

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Department of Public Welfare
Youth Forestry Camp No. 2
July 1, 2004, to May 21, 2008
Performance Audit



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June 22, 2009

The Honorable Edward G. Rendell
Governor
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120

Dear Governor Rendell:

This report contains the results of a performance audit of Youth Forestry Camp No. 2 of the Department of Public Welfare for the period July 1, 2004, to May 21, 2008. The audit was conducted under the authority provided in Section 402 of The Fiscal Code and in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States.

The report details our audit objectives, scope, methodology, findings, and recommendations. The report notes that the Department of Public Welfare should evaluate the feasibility of expanding the Aftercare program beyond the current six month length. In addition, Camp No. 2 does not determine whether discharged residents obtain employment in their respective areas of vocational study. Finally, the report notes that Camp No. 2 lacks a summer tutorial program.

An exit conference was held on January 15, 2009, to discuss the results of the audit with Camp No. 2 management and where applicable their comments are included in the report.

We appreciate the cooperation extended to us by the management and staff of Youth Forestry Camp No. 2 and by others who provided assistance during the audit.

Sincerely,

JACK WAGNER
Auditor General

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Background Information

Bureau of Juvenile Justice Services

The Bureau of Juvenile Justice Services of the Department of Public Welfare (DPW) is responsible for the management, operations, program planning, and oversight of all the youth development center/youth forestry camp facilities. The youth entrusted to their care are male and female adolescents who have been adjudicated delinquent by their county judicial system. There are seven units across the state, Loysville Youth Development Center, Youth Development Center at New Castle, Youth Forestry Camp No. 2, Youth Forestry Camp No. 3, North Central Secure Treatment Unit, South Mountain Secure Treatment Unit, and Cresson Secure Treatment Unit, which is a contracted unit. These facilities are designed to provide state-of-the-art treatment, care, and custody services to Pennsylvania's most at-risk youth.

All aspects of the Bureau of Juvenile Justice Services facilities are based on the Restorative Justice concept thereby ensuring that all the facility programs provide equal attention to the victim, the youth, and the community.

Youth Forestry Camp No. 2

Youth Forestry Camp No. 2 is located on approximately 15 acres of land on the grounds of Hickory Run State Park in Carbon County, approximately 20 miles south of Wilkes-Barre. The camp operates a 49-bed capacity residential program offering educational, counseling, and rehabilitative services. It is an open residential facility for the adjudicated delinquent male youth. The youth committed to this program typically have either violated probation or have been adjudicated with one or more drug-related, property related and /or minor violent offenses.

Youth Forestry Camp No. 2 offers youth opportunities for on-site and off-site internships in several areas. Employment opportunities at the facility allow youth to earn money to pay restitution cost. Opportunities to learn vocational trades through work training, classroom instruction and supervised restorative projects in the community are also available.

Additionally, youth are offered opportunities to participate in a wide range of supervised projects, such as, pheasant raising in cooperation with the Pennsylvania Game Commission, horticulture, fish stocking in cooperation with the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, community clean-up, community organization assistance and local zoo maintenance.

The Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit provides educational services. Each youth spends half his day learning academic subjects such as Math, Science, and English.

Background Information

The following schedule presents selected unaudited Camp No. 2 operating statistics compiled for the years ended June 30, 2004, 2005, 2006, and 2007:

	2004	2005	2006	2007
Operating expenditures (rounded in thousands)	\$3,423	\$3,690	\$4,384	\$4,926
Resident population at year-end	44	45	47	48
Capacity at year-end	49	49	49	49
Percentage of capacity at year end	90%	92%	96%	98%
Average monthly resident population	43	45	46	47
Average annual cost per resident	\$79,615	\$82,007	\$95,310	\$105,941

Objectives, Scope, and Methodology

We conducted this performance audit in accordance with generally accepted government auditing standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain sufficient, appropriate evidence to provide a reasonable basis for our findings and conclusions based on our audit objectives. We believe that the evidence obtained provides a reasonable basis for our findings and conclusions based on our audit objectives.

