

COMPLIANCE MONITORING REPORT / 2009 Data

Submitted by Debby Lynch

4/27/10

As in the previous years, six county jails continued their policy of not detaining juveniles. Those counties are Big Horn, Hot Springs, Niobrara, Sheridan, Teton, and Washakie. Additionally, Lincoln, Uinta, and Weston counties did not hold any juveniles for any amount of time. Converse and Park counties do not provide detention data at this time. Laramie and Natrona counties do not hold juveniles in their adult jails and contract with privately owned/operated Cornerstone Youth Programs, Inc. Campbell (as of August 12, 2009), Fremont, and Sweetwater, counties all have collocated facilities and do not detain any juvenile on the adult side of their facilities.

- **On site visits** have taken place, as scheduled, in 12 counties to date.
- **Sheriffs' Offices/detention centers** in the counties of Laramie, Sheridan, Johnson, Hot Springs, Fremont, Campbell, Crook, Weston, Big Horn, Washakie, Uinta, and Carbon have been most accommodating - opening their facilities and juvenile records to me for auditing purposes.
- **The Police Departments** in 9 cities have cooperated with me, as well. These cities include: Pine Bluffs, Cheyenne, Buffalo, Thermopolis, Shoshoni, Riverton, Worland, Granger, and Rawlins.
- **Additionally, these 5 youth facilities** have been visited: South Eastern Wyoming Juvenile Center (formerly JCWA), Wyoming Girls School, Fremont County Juvenile Detention Center, Campbell County Juvenile Detention Center, and Wyoming Boys School.
- While scheduling a site visit to Sweetwater County, the county sheriff informed me that they were not participating in the project, and that they had stopped entering data into the Juvenile Jail Roster. **Ultimately, Sweetwater County Juvenile Detention Center has not been visited nor has the 2009 data collected for that facility been verified.** Will follow up with Sweetwater County once the confidentiality issues are resolved to see if participation can resume.
- **Initial results on the 2009 juvenile data** collected from the counties indicates continued progress in how we are handling youth who come in contact with law enforcement in Wyoming. Six county jails continued their policy of **not** detaining juveniles. Three other adult jails that may or may not hold juveniles found other alternatives and avoided detaining any juveniles for any amount of time during the year. To date, our juvenile facilities, as a whole, are reporting fewer numbers of juveniles being detained and fewer violations to the JJDP Act. For example, SWJC held 202 juveniles in 2009 as compared to 302 juveniles in 2008. Unofficially, violations at SWJC have been decreased by at least 40%. Unfortunately, many of the violations there continue to be the result of CHINS youth remaining in the facility after detention hearings - awaiting MDTs and transport to other placements. Another example of fewer juvenile numbers, of course, is the significant difference in violations as a result of Campbell County opening its collocated facility for juveniles.
- **County highlights so far... Lincoln County** held zero juveniles (that hasn't happened in that county before) and now budgets for directly transporting and detaining juveniles at SCJDC when necessary - avoiding bringing them into the adult jail. **Carbon County** – doing great work to move juveniles in and out of that facility and to SCJDC as needed. Tough issues – but dedicated workers there and very aware of juvenile issues. **Campbell County** opening new collocated juvenile facility and securing great programming and staff. **Riverton Police Department...**new Police Chief – engaged in compliance with the JJDP Act and working to eliminate status offenders from being securely detained in his lock up – looking for alternatives

and resources in the community. **Several police departments have now revised or written formal policies/procedures on handling juveniles** in their facilities and dealing with status offenders.

- **Upcoming county visits include...** the counties of Natrona, Platte, Goshen, Niobrara, Albany, Sublette, and Teton. SACJJ Members can contact me @ 217-1367 for scheduling details if they wish to accompany me at any time.