



April 24, 2018

The Honorable Wm. Weston J. Newton
Chair, Legislative Oversight Committee
South Carolina House of Representatives
Post Office Box 11867
Columbia, South Carolina 29211

Dear Chairman Newton:

I am in receipt of your letter of March 27, 2018, requesting information from the SC Department of Juvenile Justice (Department or DJJ) related to monthly statistical reports that the Department provided to the House Legislative Oversight Committee (Committee). These reports contain data that the Committee has requested concerning youth who have been committed to or placed under the supervision of the Department by the Family Court and reside in secure facilities or community residential placements. Please allow this letter and enclosures to serve as responses to your questions.

Your first inquiry concerns youth who are housed in "Marine and Wilderness Camps." In regards to your requests for additional information about youth who were on probation at a marine or wilderness camp and reported as being on runaway status, youth reported as being injured in an assault, substantiated abuse and neglect allegations, and reports of serious injury requiring medical treatment, please see Attachments 1-4, respectively.

In regards to your requests for other information regarding marine and wilderness camps, beginning in January 2018, additional health care protocol training was provided to assist staff and youth with reducing accidental injuries. In addition, all marine and wilderness camp contracts were amended in April and May 2017 to include the addition of outcome measures. The outcomes measures tool was implemented in September 2017 and has been collected monthly since October 2017.

The Committee's next questions relate to secure facilities. The Department has identified that a common situation where "staff injuries caused by juveniles" occurs is during the course of a physical restraint. To address this and other related concerns, the Department's Use of Force policy was updated in 2017 and a new training program for security staff was implemented. This training program, Handle with Care Behavioral Management Training, is used in numerous juvenile justice settings throughout the country and was approved by the SC Criminal Justice

Academy in April 2017 as part of the Basic Training curriculum for juvenile correctional officers at DJJ. This training includes verbal intervention techniques as well as personal defense system techniques (defensive countermeasures) with use of the primary restraint technique and take downs.

During the first year of implementation of the Handle with Care Behavior Management Training, ninety-one percent of correctional staff at the Broad River Road Campus (over 200 persons) completed the training. DJJ believes that the lower “ratio of staff injuries to juvenile assaults on staff” at BRRC can be attributed, at least in part, to the implementation of this training program. Correctional staff at the evaluation and detention centers are being trained in Handle with Care as well (56% trained as of March 2018), and DJJ anticipates that as a greater percentage of these staff complete training, the ratio of injuries to assaults at those facilities will decrease as well.

In addition to Handle with Care, the agency has implemented/enhanced other aspects of trainings available to security staff which are designed to enhance staff competencies and contribute to the prevention of incidents and injuries. These trainings include Ethics, Professionalism and Making Key Decisions; Essentials of Effective Interpersonal Communication; Trauma-Informed Care; Suicide Prevention and Crisis Intervention; Supervision of Juveniles in Secure Residential Facilities; Emergency Procedures; Safety, Security and You; and Contraband Control and Search Procedures. Security staff at the Juvenile Detention Center are also required to attend Basic Detention training at the SC Criminal Justice Academy.

DJJ also implemented a Code Blue system for fast response from Public Safety, which serves to de-escalate the youth so force is not necessary, thereby reducing staff injuries. Another enhancement that has contributed to decreased injuries/incidents at BRRC is the implementation of a rover (extra staff) on each pod that floats between each unit to provide breaks and any assistance that the unit staff may need. Also, the Intensive Treatment Unit (ITU) was implemented in 2016 at BRRC to provide additional services and treatment for juveniles identified as being aggressive or assaultive. Information about the ITU program is a component of the Juvenile Disciplinary Process training for all new Juvenile Correctional Officers. Finally, in an effort to positively affect the agency’s overall culture, DJJ is implementing two of Franklin Covey’s trainings – The Speed of Trust and The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People (which will include ‘7 Habits on the Inside’ for juveniles). Both of these trainings will focus on critical competencies that will help enable staff and youth to be more engaged, more committed and accountable for positive change – not only within the organization, but personally.

