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CRIPA Update

The U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division, investigation of the Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections (ADJC) Black Canyon, Adobe Mountain and Catalina Mountain Schools, pursuant to the Civil Rights of Institutionalized Persons Act (CRIPA), continues to be a main focus for the Agency. Many of the findings continue to be dealt with by the Agency. The formal Agreement between the State of Arizona and the U.S. Department of Justice has been finalized, detailing the remedies that will be addressed by ADJC in the near future. On September 15, 2004, Governor Napolitano and federal officials will sign the Agreement at a ceremony in the State Capitol. Once the Agreement is in effect, the Agency will create a standard monitoring process for each point to be acted upon. The Agreement will be available on the morning of September 15, 2004 for review on ADJC's public website: www.azdjcc.gov.

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Key Accomplishments To-date:

- Secure facility renovations in FY '03 and FY '04, - total \$1,738,330
- Secure facility renovations planned for FY '05, - total \$501,520
- CRIPA Budget Allocation from the Legislature for FY '05 - \$5,117,710 for facility renovations, and 73.5 additional staff in facilities, education, behavioral health and medical services
- Compliance with the requirement to develop Individual Education Plans (IEP's) for all special education students, as mandated by the Department of Education
- Established '*Project Zero Tolerance*' - an agency-wide reporting system that encourages all staff to report incidents of abuse immediately to the Director and Investigations and Inspections Unit
- Hiring of a Clinical Director to integrate medical and mental health services and treatment programs

If you are interested in obtaining a brochure that offers a chronology of the U.S. Department of Justice Investigation and Highlights of the Agreement, please contact Sandra Gonzalez, Communications Administrative Assistant, at 602-364-4051.

ADJC Honors Courage, Commitment and Generosity

We were pleased to host our first Annual ADJC Honor's Ceremony held on July 30, 2004 at the Herberger Theater. This event recognized staff, along with volunteers, interns, and community partners for outstanding service to the Agency during the past fiscal year, July 1, 2003 through June 30, 2004.

In total, over 175 individuals were recognized. Categories included the Director's Merit Award, Lifesaving Award, Exceptional Service Award, Outstanding Supervisors Award, Certificate of Recognition, Director's Team Spirit Award and service awards for staff who reached the milestones of 20, 25, 30, and 35 years in state service.

Special recognition was given to the Arizona Department of Corrections for their assistance in the development of ADJC's Service Dog (K-9) Unit. In addition, Phoenix Police Officers Jason Schechterle and Jeff Kozel were honored for allowing our Agency to name our service dogs "Scheck" and "Hunter" - in recognition of Officer Schechterle's bravery on the job and in memory of Officer Kozel's canine partner that died in the line of duty.

Vision

Safer Communities Through Successful Youth

Mission Statement

ADJC enhances public protection by assisting in the changing of delinquent thinking and behaviors of juvenile offenders committed to the Department.





ADJC Hires New Clinical Services Director

ADJC is pleased to welcome Kellie Warren, Psy.D, as the Agency's new Director of Clinical Services. Dr. Warren assumed her responsibilities as of August 9, 2004 under the direction of Deputy Director Dianne Gadow.

Dr. Warren previously worked in Newark, New Jersey at the Community Education Center where she was the Director of Treatment for Lipman Hall, a state-of-the-art children's residential treatment facility and on-site school, which serves up to 212 adolescent males between 12-21 years of age with serious behavioral, severe mental health, sexual offending, fire-setting and developmental disorders. Dr. Warren was responsible for the development and implementation of a comprehensive quality treatment program designed to meet the clinical needs of all residents.

Dr. Warren's other previous work entails working at the Ohio Department of Youth Services providing treatment services to juvenile sex offenders. Her professional experience includes work as a Treatment Administrator, Clinical Administrator, Psychology Assistant, Mental Health Therapist and Psychology Trainee. Dr. Warren holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Central State University, and a Doctor of Psychology degree from Wright State University.

Catalina Mountain Aegis Program Shows Signs of Success

In August, Catalina Mountain School, ADJC's Tucson juvenile correctional facility, began a new behavioral management program in their Aegis Unit. This program is designed for male youth that display chronic disruptive behaviors within ADJC facilities. Examples of such behavior include assaults, failing to program, and causing other youth to fail in their treatment. Superintendents from each of the three boys' facilities can make referrals to the program.

The 18 youth that are currently in the program previously averaged 129 Incident Reports for April, May and June of this year. For the month of August, they averaged only 18 Incident Reports. Staff attribute this dramatic turnaround to the increased clinical intervention. Results will be continued to be tracked so that program efficacy can be appropriately evaluated.

Director's Corner

I am pleased to introduce the revised look and features of the Agency's Newsletter, "*On the Move*". The new name underscores my commitment to staff and youth in our care to move ADJC forward into the future while rebuilding trust with parents, juvenile justice stakeholders and our communities.

On October 1, 2003 I began with ADJC as Interim Director. Nearly one year later, after confronting many challenges, I am confident that we are headed in the right direction — with safety and treatment of youth at the forefront of our priorities. Although the federal investigation prompted many of our transformations, I continually remind staff that CRIPA is part of our response, not the driving force for change. Change must be integrated and sustained long after the settlement agreement with the federal government expires. Our collective will to succeed with youth is our ongoing and enduring motivation.

I want to thank the Governor, the Legislature, and all our partners who have an interest in strengthening our Agency. I am heartened by those who have taken time out of their busy schedules to visit our facilities and to talk with youth and staff. Learning about our daily work and providing feedback is readily welcomed. Collectively, we will make the Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections the best juvenile correctional agency in the nation.

At any time, feel free to contact my office at 602-542-4302 or reach me via email at mbranham@azdjcc.gov.

SUCCESS STORY OF YOUTH

Adan, age 15, was committed to ADJC on April 21, 2003 for 2 counts of aggravated assault. He was sentenced to Adobe Mountain School where he completed his treatment plan and released on Parole on December 22, 2003.

Adan conducted himself in a very positive manner since his return back to his family in Yuma. He had no violations of his Parole, and he and his family successfully completed Functional Family Therapy. Adan has refrained from associating with negative peers and has successfully passed all of his classes at school.

Adan has also completed 8 hours of community service, completed his Personal Goal and Independent Living Plan, and continues to succeed academically in school. He is proud of having changing his negative behavior and has good family support.

Adan was given absolute discharge from ADJC on August 4, 2004.