

**VENTURA COUNTY JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY
PREVENTION COMMISSION**

**DECEMBER 2020 INSPECTION REPORT OF VENTURA COUNTY’S PROBATION AGENCY (VCPA)
JUVENILE FACILITIES COMPLEX**

Inspection Date: Wednesday, December 2, 2020

Last Ventura County JJDPC Inspection Date: December 3, 2019

Facility Address: 4333 Vineyard Avenue, Oxnard, CA 93036, (805) 981-5527

Chief Deputy: Tim Dowler

Division Manager: Sandra Carrillo

Names of Management/Staff Interviewed: Michael L’Ecuyer, Supervising Deputy Probation Officer, Rebecca Jimenez, Corrections Services Officer III, Laura Nagle, LCSW Clinic Administrator VCBH

Presiding Juvenile Court Judge: Judge Tari Cody

JJDPC Inspection Team Commissioners: Gail Bianchino, Daisalyn Chan, Cheryl A. De Bari, Esq., Kate English (Chair), Bernard Korenstein, Jennifer Lopardo, Joseph Ortiz, Gina Petrus, Ph.D., Valerie Salazar

I. PURPOSE AND SCOPE OF INSPECTION

The Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Commission (JJJPC) is authorized through the provisions of §§226 of the California Welfare and Institutions Code, et. seq. The responsibilities of this Commission are broadly defined in §§229 and 233, and the standards set forth by the California Board of State and Community Corrections. The general purpose of the Commission is to “inquire into the administration of the juvenile court law in the county” (§ 229) and “coordinate on a countywide basis the work of those community agencies engaged in activities designed to prevent delinquency”. (§233).

The Ventura County JJDPC conducted its annual inspection of the Ventura County Juvenile Facilities Complex (JF) for 2020 in accordance with Welfare and Institutions Code §229 and Title 15 of the California Code of Regulations, “Minimum Standards for Juvenile Facilities.” The actual inspection was limited due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

II. COMMENDATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The JJDPC makes the following Commendations and Recommendations:

SPECIAL COMMENDATION

The JJDPC wants to recognize and specially commend The Ventura County Probation Agency (VCPA) for its immediate response to the COVID-19 crisis and the steps it took to prevent the spread of the virus into the JF. As noted within, steps were taken to maintain youth and Staff

safety. During 2020, there was no outbreak in the Facility. In addition, VCPA kept the JJDPC apprised of COVID status at the Facility and continues to do so.

COMMENDATIONS

- On-line college access was instituted this year and interviewed youth were happy with the availability and assistance provided by Staff to facilitate attendance.
- Youth reported that Staff are professional and dedicated.
- Interviewed youth felt that JF conditions are adequate, their needs met, and the food generally good.
- The areas of the JF that were inspected (limited due to COVID), were clean, orderly, and in good repair.
- VCPA Staff remains accommodating to the JJDPC, both before and during the inspection, and provided requested documentation and information.
- The library is growing its number of books; however, access is limited due to COVID. Youth indicated that they appreciate that Staff have delivered books from the Library because so many programs have been suspended due to COVID.
- Completion and implementation of the Multi-Sensory De-escalation Room (MSDR).

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Interviewed youth felt that drug rehabilitation intervention would have helped prevent recidivism and that the JF program could be improved. Ventura County Behavioral Health (VCBH) is currently offering substance abuse counseling services. Groups are offered 3 times per week. Other services provided included assessment, individual counseling and case management services (referrals to community services).
- The JJDPC suggests use of additional Substance Abuse Clinicians so that ALL youth can be assessed, and ALL youth can participate in a Substance Abuse Counseling Group (prevention).
- The JJDPC again recommends that a girl program be instituted, but recognizes the problems posed by the COVID pandemic. Although Ventura County Behavioral Health (“VCBH”) offers a “girl’s group”, the group is focused on mood regulation. Therefore, the Commission continues to advocate for programming that is centered on girl/leadership/empowerment and psychoeducation around gender-specific issues. Perhaps a partnership with a community-based organization (“CBO”) to provide gender-specific services for females with the goal of positive youth development could be made.