In regards to your request for additional information regarding reported data on “staff assault on juveniles; juvenile injuries caused by staff; [and] allegation of juvenile sexual abuse” at secure facilities, please see Attachments 5-7. Recruiting and retention of qualified officers continues to be a challenge for DJJ, especially in rural areas like where CEC is located. DJJ continues to host and participate in job fairs and also submitted a budget request for next fiscal year that included increased salaries for correctional staff so that DJJ could remain competitive with other agencies in attracting and retaining security staff. CEC experienced a temporary decline in staffing in early 2018, which may have contributed to the occurrence of incidents. Additional officers have been hired since that time and begin Basic Training in May 2018.

Your final inquiry concerns "Recent Events." In March 2018 there were four incidents at agency facilities that involved more than four juveniles. On March 4, 2018, five juveniles were involved in an incident where a juvenile was assaulted on one of the pods at the Coastal Evaluation Center. This case was investigated and submitted to the local solicitor pending approval of criminal charges. On March 5, 2018, seven juveniles were involved in an incident where a juvenile was assaulted on the recreation court at the Juvenile Detention Center. This case was investigated, and one juvenile refused to meet with an investigator and the victim declined to proceed with the investigation. On March 10, 2018, seven juveniles were involved in an incident where two juveniles were assaulted on one of the units at the Juvenile Detention Center. This case was investigated, and the victim declined to proceed with charges/prosecution. On March 31, 2018, six juveniles were involved in an incident where two juveniles were assaulted at the Midlands Evaluation Center. The case was investigated and submitted to the local solicitor for prosecutorial review of charges.

Thank you to members of the Committee for your support of DJJ as we continue to enhance services provided to youth and communities across South Carolina. I trust you will find the above information and attachments responsive to your follow-up requests. If I can answer any additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully,



Freddie B. Pough
Interim Director

cc: House Legislative Oversight Committee Members
The Honorable Jay Lucas, Speaker of the South Carolina House
Senate Special Study Committee on the Department of Juvenile Justice
The Honorable Henry McMaster, Governor of South Carolina

ATTACHMENT 1

Marine and Wilderness Camps - Runaways

Location	Date of Departure	Description of Incident	Length of Time to Recover Youth	Measures Implemented to Prevent Future Runaways
AS	9/20/2017	Youth on probation ran from placement. His home is 20 minutes from the facility. He was picked up in Cheraw and returned to placement until a pick up order could be obtained from the Court. Youth was placed in detention on 9/21/2017.	Less than 24 hours	Staff supervision training was reinforced to aid in the elimination of runaways. This measure has been in place for seven months.
PMI	11/9/2017	Youth walked out of the classroom and began walking down the driveway toward the highway. Although staff did not lose sight of the youth, staff contacted local law enforcement for assistance in the event the youth did leave the property. Law enforcement responded and assisted in escorting the youth back to campus.	Not applicable. Youth was never out of view of the supervising adult.	Staff supervision training was reinforced to aid in juvenile attempt to run away from the property. This measure has been in place for 5 months.
GMI	12/31/2017	While cleaning the kitchen after dinner, AMI staff member turned to lock a cabinet and four youth ran out the side door of the kitchen.	Approximately 5 hours	AMI implemented new procedures for limited movement with students after dark, that all youth bed areas will be checked by shift leader prior to youth occupying their space, and that this inspection will be documented in the shift log by the shift leader. Also, the involved staff member was given a written coaching and required to re-take the organizational safety and supervision training. In addition, all staff received supplemental safety and supervision training on 2/17/2018.
AWP1	1/14/2018	Youth's family came to placement for a visit. A family member did not have their ID and went back to the car to retrieve it. Staff did not secure the keys once they returned from the car with their ID. The youth and his family walked towards the car, and staff directed the youth to stop. The youth and his family got into the car and left the program. Local law enforcement and Inspector General's Office were contacted. Juvenile was picked up on 2/13/18. Juvenile was charged with a probation violation, pled guilty and was ordered to a determinate sentence and probation. Both parents were charged with Contempt of Court and ordered 30 days in jail.	30 Days	Staff member received employee discipline for not following proper key control. This measure has been in place since January 2018.
CA	2/10/18	Youth was taking a walk with staff and other residents when he took off running into the woods. DJJ Public Safety and Columbia Police Department were notified. Youth was picked up and detained on new charge of giving false report to law enforcement.	27 Days	Staff supervision training was reinforced to aid in the elimination of runaways. This measure has been in place since February 2018.

