




FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE JUSTICE

INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 12, 2020

TO: Secretary Simone Marstiller

INFO: Deputy Secretary Timothy Niermann
Deputy Secretary Heather DiGiacomo
Chief of Staff Josie Tamayo
Assistant Secretary Dixie Fosler

FROM: Inspector General Robert A. Munson 

SUBJECT: Bay Regional Juvenile Detention Center

On February 6, 2020, The OIG was forwarded a complaint by Mr. Don Murray, General Services Director of Bay County Florida. A complaint had been originally sent to the Florida Department of Health feedback email address by an individual identifying themselves as a Department of Juvenile Justice Detention employee. Eventually, the complaint was forwarded to this office, as it was determined that the complaint involved the Bay Regional Juvenile Detention Center (RJDC). The date of the original email to the Health Department was also February 6, 2020.

The complaint alleged that the Bay RJDC was covered in what appeared to be black mold. Additionally, it was alleged that there were youth occupying rooms without running water or working toilets, that staff and youth have been sick for months and that staff have been ordered to keep quiet.

The OIG informed the complainant that we would conduct an unannounced inspection the morning of Monday, February 10th. Prior to our inspection, the complainant notified the OIG via email, that the vents were being vacuumed (Shop-vac) and that the medical office was being cleaned on Monday.

On Monday, February 10th, Chief of Investigations Brian Donaldson and IOC Director Holly Queen conducted an unannounced inspection of the Bay RJDC. It was apparent that the arrival was unexpected. Chief Donaldson requested that the maintenance mechanic provide a guided tour since he was familiar with any maintenance issues. During the inspection, photographs were taken to document any suspected issues. (Please see photos will be attached.)

Prior to the inspection and to determine the extent of the allegations, numerous emails were exchanged between the OIG and the complainant. The complainant eventually identified specific areas they felt should be inspected.

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Ron DeSantis, Governor

Simone Marstiller, Secretary

The mission of the Department of Juvenile Justice is to increase public safety by reducing juvenile delinquency through effective prevention, intervention, and treatment services that strengthen families and turn around the lives of troubled youth.

The complainant's concerns are listed below. Immediately following each concern are the results of the inspection, followed by the response(s) by Detention (if requested), and ending with the OIG responses to include any additional recommendations or requested action.

- Mold was visible in the medical office as outlined in the complaint (Photo A):
 - The mold was observed primarily in an area where cabinets had been removed. There appeared to some mold on the ceiling as well.
 - **Detention Services Response:**
 - The mold was discovered when the cabinets were moved in late January.
 - On January 30, 2020 an air quality/mold inspection was conducted by Air Intellect. (**NOTE:** This inspection was only conducted in the immediate area where the mold was discovered.)
 - On February 3rd and 4th, work orders were completed to have the mold in the identified areas in the inspection report removed by Servpro. The work order included detailed explanation and steps required to remove all the mold in the clinic/medical office.
 - **OIG Response:**
 - Detention Services' response was more than adequate and commendable.
 - Perhaps the issue was the lack of communicating this response to the facility staff. Due to the obvious signs of mold, informing the entire staff, to include sharing the inspection report and work requested to remediate the mold, might have reduced the chances of the complaint to the Health Department, Bay County Commissioners and the OIG.
 - It is highly recommended that the entire facility be inspected by Air Intellect to eliminate rumors and possibility that mold still exists in the facility. Once completed, this report should be shared with the facility staff.
 - It should be noted that several staff felt the A/C ductwork should have been replaced. However, in discussing the matter with the Air Intellect staff, because the ductwork is metal, it did NOT need to be replaced or cleaned, as metal ductwork does not mold.
- Mold was not removed following the hurricane; only painted over:
 - There was no evidence of this observed during the inspection.
 - **Detention Services Response:** the allegation is not true.
 - **OIG Response:** Having the entire facility inspected by Air Intellect will resolve this allegation.
- There are youths occupying rooms without running water or toilets:
 - All rooms housing youth were inspected and all water/toilets were in working order.
 - **OIG Response:** No further action required.
- Showers do not drain properly and smell of urine:

- Inspection did not find this to be the case.
- **OIG Response:** No further action required.
- During a recent rain shower, water dripped from the ceiling tiles:
 - There did appear to be evidence of some tiles being discolored, consistent with water damage.
 - The roof was not inspected and since it was not raining, this could not be verified.
 - **OIG Response:**
 - Detention to monitor and repair if required.
- Serious Plumbing and electrical Issues:
 - No plumbing or electrical issues were discovered or revealed by maintenance.
 - **OIG Response:** No further action required.
- Smell of gas in kitchen and food service area:
 - No observation of this occurring and staff in the kitchen did not complain of such.
 - **OIG Response:** Detention to monitor and repair if needed.
- Mod 2 Issues:
 - Rooms 17, 24, 32 (no specific complaint mentioned)
 - Room 17 was unoccupied, no noted issues of concern.
 - Room 24 sink was clogged, possibly due to toothbrush bristles (shank found on floor; turned over to Asst. Superintendent), no other issues. **(Photo B)**
 - Room 32: Floor was wet, possibly due to condensation, sink was dripping. No one was in this room.
 - Shower 1: Water coming from under the floor between the tiles near the exit door.
 - No issue noted.
 - Unidentified grayish material - possibly insulation, falling from vents
 - Several vents were dirty, one of which had what appeared to be insulation that had fallen inside the vent. **(Photo's C, D)**
 - Unidentified gray dust covering surfaces
 - Gray dust was observed in several areas throughout the facility.
 - **OIG Response:**
 - Repair sink clog
 - Determine if the moisture in Room 32 flooring is an issue that can be repaired,
 - Recommend vents be cleaned professionally and then regularly cleaned by maintenance as required.
 - Clean areas where dust is present.
 - No further action needed as if major issue, the mold inspection will identify them.

- Mod 1 Issues: (Note: this mod is not being utilized to house youth)
 - No water, toilets have not been flushed since the hurricane.
 - Only 1 room (#11) was found to have the water shut off and toilet in need of flushing/cleaning. **(Photo E)**
 - Used for clothing and product storage. **(Photo F)**
 - Several items were being stored in this area but is not of any concern.
 - Mold visible on the ceilings.
 - No mold observed.
 - One room so bad, lights are off.
 - It is probable that this is the same room (11) without water.
 - **OIG Response:**
 - Drain/clean toilet that is inoperable until it can be repaired.
 - Repair water issues in Room 11 and remove stored items before utilizing the mod to house youths.
- Girls Mod:
 - No complaints were received; however, mold/mildew was observed in the shower area during the inspection. **(Photo G)**
 - **OIG Response:**
 - Clean shower area with appropriate mildew cleaner.
 - Conduct Air Intellect inspection to reveal if any existing mold/mildew is present and of concern.
- Dining Hall:
 - Visible mold in vents.
 - None noted during inspection.
 - Mold on ceiling-left of tables.
 - None noted during inspection.
 - Dark Gray Dust Covering Surfaces.
 - None noted during inspection.
 - **OIG Response:**
 - No further Action Necessary.
- Kitchen:
 - Mold in all vents. **(Photo H)**
 - Several vents were dirty and in need of cleaning. Nothing that appeared to be mold.
 - Mold on ceiling by ice machine. **(Photo I)**
 - A black substance, possibly mold, was observed around a ceiling tile frame.
 - Mold on door fan. **(Photo J)**
 - Fan (AC Unit) was dirty and in need of cleaning.
 - Floor tiles lifting near the sinks. **(Photo K)**
 - Nothing observed, but kitchen staff did state this was a regular issue.
 - Water must be running for 3-minutes to get the brown color out.

- No brown water noted at time of inspection.
- Loss of cold/hot water.
 - No issues discovered during inspection.
- Smell of Sulphur/gas.
 - No noted smell during inspection.
- Unidentified dark gray dust covering surfaces.
 - Several areas within the kitchen were covered in gray dust.
- **OIG Response:**
 - Recommend a thorough cleaning of the entire kitchen to include the floors, vents, counters, AC, etc.
 - Testing by Air Intellect to identify any mold issues.
 - Monitor flooring around the sink area and repair if needed.
 - Monitor gas smell and quality of water.