III. 2020 GENERAL INFORMATION

Facility Capacity: 420

Number of Suicides: 0 Number of Attempted Suicides: 0

Number of Deaths from Other Causes: 0

Number of Escapes: 0

IV. POPULATION

2020 Total Admissions/Bookings: 605 booked / 496 admitted

Maximum: 85 (February) **Minimum:** 40 (August)

Population on the Date of Inspection:

Detention: Males: 16 Females: 9 Non- Binary: 0

Commitment: Males: 36 Females: 9 Non-Binary: 0

Number of Minors: 49 **Number Over Age 18:** 19

Percentages of Population by Race for 2020:

African American	Hispanic	Native American	White	Other
5.4%	79.2%	0%	14.3%	1.1%

Communication is made available in language the youth can understand and materials are available in Spanish. Other language interpreting is available through a call-in translation service.

V. FACILITIES

The Juvenile Facilities include housing, outdoor recreation areas for both detention and commitment programs, a multipurpose gymnasium/technology training center, a visiting center, library, canteen, medical offices and examination rooms, an intake/community confinement/booking area, classrooms, program and facility administration offices, kitchen and laundry services. The Ventura County Juvenile Courthouse is located adjacent to the Juvenile Facilities

INTERIOR OF BUILDINGS

In 2020, the following modifications/ improvements were made: regular maintenance.

GROUNDS

In 2020, the following modifications/improvements were made:

1. General painting
2. Plan renovation to Wheeler Housing Unit to add tiered fencing

COMMISSION’S GENERAL OBSERVATIONS FROM TOUR OF FACILITY (LIMITED DUE TO COVID)

- Facility areas observed were clean and well maintained (indoors and outdoors)
- The Multi-sensory de-escalation room (MSDR) was completed and is currently being used. Both VCBH and Probation staff have been trained by an outside agency on how to use the space and materials.

VI. STAFFING

Total Staff: 2020: 139 Number of sworn staff: 112 (14 LOA)
2019: 142 Number of sworn staff: 101
Diversity of staff is not tracked.

The total numbers include support staff, kitchen, and laundry staff. The numbers do not include any Behavioral Health, Medical, or Providence School staff.

Staff to Youth Ratio

Awake: Detention: 1:10 Sleeping: 1:30
 Commitment: 1:15

STAFF DEVELOPMENT

A new training on the Multi-Sensory De-escalation Room (MSDR) was instituted for all staff. Staff are trained on Cultural Diversity (8 hours) and Trauma Informed Care (8 hours) within the first two years of hire. Discrimination Prevention and Developing Cultural Competency and Inclusion classes are required every two years. LGBTQ+ and Problems with Incarceration is offered yearly as an elective class. VCBH and Probation co-lead an annual training for all staff.

STAFF DISCIPLINE

VCPA reports no misconduct issues with staff this year.

STAFF FEEDBACK

Deferred due to COVID.

VII. PROGRAMS

2020 PROGRAM CHANGES

New programs for 2020 are: Planned Parenthood sexual education programming, the music program, and interactive journaling packets. During the pandemic, the JF has had to reformat programming to be done virtually or via phone. Those classes that could not be done virtually have been suspended.

RECREATION

Each youth gets at least one hour of recreation each day in either the JF Multi-Purpose Gym or the large recreation yards. In addition, each youth completes 1 hour of a programming module daily with subjects addressing criminogenic needs including Life Skills, Drug Use, Antisocial Attitudes, Relationship & Communication, Feelings, and Responsible Behavior, called interactive journaling. The youth complete individual written packets while group discussion is guided by unit staff. This is in addition to the facility wide programming offered throughout the week which includes: Landscaping, Paxton Patterson, STEPS-Y (Employment Program), Fitness, Reins of H.O.P.E. Equine Therapy, Book Clubs, Providence Scholars Equine Therapy, Book Clubs, Providence Scholars College Program, New Beginnings (program for expecting or new parents),

Futsal, Pawsitive Steps K-9 Program, Radio, Boys and Girls Club, programs through the Ventura County Arts Council, Basketball, Religious Services, and Forever Found Mentorships (some of which are currently not being offered due to COVID-19 restrictions and providers not entering the facility). Additionally, there are weekly activities that are offered to each youth within the unit.

ACCESS TO RELIGIOUS SERVICES

During COVID-19, the youth are offered phone calls with religious service providers once a week. Traditionally, the providers would enter the facility and meet with the youth during a designated time.

VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS

Prior to COVID-19, volunteers came into the facility to make cards and crafts for the community and play games with the youth. Volunteers from Forever Found (mentors addressing child exploitation) call identified youth to provide support and guidance weekly. Religious providers are also volunteers.