ATTACHMENT 2

Marine and Wilderness Camps - Juveniles Injured in an Assault

Location	Date of Incident	Alleged Perpetrator	Categorized Type of Incident	Actions Taken	Preventative Measures	How long have these measures been in place?
GGH	7/17/2017	Staff	Improper Restraint by Staff	Staff was terminated. Generations contacted SCDSS OHAN to report Incident.	Generations Staff are trained in Therapeutic Crisis Intervention (TCI)	Since the inception of TCI in 2001
AWP2	7/14/2017	Juvenile	Juvenile on Juvenile Assault	Staff was terminated. SCDJJ elected to move juveniles from the facility until they had an opportunity to re-staff and train staff.	Children's Law Center (CLC) provided training on working with the intensive population (10/10/2017)	Monthly Training lists are submitted to AMIKids Corporate Office. This measure has been in place since January 2018.
AB	10/9/2017	Juvenile	Juvenile on Juvenile Assault	Program Manager informed all staff of the incident, placed both students on disciplinary work detail. Both students were placed on a behavioral contract, where their parents and Probation Officers were notified of their actions and the behaviors required to remain in compliance with the program.	The program administered training with the instructors on ensuring they keep proper supervision (Safety/Supervision) on the door and to be alert to student situations.	The training is conducted monthly. Additional preventative measures remained in place for 3 weeks where both students were able to demonstrate behaviors that was promising and positive. This measure has been in place since January 2018. Monthly Training lists are submitted to AMIKids Corporate Office.

AWP1	10/31/2017	Juvenile	Juvenile on Juvenile Assault	Staff received written reprimand for not utilizing STAR (Sight, Touch, Assess, Recognize, Sound) supervision. Juveniles were separated and counseled by staff.	Monthly Trainings for all staff to include a selection of topics (Crisis Intervention, Restraint Avoidance, Guidelines for use of physical restraint, recognizing medical emergencies, etc.).	Monthly Training lists are submitted to AMIKids Corporate Office. This measure has been in place since January 2018.
PMI	11/2/2017	Juvenile	Juvenile on Juvenile Assault	Youth was transported to local physician for well check and physician recommend ice due to no permanent injury. Monthly training addressed proper supervision to eliminate horseplay.	Monthly Trainings for all staff to include a selection of topics (Crisis Intervention, Restraint Avoidance, Guidelines for use of physical restraint, recognizing medical emergencies, etc.).	Monthly Training lists are submitted to AMIKids Corporate Office. This measure has been in place since January 2018.
AB	11/11/2017	Juvenile	Juvenile on Juvenile Assault	One juvenile left shortly after the incident, so the program took measures to ensure his guardian followed up with any needed follow-up medical appointments.	Program administered training to all staff regarding Safety/Supervision. The training focused on de-escalation techniques and the importance of redirection.	Monthly Training lists are submitted to AMIKids Corporate Office. This measure has been in place since January 2018.

