



TEXAS
JUVENILE JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT

TRANSFORMING YOUNG LIVES AND CREATING SAFER COMMUNITIES

**Response to the Independent Ombudsman
Third Quarter Report, FY 2016
July 14, 2016**

The Texas Juvenile Justice Department has received the FY 2016 Third Quarter Report from the Office of the Independent Ombudsman (OIO). As always, TJJJ appreciates the opportunity to respond.

TJJJ notes that there was an increase in complaints about TJJJ youth from 22 in the second quarter involving TJJJ youth to 35. TJJJ additionally notes that in the second quarter those 22 complaints involved four secure facilities and the northern Parole region. In the third quarter, the 35 complaints represent complaints from two secure facilities, two contract care facilities, one halfway house and one state hospital. It is clear that one of the state facilities in these five represented has a proportionally higher number than the others. McLennan Long-term facility carries the second highest population in our agency.

Both McLennan long term and our Gainesville Facility have been over budgeted in population for several months because these are our largest facilities with the most number of available beds, regardless of their budgeted numbers. We do recognize that there are complaints in categories for the McLennan facilities which are not repeated at other facilities. TJJJ will continue to monitor through our Performance and Accountability Division, Staff development and with assignment of Treatment Specialists to assess how to more clearly identify the cause or source of these complaints and further resolve the core issues.

TJJJ's Monitoring and Inspections division just completed a comprehensive review of policy compliance at the McLennan complex and additional resources will be directed in supporting the McLennan facility in improving their overall service level, including compliance with policy, fidelity treatment and case management practices.

The OIO opened 27 cases in the second quarter specific to TJJJ youth and 31 in the third quarter. TJJJ notes that in the third quarter there was a greater incidence of cases closed which were unfounded. Thirteen of the 31 cases opened in the third quarter were founded representing 42%. Another 15 of that 31 were unfounded or investigated and unable to determine. The number of founded cases decreased from 58% in the second quarter.

TJJJ noted in the response to the second quarter report from the OIO that leadership changes were underway at the Evins Regional Juvenile facility. The agency is pleased to have filled the Assistant Superintendent and Superintendent positions with tenured internal employees who are promoting to assume new leadership responsibilities. In both cases, the employees started out as Juvenile Correctional Officers. We look forward to a bright future for Evins under their new leadership team.

As always, TJJJ appreciates the opportunity to respond to the OIO and looks forward to sharing updates on these efforts that continue to move the agency effectively forward.