We selected the audit objectives, detailed in the body of the report, from the following general areas: Employee Training, Master Case Plan, Aftercare Program Effectiveness, and the Vocational and Education Program. The specific audit objectives were:

- To determine if the staff at Youth Forestry Camp No. 2 had received the mandated training and employees in positions that require professional certifications maintained those certifications. (Findings 1 and 2)
- To determine if each resident's Master Case Plan was developed in accordance with the Balanced and Restorative Justice principles as well as to address the specific needs of each resident. (Finding 3)
- To assess the effectiveness of the Aftercare program on preventing recidivism. (Finding 4)
- To assess the effectiveness of the Vocational and Academic Educational Program. (Findings 5 and 6)

In addition, we determined the status of the implementation of the recommendation made in the prior audit of Youth Forestry Camp No. 2.

The scope of the audit was from July 1, 2004, through May 21, 2008, unless indicated otherwise in the individual findings. Auditors conducted fieldwork from December 4, 2007, to May 21, 2008. An exit conference was held on January 15, 2009, to discuss the results of the audit with Camp No. 2 management, and management's comments are included with each recommendation in the report.

To accomplish the objectives, we reviewed applicable Commonwealth, DPW, and Bureau training policies described in the Master Case Planning System Guide Book, the Aftercare program contract with Cornell Abraxas Group, Inc. and research articles.¹ Auditors also

¹ National Criminal Justice Reference Services: Juvenile Offenders and Victims: 2006 National Report Accessed: <http://ojjdp.ncjrs.gov/ojstatbb/nr2006/downloads/NR2006.pdf> View Date: December 6, 2007. United States Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, Juvenile Justice Bulletin: Aftercare Services. View Date: March 7, 2008.

Objectives, Scope, and Methodology

reviewed applicable guidelines from DPW regarding the Juvenile Justice educational program, and the Planned Education Program contract for Camp No. 2 for the 2005-06, 2007-08 and 2008-09 school years. To update their understanding of the prior audit's findings, auditors also reviewed DPW's written response, dated May 13, 2005, replying to the Auditor General report.

Auditors interviewed the Training Coordinators at Camp No. 2, the North Central Secure Treatment Unit at Danville, and the Youth Development Center at Loysville to obtain an overview of the training process. Auditors also interviewed appropriate personnel including the Director, Assistant Director and Division Director from the Bureau of Juvenile Justice Services, the Acting Director and Program Specialist from the Office of Children, Youth and Families, the Social Worker at Camp No. 2, the Assistant Program Director for the Aftercare program employed by Cornell Abraxas Group, the Supervisor of Special Education from the Intermediate Unit, a Case Supervisor, the Director of Juvenile Correction Education Programs, and the Pennsylvania Department of Education Chief Counsel. They also interviewed Camp No. 2 personnel to obtain an updated understanding of the progress in implementing the prior audit's recommendations and other corrective action to resolve the prior findings.

To determine if the staff at Camp No. 2 had received the mandated training, and if employees in positions that require professional certifications maintained those certifications, auditors reviewed and analyzed sign-in sheets for 13 required training courses held during the fiscal years ended June 30, 2004, 2005, 2006, and 2007 for 24 of 48 professional employees, determined the status of the professional certifications for all four employees with certifications, and examined the Annual Training Plan for the fiscal years ended June 30, 2004, 2005, 2006, and 2007.

To determine if each resident's Master Case Plan was developed in accordance with the Balanced and Restorative Justice principles as well as to address the specific needs of each resident, auditors reviewed 42 of 338 residents' records, who were residents of the camp from 2004 through 2007, to determine if all four phases of the Master Case Plan were achieved during their stay at the Camp and if their specific needs were addressed.

To assess the effectiveness of the Aftercare program on preventing recidivism, auditors determined whether 33 of 198 residents discharged from Camp No. 2 who completed the Aftercare program between July 1, 2004, and June 30, 2007, were re-adjudicated or, re-arrested, through correspondence with juvenile probation officers and the Social Worker at Camp No. 2.

To assess the effectiveness of the Vocational and Academic Educational Program on-the-job placement, auditors analyzed the Commitments and Actual Expenditures Reports for the fiscal years ended June 30, 2005 and 2006, selected records for 40 of 338 residents for detailed testing for the period from July 1, 2004, to June 30, 2007, determined the vocational program of study for each of the residents included in the sample, and verified whether or not the residents obtained employment in their vocational field after discharge from Camp No. 2.

Objectives, Scope, and Methodology

Auditors also performed tests, as necessary, in prior audit areas to substantiate their understanding of Camp No. 2 management's progress in resolving the prior audit findings.