Additional Concerns Identified During Inspection:

- AED located in locked and unidentified electrical closet.
 - The holes around numerous sprinkler heads were larger than the sprinkler head. **(Photo L)**
 - Several sprinkler heads were missing and or capped. **(Photo L, M)**
 - In room next to medical, sink was missing button that activates the water.
 - In the boy's mod, (2), only 1 of the 4 sinks were operable. Also, Formica edge was sharp.
 - Several areas within the facility, drywall tape appeared to be peeling off under the paint (Atrium area for example).
 - In general, numerous vents in need of cleaning **(Photo's N, O, P)**
 - Several staff commented that sick leave is on the rise in the past 1-3 months which they believe is due to the mold/air quality.
 - Some staff commented that they are going to the doctor for nosebleeds which have previously not been an issue.
- **OIG Response:**
 - Label the door where the AED is located to let staff know the AED is inside. Also, ensure the lock to the AED door is keyed for staff access.
 - Sprinkler concerns may be more of an aesthetic issue, rather than something that needs to be repaired. No action required if not a functional issue.
 - Repair sprinkler heads were appropriate.
 - Repair sink in the room next to medical. The repairs to the 3 sinks in the boy's mod need to be made ASAP.
 - Formica needs to be inspected to determine if it is a safety hazard.
 - Inspect peeling drywall tape to be monitored determine if it is a problem.
 - Clean vents that are dirty.
 - Mold inspection of entire facility will identify if in fact the air quality may be contributing to the sick leave and nosebleeds.
 - It should be noted that in the past 6-weeks illness has been common in our office as well- indicating possible cold/flu going around. This too has led to nosebleeds.



