second-hand smoke.

Jose S. Franco
Judge of the Juvenile Court

Date

12/20/2024