AB	11/26/2017	Juvenile	Juvenile on Juvenile Assault	Juvenile was placed on Disciplinary Work Detail (DWD)	Camp personnel administered training to all staff regarding Safety/Supervision. Training focused on de-escalation techniques and the importance of redirection.	Training is reviewed quarterly. This measure has been in place since January 2018, Monthly Training lists are submitted to AMIKids Corporate Office.
AWP1	1/18/2018	Juvenile	Juvenile on Juvenile Assault	Both juveniles were placed on Disciplinary Work Detail (DWD). One juvenile was later terminated from the program.	Monthly Trainings for all staff to include a selection of topics (Crisis Intervention, Restraint Avoidance, Guidelines for use of physical restraint, recognizing medical emergencies, etc.).	A list of training is submitted on Monthly Report. This measure has been in place since January 2018. Monthly Training lists are submitted to AMIKids Corporate Office.
AWP2	1/20/2017	Juvenile	Juvenile on Juvenile Assault	Juveniles 1 was counseled was unable to participate in the annual Winter Challenge in Florida for his behavior, and placed on a behavior contact, and Disciplinary Work Detail (DWD).	AMI (CWPI) had initiated monthly training concerning de-escalation and other training on supervision protocol and procedures.	A list of training is submitted on Monthly Report. This measure has been in place since January 2018. Monthly Training lists are submitted to AMIKids Corporate Office.
GMI	1/31/2017	Juvenile	Juvenile on Juvenile Assault	Both juveniles were placed on Disciplinary Work Detail (DWD).	Staff has been retrained on proper supervision and how to position themselves in the dorm.	Most recent training was conducted on 2/14/18, but this is an on-going practice of the program.

AWP2	2/14/2018	Juvenile	Juvenile on Juvenile Assault	Juveniles were both placed on Disciplinary Work Detail (DWD), increased visits with their Human Service Professional (HSP) and Mental Health Counselor.	Monthly Trainings for all staff to include a selection of topics (Crisis Intervention, Restraint Avoidance, Guidelines for use of physical restraint, recognizing medical emergencies, etc.).	Most recent training was conducted on 2/14/18, but this is an on-going practice of the program.
AS	2/16/2018	Juvenile	Juvenile on Juvenile Assault	Juvenile (aggressor) was counseled and placed on Disciplinary Work Detail (DWD).	Program is now conducting monthly staff training concerning de-escalation scenario, general protocol, and procedures.	Most recent training was conducted on 2/14/18, but this is an on-going practice of the program.

ATTACHMENT 3

Marine and Wilderness Camps - Substantiated Reports of Abuse and Neglect

Facility	Date of Report	Categorized Type of Incident	Actions Taken	Preventative Measures	How long have these measures been in place?
AB	Jan-18	Inappropriate Behavior/Conduct by Staff - making physical contact (touch on the shoulder/back area) with a juvenile to redirect horseplay	Staff received coaching regarding his response to the resident and was cautioned that making any type of physical contact to redirect a youth's behavior is prohibited.	Monthly Training Sessions/Workshops held focused on Principles for De-Escalation, Behavior Management, Overview of Treatment Services, Crisis Intervention and Restraint Avoidance.	Nov-17
CA	Nov-17	This notation on the original report was a scrivener's error. There was no substantiated report of abuse or neglect in November 2017.			
AWP2	Jul-18	Juvenile on Juvenile Assault and Improper Supervision by Staff	Staff was terminated. SCDJJ elected to move youth from the facility until the program had an opportunity to restaff and train staff.	Children's Law Center (CLC) provided training on working with the intensive population	Monthly training is ongoing. This measure has been in place since July 2017.