Audit Results

Employee Training

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has recognized the need to have an effective on-going employee training program that both supports and improves employee and organizational effectiveness. Among other things, each agency is required:

- To establish, implement, and evaluate employee training and development programs.
- To conduct an annual needs assessment and develop an annual training plan to meet standards established by the Office of Administration.
- To maintain up-to-date records of all training activities.

Additionally, each facility is responsible for preparing an Annual Training Plan, which outlines training and educational efforts to enhance the competencies, knowledge, skills, and abilities of all the staff.

The Department of Public Welfare has incorporated these prerequisites in its own training requirements and calls for its employees to possess basic competencies and skills in order to provide quality services to the residents, protect the public, and promote safety in the workplace. To maintain the required level of competency, the Bureau of Juvenile Justice Services established a mandatory training program based on the employees' job responsibilities. Further, any employee who has a professional certification as a condition of employment is required to maintain that certification.

Finding 1 – Camp No. 2 improvements in record keeping and documentation revealed that the staff received the mandated training.

The responsibility for scheduling, monitoring, and documenting mandatory training for Camp No. 2 employees for the period July 1, 2004, through June 30, 2006 was split between the Youth Development Center at Loysville and the North Central Secure Treatment at Danville. While Loysville coordinated the training, sign-in sheets were not always available to support Camp No. 2 employee participation in mandatory training.

The following chart summarizes the total number of mandated sessions and the number of times participation was not documented:

Audit Results

Fiscal Year	Number of Mandated Courses	Number of Sessions Offered	Number of Sessions Not Documented
2004-05	13	202 ^(a)	7
2005-06	13	215 ^(b)	34
Total		<u>417</u>	<u>41</u>

(a) Fourteen employees taking 13 courses / Two employees taking 10 courses / Eight employees not trained at Camp ($14 \times 13 + 2 \times 10 = 202$).

(b) Fifteen employees taking 13 courses / Two employees taking 10 courses / Seven employees not trained at Camp ($15 \times 13 + 2 \times 10 = 215$).

In addition, the required training plans were either not prepared or lost for Camp No. 2 for these two fiscal years.

In the latter part of the 2005-06 fiscal year, a training supervisor was appointed and housed at the North Central Secure Treatment Unit at Danville. This position's responsibilities included scheduling, monitoring, and documenting Camp No. 2 training as well as preparing the Camp No. 2's Annual Training Plan as required.

For the 2006-07 fiscal year, all Camp No. 2 employees received the mandated training and sign-in sheets were available to support participation. In addition, an Annual Training Plan for Camp No. 2 was prepared.

As a result of the improvements made in record keeping and documentation for the 2006-07 fiscal year, we concluded that sufficient evidence was available to indicate that the staff received the mandated training.

Finding 2 – Employees in positions that required professional certifications maintained those certifications.

As of February 2008, the four members of Camp No. 2's professional staff who were required to possess professional certifications based on their position had the appropriate certifications. In addition, those certifications were current.

Audit Results

Master Case Plan

The Bureau of Juvenile Justice Services (formerly named the Bureau of State Children and Youth Programs) has mandated the implementation of the Master Case Planning System at all Youth Development Centers and Youth Forestry Camps. Within the framework of the Balanced and Restorative Justice principles, this system is designed to accomplish three tasks:

- To ensure accountability on the part of the resident and staff to the victim, the community, the Court and family.
- To ensure maximum participation on the part of families, Courts, victims, communities, clinical and educational staff in the development of a competency based continuum of services designed to return the resident to the community more capable of being a law abiding and productive member.
- To ensure standardization in documentation for all facilities.²

In accordance with the Master Case Planning System Guide, The Master Case Planning System maintains its focus on individual treatment as a primary intervention.³ It is divided into the following four phases, which occur during the resident's stay:

- Diagnostic Phase
- Plan Formation and Contractual Phase
- Implementation Phase
- Monitoring and Accountability Phase

Within each phase, necessary documentation must occur. During the Diagnostic Phase, residents at the Camp are assessed to determine their individualized treatment plans. During this assessment, the staff collects and evaluates information regarding the resident. Information packets are collected from the Court, parents or guardians as well as the resident.

The Plan Formation Phase entails interviewing and testing each resident to determine their individual needs. Based upon the findings, the Contractual Phase begins and the Master Case Plan is determined. This plan is then discussed during the Master Case Planning Conference with the resident, camp supervisor, counselor, psychological representative, and school representative. In addition, the parents, court officers, and drug & alcohol counselors are invited and encouraged to attend. As a result of the Planning Conference, an intervention plan is developed, and at the conclusion of the conference, all parties including the resident will sign the Master Case Planning Agreement. This entire phase is summarized in the Master Case Planning Agreement Summary.