FAMILY REUNIFICATION PLANNING

Youth at the JF often participate in Child Family Team (“CFT”) meetings to discuss release plans, coordinate community resources, and address concerns within the home or potential out of home placement. Additionally, Behavioral Health offers family counseling. Family reunification is addressed in release plan meetings.

VICTIM AWARENESS CLASSES

Victim awareness classes are not currently offered at the Juvenile Facilities. However, some of the interactive journaling packets address victim impact/awareness.

GANG AWARENESS CLASSES

Gang awareness classes are not currently offered at the Juvenile Facilities.

GANG PREVENTION/INTERVENTION

Gang prevention and intervention is often a topic addressed in individual and family therapy. VCBH provided Moral Reconation Therapy (MRT) Groups pre COVID that addresses moral reasoning and how people make decisions. Often youth are confronted in MRT with the consequences of their behavior and its effects on their family, friends, and community and often there is an intersection with gang involvement and gang activity. MRT addresses moral reasoning and beliefs so often involvement in criminal activity, gang activities may be discussed and decisions to join a gang, “put in work” for a gang, leave a gang come up and are addressed in group or individual activities. In addition, restorative justice interventions and principles are woven in to individual, family and group activities like Pawsitive Steps to prevent further gang and criminal involvement.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT CLASSES

Planned Parenthood classes that address several topics relating to sexual education include healthy relationships and gender stereotypes are offered.

PARENTING CLASSES

New Beginnings is a parenting program for teen parents to learn various parenting skills. Several parenting topics such as language development will be discussed. The youth will also have the opportunity to meet with his/her child (with guardian approval) to build a relationship and work on a family activity.

COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAMING

The youth have been involved with the Ventura County Area Agency on Aging and have helped prepare packets that are delivered to local senior citizens. Additionally, they wrote letters of support to senior citizens who have been isolated at home due to COVID-19. In return, the youth have received credit towards their Court ordered community service hours.

SEX OFFENDER PROGRAMS

Anew Therapeutic Services (ATS) provides treatment to youth with sexual offenses both within the facility and in the community. During the pandemic, services have been provided via telehealth. Youth have the option to refuse services. Most of the treatment occurs in the community. Probation officers refer youth with sexual offenses to ATS.

The youth receive an evidenced-based Cognitive Behavioral Therapy intervention. The curriculum, Pathways, focuses on helping adolescent males and females with sexual behavior problems, including but not limited to sexual offending. The curriculum is delivered in a small group format. Individual therapy and family support are offered, as needed.

WORK PROGRAM

The youth currently do not leave the facility for off-site employment.

POST- DETENTION SERVICES

Prior to release, a probation officer arranges a release plan meeting that discusses the probation terms that will need to be fulfilled in the community, provides referrals and addresses barriers that may occur in the community.

YOUNG ADULT (18-24) PROGRAMMING

Young adults (18-24) are now being housed at the JF. Efforts should be directed at finding out the unique needs of this new population and create programming that is responsive to those needs.

VIII. MEDICAL SERVICES

STAFF

Medical staff consists of 2 full-time MD's, 5 full-time LVNs, 1 full-time RN's, 2 part-time RNs, 1 NP, 1 full-time dentist, 1 part-time dental assistant, and 1 part-time hygienist. (14 in total.)

Nursing staff is at the facility 24/7/365, MD 4x/week, NP 1x/week.

A dentist is at the facility 2x/month with assistant, Hygienist 3x/month. Wellpath contracts with VCMC for specialty appointments such as Ortho, OB, ER. Radiologic services are provided on a contract basis. LabCorp is lab provider.

The California Forensic Medical Group provides medical services under contract with the County. All youth receive an annual physical. Each time the youth are booked in they are seen by Medical Services within 48 hours or sooner if needed. Youth fill out a kite/sick call request for any medical complaints during confinement.

VISION

All youth receive an annual physical with Medical Services, including a Snelling chart visual screening. All youth who are detained for one year or longer receive an Optometry exam (contract with Community Optometric.)

MEDICAL ACCREDITATION

The 2020 Accreditation Report to the Corrections and Detentions Health Care Committee for the Ventura County Juvenile Detention Facility was pending at the time of this Report and will be reviewed in 2021.

