



*Office of the Independent Ombudsman
for the Texas Youth Commission*

Office of the Independent Ombudsman Second Quarterly Report FY 09 January-March 2009

I. Introduction

This report is the Second Quarterly Report of FY 2009 to be submitted by this office under statute and is intended for the Executive Commissioner of the Texas Youth Commission, the Governor, Lt. Governor, Speaker of the House, members of the Texas Legislature, and the Auditor for the State of Texas.

II. Overview of the Work of the Office of the Independent Ombudsman

Accounting of Site Visits, Youth Contact and Individual Cases

Site Visits	Youth Contacts	Resolved Cases	Pending Cases
40	336	88	46

Special Projects

The OIO evaluates services provided youth and other systemic issues in addition to resolving individual complaints and undertaking periodic, routine site visits and once we have completed a special project, we provide information to the agency. We have focused on the following twelve areas during this quarter:

- Suicide Alert
- 1550 Mental Illness Discharge
- Gang Prevention and Intervention
- Review of Intake, Assessment, and Classification
- Prison Rape Elimination Act
- Religious Freedom

*6400 East Highway 290, Suite 202 · Austin, Texas 78723
(512)533-2770 · (512)533-2702 fax*

-
-
- Use of Force
 - Redirect Program (formally Behavior Modification Program)
 - Alleged Mistreatment
 - Halfway House Concerns
 - Medical Services
 - Re-Entry Initiatives

OIO Staff Training

OIO staff participated in the following trainings:

- Texas State Bar Association, Juvenile Law Section, 22nd Annual Juvenile Law Conference
- Behind Closed Doors: Preventing, Responding to, Investigating, and Prosecuting Sexual Abuse in Juvenile Justice Facilities (TJPC)
- Handle With Care (TYC)
- Thinking for a Change (TYC)
- Suicide Prevention (TYC)

Working Groups

The OIO has participated in several policy reform working groups that were initiated by SB 103 mandates, OIO reports, or TYC leadership prerogative. The following are working group topics which OIO staff participated on this quarter:

- Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA)
- CoNEXTions – TYC’s new treatment program
- The Behavior Management Plan/Redirect Committee
- Use of Force/OC Spray
- Training Curriculum (Cultural Diversity)
- The Medical Services/Medical Concerns
- Joint Case Management System (JCMS) Committee
- Suicide Prevention
- AMI Policy Revisions

Public Education

The Chief Ombudsman provided a presentation regarding the welfare of TYC youth at the following forums this quarter:

- University of Houston School, Center for Children’s Law and Policy
- Texas Families of Incarcerated Youth (Quarterly Meeting)
- National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (Texas)