Photo A-Medical room-wall with mold



Photo B- Clogged sink room

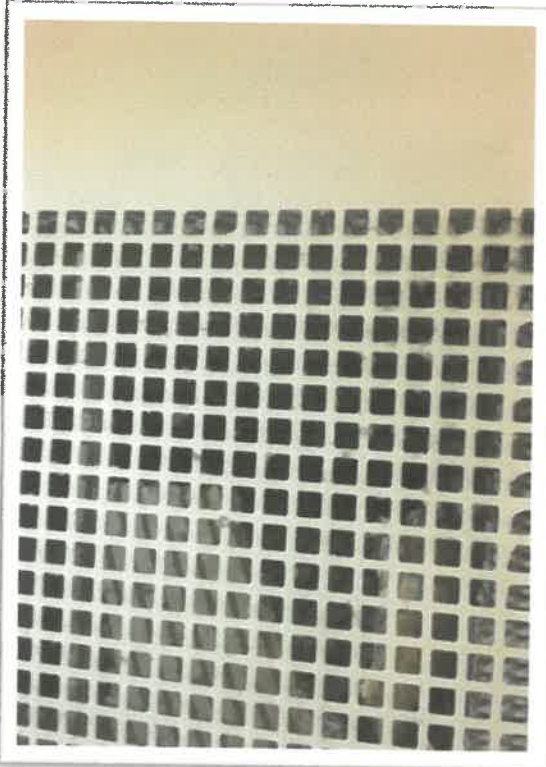


Photo C- Mod 2 Vent with Sheetrock

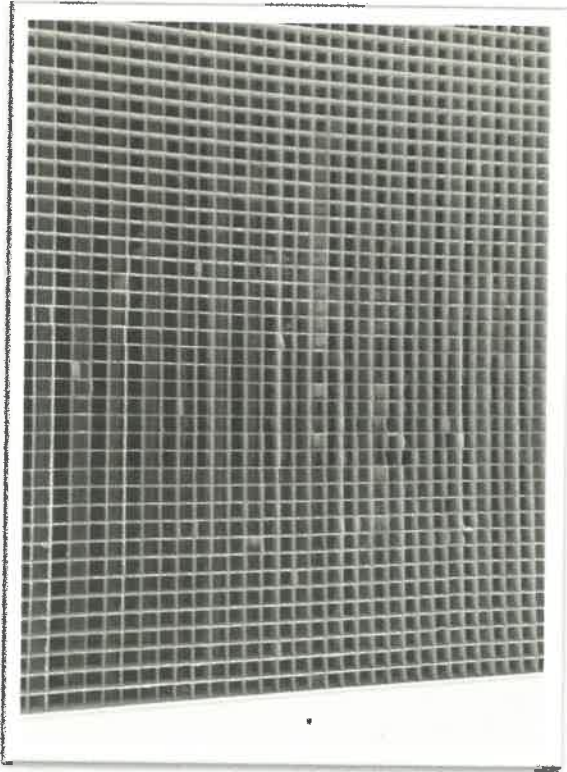


Photo D- Dirty Vent Mod. 2



Photo E- Mod 1 Toilet Inoperable



Photo F- Mod 1 Room used for Storage



Photo G- Mildew Girls Shower Area



Photo H- Dirty Vent in Kitchen

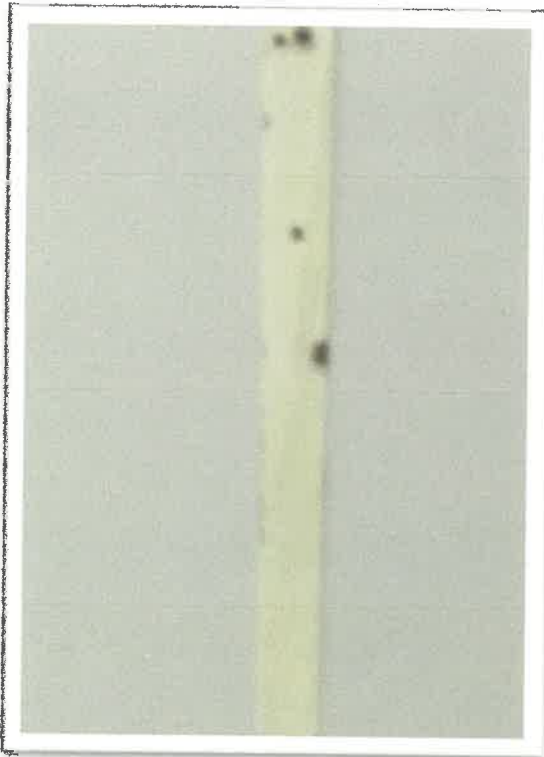


Photo I- Black substance Kitchen Tile

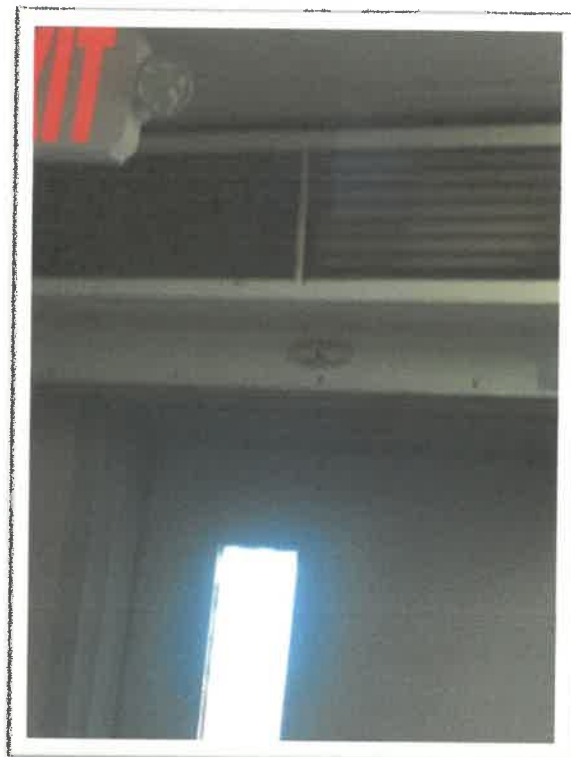


Photo J- Dirty Kitchen Fan/AC



Photo K- Area where kitchen tiles lift



Photo L- Sprinkler Head Missing & gap



Photo M-Possible Missing Sprinkler



Photo N-Dirty Vent-Laundry Room



Photo O- Dirty Vent Common Area

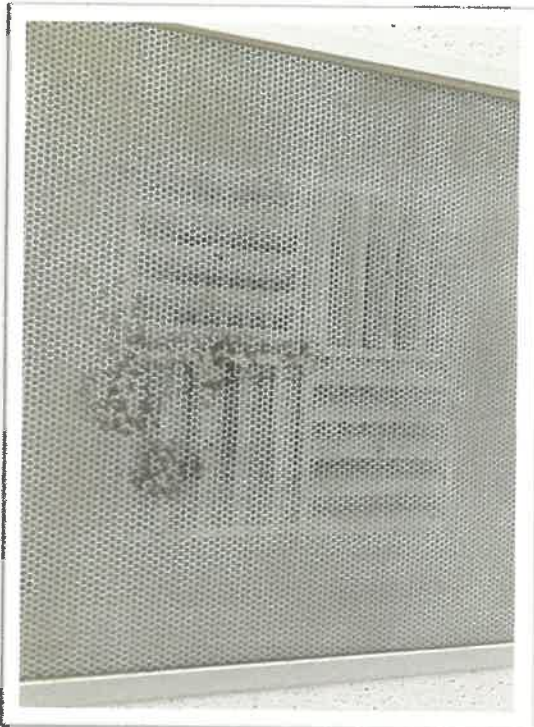


Photo P-Dirty Vent Admin Area