IX. BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

STAFF & CREDENTIALS

There are 5 full time Ventura County Behavioral Health Clinicians (4 Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists and 1 Associate Marriage and Family Therapist), 1 full time Mental Health Associate (currently vacant), part time Psychiatrist (Medical Doctor), Office Assistant, 1 Clinic Administrator (Licensed Clinical Social Worker), and a Behavioral Health Manager (Licensed Clinical Social Worker). Three full time clinicians are bilingual in Spanish/English and provide services to youth and families in Spanish when requested. Total number: 8.33

In addition, there is a part-time Licensed School Based Clinician provided in collaboration with SELPA to address educationally related needs of youth with social and emotional concerns documented in the youth's Individual Education Plans. The ERSES Clinician continues to address the social and emotional needs and goals on their school treatment plans and collaborates with community school- based clinician during their stay at the facility for smooth transitions to services at the facility and discharge back to the community school.

AVAILABLE SERVICES

Ventura County Behavioral Health (VCBH) clinical staff are available on-site six days per week M- SAT 8:00 am-5:00 pm. VCBH provides risk assessment, behavioral health assessment, crisis intervention, treatment planning, psychiatry and medication support, and release planning with care coordination to youth at the facility. Participation in behavioral health services is voluntary. Youth may participate in individual, group and family therapy sessions. The VCBH team has several bilingual Spanish staff. Family involvement/participation in treatment continues to be promoted. Families have been attending sessions via telehealth options. There have been barriers for some families- those who do not have access to computers or do not have a private space in their homes.

VCBH Clinical staff utilize the following skill building approaches in individual, family and group therapy:

- Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT)
- Dialectic Behavior Therapy (DBT)
- Motivational Interviewing
- Seeking Safety
- Child Sexual Exploitation Prevention and Intervention
- Restorative Justice
- Moral Recognition Therapy (MRT)
- Structural Family Therapy

A Psychiatrist is available on site twice a week and on call daily to evaluate and assess medication support needs, continue psychiatric care for youth previously receiving services in the community and coordinate treatment with JF medical staff, parents, outside providers and provide prescriptions to maintain medication support in the community upon release.

VCBH clinical staff is also providing services to the young adult population at the facility. Clinicians are experienced and trained to work with both adolescents and young adults.

Youth who have been participating in outpatient therapy counseling services (prior to detention) are able to continue to meet with their outside provider via telehealth. This allows for a seamless transition when the youth re-enter the community and promotes positive connections/establishing trust.

YOUTH ACCESS

There are several procedures in place in which a youth may access behavioral health services. Most of the youth meet with behavioral health staff following their booking and complete a brief risk assessment, assess current needs, safety plan and discuss behavioral health services available if they are interested. If a youth has a history of suicidal attempts or has expressed current suicide ideation, we will see those youth urgently and within the first 24 hours of being booked. A youth may decline to meet with behavioral health as our services and support is

voluntary. If a youth wishes to access behavioral health services urgently, they may ask a staff to speak with the behavioral health officer of the day available and on call Monday-Saturday 8-5 pm. In addition, a youth may put in a written request and place in the behavioral health confidential box available on each unit. Further, a youth may ask a behavioral health staff when they see us on the unit.

SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT

VCBH is currently providing substance abuse services. Groups are offered 3 times per week. Assessments, individual counseling and case management services are also available. Youth are linked to substance abuse treatment through Probation referrals, self-referrals, insights court, MH referrals, inter-agency referrals, i.e., youth is a client of one of our SUTS clinics and assigned counselor calls to or emails referral, word of mouth in JJC, psychiatrist referrals. Not everyone participates in substance use treatment, only those that are screened, meet criteria, and are willing. Presently, due to COVID-19 crisis, groups are held in commitment units only.

An Alcohol and Drug Treatment Specialist works at the facility 20 hours per week and does not have the capability to assess every youth. He assesses committed youth that are referred to him and will prioritize the need based on risk; Pregnant, IV User, rape/trauma risk of re-victimization, past treatment history attempts, court involvement.

12-STEP Meetings

The JF does not provide access to ZOOM AA Meetings and pre-COVID, 12-Step meetings were not offered at the Facility. There are face to face substance use groups available with VCBH Alcohol and Treatment Specialist on site both pre-COVID and during COVID with social distancing and masks.