ATTACHMENT 4

Marine and Wilderness Camps - Serious Injury Requiring Medical Treatment

Facility	Date of Incident	Categorized Type of Incident
AWP2	7/11/2017	Student Injury during Restraint
AWP2	7/16/2017	Staff Injury by Student
AS	8/12/2017	Staff Injury
CA	8/2/2017	Medical Care
AWP1	8/26/2017	Accidental Injury
CA	9/1/2017	Student Injury
AWP1	9/3/2017	Medical Care
CA	9/15/2017	Medical Care
CG	9/17/2017	Student Injury
CYDC	9/17/2017	Juvenile Self-Harm
CA	9/22/2017	Medical Care
AWP1	9/26/2017	Student Injury
PMI	9/30/2017	Juvenile/Juvenile Assault
AWP1	10/1/2017	Student Injury - Recreation Related
GMI	10/6/2017	Suicidal Ideation / Student Injury
AB	10/7/2017	Accidental Injury - Recreation Related
AB	10/9/2017	Juvenile/Juvenile Altercation
CA	10/16/2017	Accidental Injury - Recreation Related
AS	10/19/2017	Juvenile/Juvenile Altercation
AS	10/19/2017	
AS	10/19/2017	Staff Injury
AWP1	10/22/2017	Medical Care
AS	10/26/2017	Student Injury

PMI	11/2/2017	Juvenile/Juvenile Altercation
CYDC	11/5/2017	Suicidal Thoughts
AS	11/6/2017	Student Injury
AB	11/11/2017	Juvenile/Juvenile Altercation
AB	11/13/2017	Accidental Injury - Bumped head
CA	11/14/2017	Medical Care
AWP1	11/19/2017	Accidental Injury - Recreation Related
AWP1	11/24/2017	Accidental Injury - Recreation Related
AWp2		
AWP1	11/25/2017	Accidental Injury - Recreation Related
AB	11/26/2017	Juvenile/Juvenile Altercation
GMI	11/27/2017	Medical Care
PMI	11/28/2017	Student Injury
AWP1	12/1/2017	Medical Care
AWP2	12/14/2017	Juvenile/Juvenile Altercation
AWP1	12/16/2017	Student Injury - Assessment
AWP2	12/20/2017	Medical Care
CA	12/22/2017	Accidental Injury - Recreation Related
AWP1	12/23/2017	Staff Accidental Injury
CA	12/25/2017	Accidental Injury - Recreation Related
GMI	12/31/2017	Well Check
GMI	12/31/2017	Well Check
GMI	12/31/2017	Well Check
GMI	12/31/2017	Well Check
AWP2	1/8/2018	Student Injury
AWP1	1/18/2018	Juvenile/Juvenile Altercation
AWP2	1/20/2018	Juvenile/Juvenile Altercation
CA	1/21/2018	Accidental Injury - Recreation Related

AWP1	1/23/2018	Accidental Injury - Recreation Related
PMI	1/28/2018	Accidental Injury
CA	2/7/2018	Medical Care
AWP2	2/11/2018	Student Injury
AWP1	2/14/2018	Accidental Injury - Recreation Related
AWP2	2/14/2018	Juvenile/Juvenile Altercation
AWP2	2/14/2018	
AS	2/15/2018	Medical Care
AS	2/16/2018	Juvenile/Juvenile Altercation
AS	2/24/2018	Medical Care
CA	2/25/2018	Medical Care
AS	2/26/2018	Student Injury

ATTACHMENT 5

Secure Facilities - Staff Assault on Juveniles

Facility	Date of Incident	Categorized Type of Incident	Actions Taken
MEC	10/13/2017	Staff assault on juvenile	Juvenile would not comply with officers throughout the day. Physical force was used to have juvenile comply. Staff was advised to call for a supervisor to address the juveniles behavior and assist with the non-compliance behavior.
MEC	11/6/2017	Staff assault on juvenile	This case was investigated. Staff was indicated for physical abuse, inappropriate use of force and abuse by complicity. Staff received progressive discipline action and was required to attend refresher course of de-escalation techniques.
CEC	1/27/2018	Staff assault on juvenile	Staff was accused of pulling juvenile hair and slapping juvenile. Incident was investigated. Staff was indicated for Inappropriate Behavior/Conduct. Progressive disciplinary action has been taken.
CEC	1/30/2017	Staff assault on juvenile	Staff was accused of physically assaulting a juvenile. This case has been investigated criminally. The juvenile declined to pursue charges. This case was then submitted to Management Review Investigations for potential staff policy violation. Investigation is pending.