² <http://www.dpw.state.pa.us/ServicesProgram/JuvenileJustice/003676843.htm> View Date November 13, 2007.

³ Master Case Planning System Guide Book, Bureau of Children & Youth Programs, August 31, 1999.

The third phase, Implementation, begins with the Master Case Planning Agreement and ends with the resident's discharge. When the objectives of the plan are achieved, the court is petitioned for a discharge request. This Request for Discharge list the competencies which were required of each residents and the progress which was obtained during their stay at the Camp.

The last phase, Monitoring and Accountability, is accomplished through weekly and monthly monitoring and reporting of the resident's progress. This progress is recorded on the Master Case Planning System Accountability Checklist, which is placed in the resident's permanent file.

Finding 3 – A Master Case Plan was prepared and implemented for the residents.

All resident files reviewed contained documentation confirming that a Master Case Plan was prepared. The plan was developed in accordance to the Balanced and Restorative Justice principles, and supporting documentation revealed that each phase of the plan was completed in order to achieve the competencies required of each resident.

The Diagnostic Phase was documented with the required resident and family narratives, as well as letters to the Probation Office and parents. The Master Case Planning Agreement Summary listing competencies and treatment issues to be achieved by residents during their stay at the Camp acknowledged that the Plan Formation and Contractual Phases were completed. The Implementation phase was confirmed with a copy of the Request for Discharge, which listed progress achieved for the required competencies, and each file included a Master Case Planning System Accountability Checklist, which ensured that the Monitoring and Accountability Phase was completed.

Aftercare Program Effectiveness

The State Reintegration Program provides Aftercare program services that begin when a juvenile enters Youth Forestry Camp No. 2 and continues until the youth completes the program, generally six months after discharge from Camp No. 2. The Aftercare program aims to ensure the juvenile a smooth transition into the community by serving as a link to programs and services important to a successful re-entry into society and to deter re-offending. According to the National Criminal Justice Reference Service, recidivism is the *repetition of criminal behavior*.⁴ Each juvenile enrolled in the Aftercare program is assigned to a case manager employed by the Cornell Abraxas Group, Inc. who serves as the juvenile's advocate.

⁴ National Criminal Justice Reference Services: Juvenile Offenders and Victims: 2006 National Report
Accessed: <http://ojjdp.ncjrs.gov/ojstatbb/nr2006/downloads/NR2006.pdf> View Date: December 6, 2007.

Audit Results

Finding 4 – The Aftercare services provided to residents of Camp No. 2 served to avoid recidivism.

Investigation revealed that Aftercare was an effective program for reducing the likelihood a juvenile will re-offend. Also, evidence suggested that offering Aftercare services for a longer period of time could further reduce recidivism and the costs associated with reincarceration.

The Aftercare program successfully prevented recidivism.

To test the effectiveness of the Aftercare program, we selected a sample of residents who completed the program between July 1, 2004, and June 30, 2007, and were discharged from Camp No. 2 and researched whether the juveniles were re-adjudicated for any type of crime. Our testing revealed that 55 percent of juveniles released from Camp No. 2 who received Aftercare services were not re-adjudicated delinquent.

Our finding supported the United States Department of Justice's Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention's bulletin examining Aftercare services. It cited that:

Researchers have hypothesized that providing transitional and re-integrative supervision and services to youthful offenders would reduce the high rate of recidivism among parolees.⁵

Additionally, statistics presented by DPW's Bureau of Juvenile Justice Services demonstrated the effectiveness of Aftercare services. The research collected by Juvenile Justice Services focused on whether or not a juvenile was convicted of a crime equal to or greater than the crime previously committed. That data revealed that 87 percent of juveniles participating in Aftercare services from July 1, 2005, through June 30, 2007, were not convicted of a crime within six months of release from Camp No. 2.

Our criteria for testing recidivism rates were more stringent than that used by Juvenile Justice Services. Our calculated percentage differed from the analysis by Juvenile Justice Services in two ways. First, our measurement of recidivism was based on whether the resident was re-adjudicated for any crime, rather than convicted of a crime equal to or greater than the crime the resident previously committed. Second, the time period we examined included residents discharged an average of 20 months compared to the discharge time of 6 months that Juvenile Justice Services analyzed. The following chart summarizes the analysis.