After-Care Referrals for Substance Abuse Treatment

VCBH has 6 Substance Use Treatment outpatient clinics in Ventura County and youth are referred to the facility that is desired by the client. If a youth has private insurance, they work with their insurance provider to determine the authorized treatment as part of their network. Referrals to outpatient programs include, Oxnard Center, A New Start for Moms, Ventura Center, Simi Center, Thousand Oaks, and Fillmore. Some youth do request referrals to NA and AA meetings in their community and we provide these resources to youth if interested. Youth with private insurance follow up with referrals provided by the insurance provider also. Residential substance use treatment programs: Tarzana Treatment Center and Prototypes (Women only). Youth with private insurance may have different treatment options in that particular private provider network.

SEPARATION STATUS

A review of youth who were under “separation status” reflects relatively low numbers for this past year. The majority of youth on separation status self-initiated the separation, due concerns for their safety as a result of their charges (sexual offenses). Ventura County Behavioral Health and Probation indicate that all efforts are made to safely include in small group activities where

possible. Due to the low number of youth with these charges, separate programming or housing is not a viable option. Youth who are on separation status, due to Covid-19 safety protocols, are provided with sensory regulation tools and worksheets to help them cope with the anxiety of being newly detained.

PRE-RELEASE COUNSELING

Child and Family Team (“CFT”) meetings are mandated for placement youth. However, the JF has expanded its use to include youth who score high in Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (“CSEC”) and/or OYAS (Ohio Youth Assessment System). For placement youth, on average 2-3 are done prior to release. The team consists of Probation, Behavioral Health, schools, parents, Court Appointed Special Advocate (if assigned), group home staff, parent/youth partners and anyone else the youth feels is a support (can include lawyer, extended family, friends, teachers). Other professional groups such as HSA, Tri-counties Regional, Boys and Girls Club are invited if they have been actively involved with the youth or if youth are interested in their services. Public housing and local law enforcement officers have also attended.

CONTINUUM OF CARE

At release, the JF psychiatrist electronically sends the youth’s prescriptions to the pharmacy they (if of legal age) or their guardian chooses. If declined, it is noted in the youth’s file. Some youth request to discontinue their medication prior to release. Youth in placement are provided with a 30-day supply of medication to take with them for the next placement. If a youth is transferred to another juvenile facility, a list of medications is provided.

If youth would like to continue medication support and are not already connected to a psychiatrist and they have Medi-Cal, the JF offers to transfer them to a clinic to continue medication support and link them. Some of the youth and families ask to follow up with primary care physician, have current provider or have private insurance providers they are already connected to and follow up with.

The facility provides referrals and services at the JF regardless of wardship, insurance, etc. regardless of whether they are detention or commitment. Youth and families are provided with referrals and transferred to VCBH clinics as requested and if eligible. If they have private insurance, they contact their insurance for referrals within their network.

X. EDUCATION

A. PROVIDENCE COURT SCHOOL

Educational programming includes Providence School, an accredited school program administered by the Ventura County Office of Education. Youth have the ability to do homework. Only Youth who possess a high school diploma, High School Equivalency Certificate and/or youth who are 18 years of age or older are not required to attend school. Maximum class size is 20. There are 56 youth currently attending.

Staff and Credentials Total: 14

Certificated teaching staff:

- Number of regular education teachers: 4
 - Number of special education teachers (Resource Specialists): 2
- Number of counselors: 1
- Number of school psychologists: 1 (part-time)
- Number of school administrators: 2 (shared between Providence and Gateway)

Classified teaching staff:

- Number of regular education para-educators: 2
- Other classified staff:
 - 1 full-time induction/transition specialist
 - 1 office manager

Coursework

Core Curriculum Area	Textbooks and Instructional Materials/ Year of Adoption
Reading/Language Arts	myPerspectives & ELD Companion Pearson (9-12) 2017 StudySync, McGraw-Hill (6-8) 2017 CA Wonders, McGraw-Hill (K-5) 2017 Character Based Literacy 2017
Mathematics	It's About Time, Interactive Mathematics Program IMP (9-12) 2016 CMP3 (6-8) 2016 EnVision 2.0, Pearson (K-5) 2017
Science	Wright Group, McGraw-Hill (9-12) 2011 Earth, Life and Physical Science, Pearson (6-8) 2011 Holt McDougal, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt (K-5) 2011
History-Social Science	American History Reconstruction to the Present CA Houghton Mifflin Harcourt 2018 United States Government CA Houghton Mifflin Harcourt (9-12) 2018 Modern World History CA Houghton Mifflin Harcourt (9-12) 2018 National Geographic World History: Medieval and Early Modern Times (6-8) 2018 National Geographic World History: Ancient Civilizations (6-8) 2018 National Geographic United States History (6-8) 2019 Savvas California History-Social Science myWorld Interactive (K-5) 2019
Foreign Language	APEX
Health	Prentice Hall Health, Pearson (9-12) 2011 Positive Prevention PLUS (5th Post-Secondary) 2018
Visual and Performing Arts	APEX