ATTACHMENT 6

Secure Facilities - Juvenile injuries by staff

Facility	Date of Incident	Categorized Type of Incident	Actions Taken
JDC	7/4/2017	Juvenile injuries by staff	This incident was improperly categorized. This incident was a group disturbance- juvenile was struck in the face by another juvenile and a group joined in the assault. Staff restrained and removed juveniles. This was a group disturbance not staff assault on juvenile.
JDC	7/4/2017	Juvenile injuries by staff	Juvenile was assaulting another juvenile. Staff struck juvenile in the face. Staff was reprimanded and received additional de-escalation training.
JDC	7/8/2017	Juvenile injuries by staff	Juvenile reported staff slammed them against a wall. Awaiting the conclusion of the investigation to take the appropriate action.
JDC	7/9/2017	Juvenile injuries by staff	Juvenile reported staff offered food from outside restaurant to assault another juvenile. Awaiting the conclusion of the investigation to take the appropriate action.
JDC	7/10/2017	Juvenile injuries by staff	Juvenile reported staff grabbed them around the neck causing scratches. Staff resigned prior to completion of investigation.
JDC	7/20/2017	Juvenile injuries by staff	Disorderly conduct by juvenile-no investigation needed.
CEC	8/16/2017	Juvenile injuries by staff	Juvenile was threatening another juvenile, staff intervened after several verbal commands, juvenile was physical restrained after becoming aggressive. Juvenile complained of shoulder pain. Juvenile would not comply with investigation. No charges were filed.

MEC	11/6/2017	Juvenile injuries by staff	Juvenile was attempting to incite a physical altercation and was restrained by staff. During restraint, the juvenile's shoulder was injured. This case was investigated. Staff was indicated for physical abuse, inappropriate use of force and abuse by complicity. Staff received progressive discipline. Staff will review the incident with a supervisor and notate options to be utilized in future occurrences.
CEC	1/27/2018	Juvenile injuries by staff	Staff accused of pulling juvenile hair and slapping juvenile. Incident investigated. Staff was indicated for Inappropriate Behavior/Conduct. Employee progressive disciplinary action pursued.
CEC	1/30/2018	Juvenile injuries by staff	It was alleged that the staff pulled the juvenile out of his seat and he received a scratch on the knee. This case was referred for criminal investigation. The juvenile declined to pursue charges. This case was then submitted to Management Review Investigations for potential staff policy violation.
CEC	2/26/2018	Juvenile injuries by staff	Juvenile refused to with verbal commands after attempting to assault another juvenile. Staff used physical restraint to escort juvenile to his room. The incident was unfounded-due to juvenile refused to comply.

ATTACHMENT 7

Secure Facilities - Allegation of juvenile sexual abuse

Facility	Date of Incident	Categorized Type of Incident	Actions Taken/Measures Implemented
CEC	2/10/2018	Allegation of juvenile sexual abuse - Oral Sex	Investigated by Inspector General's Office and remains pending. The security and clinical staff developed a strategy to address the juvenile's behavior. In addition, the facility will continue to monitor all juvenile movement, train staff on PREA Standards, and fill vacancies for additional staffing.
CEC	2/13/2018	Allegation of juvenile sexual abuse - Nonconsensual Touching	Investigated by Inspector General's Office and remains pending. The information pertaining to this case was submitted to the solicitor pending their approval for charges. The security and clinical staff developed a strategy to address the juvenile's behavior. In addition, the facility will continue to monitor all juvenile movement, train staff on PREA Standards, and fill vacancies for additional staffing.
CEC	2/27/2018	Allegation of juvenile sexual abuse - Nonconsensual Touching	Investigated by Inspector General's Office. The information pertaining to this case was submitted to the solicitor pending their approval for charges. The Solicitor indicated there was no probable cause for criminal charges. The security and clinical staff developed a strategy to address the juvenile's behavior. In addition, the facility will continue to monitor all juvenile movement, train staff on PREA Standards, and fill vacancies for additional staffing.