⁵ United States Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, Juvenile Justice Bulletin: Aftercare Services Accessed: <http://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/ojjdp/201800.pdf> View Date: March 7, 2008.

Audit Results

Analysis conducted by	Period of time juvenile was released from Camp No. 2	Recidivism indicator	Percentage of juveniles not re-adjudicated
Department of the Auditor General	Average of 20 Months	Committing any type of crime	55%
Bureau of Juvenile Justice Services	6 Months	Committing a crime equal to or greater than the crime for which the juvenile was previously adjudicated	87%

Extended Aftercare services could further reduce recidivism.

Research determined that a successful Aftercare program includes the following strategy:

Frequent and quality interaction between service providers and offenders is essential for effective treatment. Moreover, programs of longer duration are more successful than programs of shorter duration, regardless of the number of individual treatment sessions. The most effective treatment programs provide larger amounts of meaningful contact with offenders over a longer treatment period.⁶

In addition, staffs of both DPW's Juvenile Justice Services and Camp No. 2 stress the importance and effectiveness of Aftercare services.

Therefore, if it were economically feasible for juveniles to remain in the Aftercare program for an additional period, the amount of recidivism could be further reduced, thereby reducing costs associated with recidivism.

A longer Aftercare program would be helpful in reducing the overall cost of juvenile justice services. Based on information released by the Department of the Auditor General in the audit report of the Department of Public Welfare Youth Institutions Schedules of Cost Apportionment concerning per diem rates for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2005, the cost per resident at Camp No. 2 was \$243.45 per day.⁷ Since the average duration of a confinement is four months, we calculated the cost of each resident's stay to be equal to \$29,214 compared to the cost of Aftercare services per youth under current contract obligations, which was only \$3,650 according to the Division Director of DPW's Juvenile Justice Services. Even if the cost of Aftercare doubled to \$7,300 for an additional six months of service, the cost of providing Aftercare is significantly lower than the cost of re-admitting a juvenile to Camp No. 2, or a similar facility. The Commonwealth should not ignore the significance of Aftercare services for adjudicated youth in preventing recidivism.

⁶ Lipsey, M. 1992. Juvenile delinquency treatment: A meta-analytic inquiry into the variability of effects. In *Meta-Analysis for Explanation: A Casebook*, edited by T.D. Cook, H. Cooper, D.S. Cordray, H. Hartmann, L.V. Hedges, R.J. Light, T.A. Louis, and F. Mosteller. New York, NY: Russell Sage Foundation.

⁷ Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Department of the Auditor General, Performance Audit of the Department of Public Welfare Youth Institutions Schedules of Cost Apportionment: June 20, 2005.

Audit Results

Recommendation:

DPW should continue to provide Aftercare services to Camp No. 2 residents. Furthermore, DPW should evaluate the feasibility of expanding the program beyond the current six month period in an effort to further reduce recidivism and the costs associated with reincarceration.

Management Comments:

Management agreed with our recommendation and recognizes the value of Aftercare services; however, the contract between the Commonwealth and the State Reintegration Program is currently in the process of being phased out. Management is instructing the facility's staff to increase their efforts in securing Aftercare services. Ultimately, the Aftercare services will be the responsibility of each individual county.

Vocational and Academic Education

Youth Forestry Camp No. 2 presents opportunities for the juveniles committed to the facility to learn vocational trades through work training, classroom instruction, and supervised restorative projects in the community. In addition, Camp No. 2 provides educational instruction of academic subjects and preparation for the General Equivalency Diploma. Both the vocational and academic educational services are contracted with the Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit No. 21 (Intermediate Unit) through the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE). These educational services provide the youth with skills and knowledge necessary to help succeed when released from the facility.

Finding 5 – Records were not maintained to document whether discharged residents obtained employment in their respective areas of vocational study.

To determine if the three types of vocational programs, which include building trades, food service, and automotive mechanics, offered at Camp No. 2 benefited the residents upon return to their communities, it is imperative to examine the types of employment that residents obtain after discharge. Neither staff at Camp No. 2 nor the residents' probation officers were able to provide any evidence that the residents included in our sample obtained employment in their area of vocational study.

The vocational programs, in some manner, began at the inception of Camp No. 2 in 1959. Every resident in our sample was placed into one of these programs upon arrival at Camp No. 2. Residents earn certifications in their field of study while at the facility that are credited on their official school transcripts with the intent to increase the possibility of securing employment in their area of study after discharge from Camp No. 2. However,

without a basis for determining the effectiveness of these programs, their utility is in question.