Supplies

All students have necessary school supplies. Every student in commitment and detention has the appropriate materials (textbooks, content area worksheets and support materials, school supplies, and so forth). Textbooks are adopted by the VCOE Board of Trustees. Each classroom contains 8-10 student computers with access to the internet. Smart Boards are in used in all

classrooms, and all classrooms have internet connectivity. Youth interviewed agreed that necessary supplies are provided.

B. ON-LINE COLLEGE ACCESS

Providence Court School currently partners with Moorpark College, Oxnard College, and Ventura College and offers college course access. Online college enrollment is offered to graduates. In addition, interested high school students participate in on-line college classes of their choice. This program is designed to give students the opportunity to learn about college and career prospects.

During 2020, five students enrolled in college (2 high school students and 3 graduates). Three students enrolled in Oxnard College's entrepreneurship class; 2 students enrolled in a criminology class at Ventura College. The Oxnard College Foundation developed a scholarship program to ensure that students taking dual enrollment classes had the necessary instructional materials needed to complete their college course and three students were awarded a computer device. Interviewed youth reported that staff and teachers are very helpful setting up the on-line access.

Coursework

Three students enrolled in Oxnard College's entrepreneurship class; 2 students enrolled in a criminology class at Ventura College. In addition, the Oxnard College Foundation developed a scholarship program to ensure that students taking dual enrollment classes had the necessary instructional materials needed to complete their college course and three students were awarded a computer device.

Providence Scholars Mentor Program

Mentors from Oxnard and Ventura colleges meet with our Providence Scholars twice a month to ensure college success and support them in achieving their one-year, five-year and ten-year goals. The "Building a Bridge to Your Future" text is used for mentoring sessions.

Students have access to supplies and have the ability to complete homework.

C. VOCATIONAL TRAINING

Probation offers vocational courses. (See Programming Section)

Number of youths enrolled: 13 youth and 4 young adults

XI. MEALS AND NUTRITION

A five- week cycle menu is used. The menu follows the National School and Healthy Kids Act and Title 15 for Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner and three snacks a day. Due to the COVID pandemic, meals have been served on disposable trays and containers to prevent spreading. Youth are permitted to converse during meals with staff supervising. Youth have a minimum of 20 minutes to eat. A weekly menu is posted. All interviewed youth stated that the food is good.

Youth do not work in the kitchen.

XII. ORIENTATION FOR YOUTH

There were no changes to the orientation process for youth from the 2019 Inspection Report. The only changes are related to COVID-19. Since 3-15-20, a COVID-19 screening questionnaire was administered in booking by Wellpath (temperature and symptomology questionnaire). Symptomatic youth were tested for COVID 19 and placed onto bedrest. Commencing on 9-27-20, all youth booked into the facility were given a COVID 19 test by Wellpath. Youths are placed onto bedrest pending their first test results.

XIII. RULES AND GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

There were 121 grievances/appeals filed from January 1, 2020- November 22, 2020. There were no changes to the grievance procedures in 2020.

Two of the JJDC Commissioners reviewed the grievance and appeal logs and noted that staff was responsive to issues raised by youth. However, we noted that some of the forms were incomplete, including whether the youth were informed of the outcomes, staff names, date and time.

XIV. TELEPHONE, CORRESPONDENCE, VISITATION PROCEDURE

No changes were made to these procedures in 2019. They remain as follows:

TELEPHONE

There were no changes to the phone call procedures from the 2019 Inspection Report until the pandemic.

All changes to youth phone calls are a result of COVID 19 and potential contagion issues. Behavioral level calls using staff phones were suspended in March 2020. Calling cards for the Securus payphone system were issued for level calls, and additional calling cards were issued to all youth at the start of the pandemic when in-person visitation was suspended. On 10-3-20, all youth were notified calling cards issued for level calls were suspended due to ongoing abuses of the calling card privilege. Youths were using each other's calling cards and as a form of "currency" in the units. Youths can "purchase" one calling card per week using their canteen dollars based on their behavioral level.

