

## **JUVENILE DETENTION SERVICES**

The Oklahoma County Juvenile Detention Center is operated to provide a short-term safe and security residential program for youth who have committed delinquent acts within Oklahoma County, and who are pending Court action. The Center provides educational programs, medical/dental services, counseling services, crisis intervention, and a variety of other programs and services to address the needs of youth. This 80-bed facility provides a secure environment for youth who present a threat to public safety, and at the same time, offers services that can positively impact their behavior.

In FY 02-03 the Juvenile Detention Center focused on collecting 2003 documentation for the American Correctional Association (ACA) standards. There was a timeline schedule set in place so that all documentation was collected and placed in files for the Administrator's review. There is a similar timeline already in place for 2004, which all department heads will adhere to. All files are scheduled to be complete by April 2004.

The Oklahoma State Office of Juvenile Affairs (JA) conducted its annual inspection on May 15, 2003. OJA found that the juvenile facilities program is in substantial compliance with the statutory and policy requirements and no deficiencies were identified.

In addition to providing services for Oklahoma County youth during FY 02-03, the Juvenile Bureau obtained regional detention contracts with four neighboring counties: Kingfisher, Logan, Blaine and Stephens. Because the Center operates on most days with a population of 70 or more and can experience an influx of youth at any moment, priority is always dedicated to serving Oklahoma County youth. However, if bed space is available, and one of these Counties has a youth who needs to be detained for public safety, we support those Counties whenever possible.

One other aspect of effectively operating any residential facility is the quality and effectiveness of direct care personnel. The Juvenile Bureau has been able to attract applicants who have either attained either a Bachelor's degree or Associates degree, and/or who have direct experience in the field. Newly hired staff must complete 80 hours of training within the first year of employment, or a total of 160 hours during their first year. Each year

thereafter, officers must complete 40 hours of training. This commitment to training enhances the daily operations of the facility and the care provided for youth.

Some pertinent statistics include:

