



Twenty-Fifth Special Master Report (Filed April 4, 2013)

Area	Compliance	Source	Page
INTEGRATED BEHAVIORAL TREATMENT PROGRAM			
IBTM Implementation Plan	Partial	The IBTM Implementation Guide has been developed (2.26.2013). This guide provides a plan for implementation [of the IBTM into NACYCF, N.A. Chaderjian Youth Correctional Facility and VYCF, Ventura Youth Correctional Facility], and is not a program guide. Defendant has been encouraged to wait to develop the program guide until the full model that includes behavior health program changes has been implemented.”	2 (footnote)
		“One of the likely reasons the development of an implementation plan for the remaining steps of the IBTM has not taken place, ... is the significant staffing shortage in the Central Office IBTM Team.” VYCF “will need significant time and attention of the Central Office IBTM Team staff members.”	10
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Quality Assurance	-	“Defendant is developing an understanding of how to implement cognitive-based behavioral programs that are consistently delivered and maintain fidelity to the original program design.”	4
		“A very positive indicator of system integration [of the IBTM] was the recognition that counselors do not understand the youth’s risk factors and need training on how to interpret and apply the results of the California Youth Assessment Screening Instrument (CA-YASI).	7
Behavior Management System	-	“The Assistant Superintendent of the OHCYCF [O.H. Close Youth Correctional Facility], in conjunction with members of the Central Office IBTM team, is working to make recommendations for court experts and other senior leaders who will discuss how to improve the RS [Reinforcement] system.”	12
Implementing the Substance Abuse Curriculum	Partial	“The UCCI [University of Cincinnati Correctional Institute] consultant recommends that Defendant should not expand the [substance abuse curriculum] pilot until admission criteria is finalized that considers overall risk level as well as substance abuse need.”	14
Mental Health Program Development	-	“Again, the lack of resources in the Central Office IBTM Team has made it difficult for Defendant to begin the development of the mental health program in earnest.”	14
EDUCATION			
Round 8 Audit	Substantial	“Round eight of auditing finds all schools now having achieved an overall rating of 85% or greater for two or more consecutive round audits.”	16
Absence Rate	Substantial	“The absence threshold of seven percent set in the <i>Education Services Remedial Plan</i> is lower than that set for public schools.”	18
		“The Special Master believes a realistic goal for all facilities is to stay in the range of a 10% absence rate. Defendant should also continue the efforts to enhance vocational and college programs to create incentives for older youth to meet their high school educational requirements.”	19-20

Full Implementation of the Program Service Day	Substantial	“The Education Expert opined that this issue [fulfilling mandatory 240 minutes/day of education] is no longer significant but suggest Defendant to adopt quality control measures to ensure future compliance on a continuous basis.”	20
Special Education Services	Non, Partial, Substantial	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - OHCYCF (Johanna Boss High School): Substantial - NACYCF (N.A. Chaderjian High School): Partial - VYCF (Mary B. Perry High School): Substantial, except when “compensatory services were not provided to Special Education students and rated this audit item noncompliant.” 	21 22 24
Conclusion	-	“While the remaining issues are very important, all are directly related to student attendance that could be monitored by [Office of Audits and Court Compliance] OACC in collaboration with the [Office of the Special Master] OSM. The monitoring will remain in place until Defendant demonstrates the ability to provide education services to youth in full accordance with state mandates on a consistent basis.”	25
DISABILITIES			
Transfer of Monitoring	-	“Transfer of monitoring [of the <i>Wards with Disabilities Remedial Plan</i>] should occur no later than the close of the state fiscal year, June 8, 2013.”	25
Grievances	-	“Defendant has modified the grievance policy to ensure that staff assistance is provided to youth with disabilities at the informal stage in the grievance process. The policy is being vetted and is not finalized.”	26
USE-OF-FORCE MODEL			
Quality Assurance of Youth Crisis Intervention Plans (CIP)	Partial	“Starting March 2013, the Use-of-Force Project Manager is to provide training to each facility’s Quality Assurance Coordinator in the use of the new CIP audit tool.”	30
Weekly Multi-Disciplinary Staff Meetings	-	“The latest review, conducted by the Use-of-Force Project Manager, suggests that the meetings have occurred regularly at the OHCYCF and at NACYCF and the content of the meeting minutes have improved. However, the living units at VYCF have regressed in conducting living unit meetings.” Recommended that DJF “start holding living unit managers at VYCF accountable for continuing to ignore a management directive.”	31
Expansion of Targeted Living Units’ Methods to All Mental Health Units	-	“A review of data at these two living units (Sacramento Hall at NACYCF and Casa de Los Caballeros at VYCF) shows significant declines in both the numbers of incidents that require security response and the actual number of force incidents within an eight-month period.”	32
Single Youth Incidents	-	“Defendant should consider placing greater emphasis on ways to avoid use of force against a single youth through” the force review committees processes.	36
Use of Chemical Agents on Youth with a Mental Health Designation	-	“...in mental health halls, Defendant’s current practice allows staff members to use chemical agents against youth in any incident where ‘immediate use of force’ is deemed necessary. An overwhelming proportion of the use-of-force incidents are designated as ‘immediate’.... This issue is also of significant consideration under the Mental Health Remedial Plan.”	37

VENTURA YOUTH CORRECTIONAL FACILITY			
Current Progress	-	BTP [Behavior Treatment Program] youth have been consolidated into one unit, causing “significant challenges to the living unit staff’s efforts to provide services and treatment to youth in the unit.”	38
		“...Despite their best efforts, they could not meet the department’s PSD [Program Service Day] guidelines that youth should spend a minimum of 40% of their waking hours in out-of-room activities because treatment and services have been curtailed.”	39
Length of Stay (LOS) and Youth Movement	-	“Based on projected youth movement, there is little progress for drastic reduction in average [Length of Stay] LOS [for youth in the BTP] in the immediate future. On the contrary, the average will likely increase.”	41
		“Clearly, despite the progress being made at the implementation of [Reinforcement System] RS, an effective intervention program is needed to promote sustainable behavior changes for this youth population.”	42
Youth Construction and Renovation Program	-	As part of the Monte Vista Living Unit renovation, Office of Inmate Labor now oversees project with union workers and Level A and B youth with high school diplomas. Youth report that they enjoy the work and “said they know many other youth in VYCF who would appreciate and could benefit from similar opportunities.”	45
CONCLUSION			
Use-of-Force	Partial	Use-of-force is less at OHCYCF. “Younger youth are often more volatile than more mature youth so the notion that OHCYCF houses youth who are more compliant is likely not accurate.”	45
Education	-	“Neither the Education Experts nor the Special Master believe the absence rate at Mary B. Perry High School (VYCF) will decline until the IBTM is implemented.”	47
		It was discovered at other DJF facilities that, “the only thing that will change this [attendance] is when the staff learns to engage in more constructive ways with the youth.” When the relationship between staff and youth improves, refusals to attend school declines.	47
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