MAIL

There were no changes to the U.S. mail process as of the 2019 Inspection Report. Staff continued to process the U.S. mail throughout the pandemic. However, the facility implemented an email address due to COVID-19 contagion issues. On 4-23-20, a letter was mailed to all parents/guardians advising them a JF email address was established to process incoming emails.

VISITING

Regular Visiting: No changes to regular visiting from the 2019 Inspection Report until 3-13-20.

As of 3-13-20, regular in-person visits were suspended due to the COVID pandemic. Youth could make additional calls to their parents/guardians/grandparents during the suspension. As part of the visiting mitigation plan, on 3-22-20, video visiting via What'sApp using iPhones commenced. Probation obtained several iPhones for this purpose. For those youth unable to make video calls, they were permitted to make regular calls using the iPhone.

Special Visits: No changes until 3-13-20, when special visits were suspended due to the pandemic. As of 3-22-20, special visits via video using What'sApp commenced. Special visits now occur on Thursdays instead of Saturdays. The process is the same for requesting a special visit.

Treatment Provider or outside CBO Visits. No changes to regular visiting from the 2019 Inspection Report until 3-13-20.

As of 3-13-20, treatment provider visits (in person) were suspended due to the pandemic. As part of the mitigation plan, many CBOs (Forever Found, religious services, mentors) visit with the youth via Zoom or telephone. In special circumstances or due to court-ordered treatment and/or therapies, providers have been permitted into the facility with social distancing and masks. The process for entrance approval and scheduling visits has not changed.

Attorneys have been permitted to visit their clients throughout the pandemic while allowing for social distancing and wearing masks. Attorneys have been given a designated time to call or to "Zoom" with their clients, Monday through Friday, in preparation for court appearances and/or case conferences. A cordless phone was installed in our visiting area for attorney calls to ensure confidentiality. The Zoom sessions are conducted utilizing a laptop provided by the Juvenile Court.

XV. PERSONAL APPEARANCE OF YOUTH

No changes from the 2019 Inspection Report until the pandemic. Youth who are symptomatic are issued N95 masks. Youth housed in our "intake" population unit, are issued surgical masks. After our youths' transition into our general population (usually day 14), they are issued two cloth masks. As of 11-5-20, a new unit with housing specifically for young adults who are eighteen years old or above was established. These young adults are issued green shirts.

Showers are conducted once in the morning, and if youth participate in athletic programming during a shift, they are offered a shower as well. Officers maintain their privacy by allowing youth to obtain their own clothing roll (with staff supervision) and then enter the shower area. The shower stalls have shower curtains and youth undress and shower in a shower stall with officer supervision outside the shower area. Officers are stationed near the area to keep a

visual of the youth. Once a youth has completed his/her shower, the youth is allowed access to a restroom where they dry off and change into their clothing.

A female youth requested access to skin care products, specifically related to acne treatment.

XVI. INSPECTIONS & ACCREDITATIONS

Fire (Health & Safety Code § 13146.1)

Date: 10/12/20 Result: Result: Needed to install automatic release for kitchen door.

Medical/Mental Health:

Date: 11/4/20 Result: Pending

Environmental Health:

Date: 6/10/20 Result: No deficiencies noted

Nutritional Health (Health & Safety Code § 101045)

Date: 2/28/20 Result: No deficiencies noted

Facility Safety & Security Review

Date: 11/23/20 Result: Completed

Prison Rape Elimination (PREA) Report

Per County Counsel, PREA does not apply to the JF.

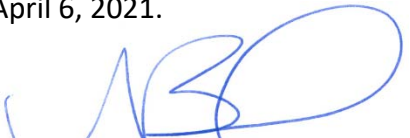
CONCLUSION

The JJDPC concludes that the Juvenile Facility residents are well-supervised in a safe and secure environment. The JJDPC believes that, based on this inspection, the Ventura County Juvenile Facilities Complex meets Title 15 standards for a safe juvenile facility.

This report will be sent to the Presiding Judge of the Juvenile Court, The California Board of State and Community Corrections, The Ventura County Chief Director/Chief Probation Officer, and The Ventura County Chief Deputy Juvenile Services. The report will also be made available online at the JJDPC website.

The JJDPC plans to return for the next annual inspection in December 2021.

Approved by The Ventura County Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Commission on April 6, 2021.



Valerie Salazar, JJDPC Chair

Date: April 6, 2021