Recommendation:

Camp No. 2 should track the types of employment that discharged residents obtain in order to adjust the types vocational programs offered at the facility.

Management Comments:

Management concurred with the finding.

Finding 6 – Camp No. 2 lacked a summer tutorial program.

Residents of Camp No. 2 exhibit unique characteristics, which include the duration of confinement and age. DPW recognizes the residents' uniqueness by providing specialized treatment services throughout the entire year. Upon intake, a Master Case Plan, which focuses on the individual treatment needs of each resident, is developed and followed throughout the duration of confinement. One aspect of the Master Case Plan involves outlining vocational and academic educational goals.

From June 18, 2006, through August 18, 2006, and again for the same time period in 2007, Camp No. 2 did not conduct any educational services because of a lack of funds. Prior to that time, a summer tutorial program was funded by a grant from Carbon County. Currently, Camp No. 2 provides its residents with additional supervised activities such as softball and basketball tournaments, fish stocking in cooperation with the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, pheasant raising, and community clean-up during the summer period referred to above. Based upon our interviews with Camp No. 2 and DPW staff, we concluded that these activities function only as tolerable alternatives to educational instruction and could not substitute for educational services during the summer. DPW, as well as the contract between Camp No. 2 and the Intermediate Unit emphasized the importance of educational instruction. DPW maintains that:

Education prepares a youth to support himself/herself more independently and effectively meet societal expectations upon return to the community. The major components of the program include academic and vocational education.⁸

The contract between Camp No. 2 and the Intermediate Unit stipulates that:

⁸ Department of Public Welfare Website, Juvenile Justice:
<http://www.dpw.state.pa.us/ServicesPrograms/JuvenileJustice/003676630.htm> View Date:
February 14, 2008.

Audit Results

In a joint effort, utilizing funding when available, a modified school program is run for approximately four (4) weeks during the summer months.⁹

Furthermore, the contract recognizes that:

Funding levels should be increased to allow for a minimum of 220 days of programming. The students do not typically stay for an entire school term and often arrive at various times during the school term. Currently, funding for extension of the school term is unavailable.¹⁰

The Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE), which is responsible for the educational services provided to the youth admitted to Camp No. 2, acknowledged the need for summer educational services, but PDE officials contended that PDE would adhere to mandated law governing educational requirements for school districts and no more. According to PDE officials, that requirement limits funding to only 180 days of educational instruction at Camp No. 2.

PDE officials also contended that PDE funding provided for the contract between Camp No. 2 and the Intermediate Unit for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2006, was fully expended. Our comparison between the contract provided by PDE for educational services for Camp No. 2 and documentation from SAP R/3, revealed that the full contract amount was not expended. A review of the Commitments and Actual Expenditures Report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2006, in SAP R/3 disclosed that only \$994,308 was expended by the Intermediate Unit as compared to the contracted amount in the budget breakdown¹¹ of the 2005-06 school year of \$1,228,571. The difference of \$234,263 could fund a summer tutorial program, considering that DPW officials estimate the cost of a summer tutorial program was equal to as little as \$20,000 a year.

Additionally, DPW's and PDE's failure to communicate about the importance of the summer tutorial program resulted in the suspension of educational services in the summer of 2006. DPW officials reported that approximately \$30,000 would have been added to Camp No. 2's budget for fiscal year 2005 in order to operate a summer tutorial program had PDE indicated that it would not pay for this program. According to DPW officials, PDE would not allow funds to be transferred between the two departments. PDE officials denied any offer was made by DPW. Nevertheless, the impasse between the two agencies has prevented any summer tutorial program from being conducted since 2005.

Recommendation:

Camp No. 2 accommodates adjudicated juveniles with specialized educational needs all year, unlike the typical school district. To adequately prepare every resident for a successful re-entry into society and meet the educational needs of all residents year

⁹ Youth Forestry Camp No. 2 Planned Education Program (P.E.P.) for 2007-08 and 2008-09.

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ Youth Forestry Camp No. 2 Planned Education Program (P.E.P) for 2005-06.

Audit Results

round, DPW and PDE should collaborate to implement and fund a summer tutorial program at Camp No. 2.

Management Comments:

PDE officials responded that PDE could not provide any additional funding. DPW management agreed with our finding, declared a summer tutorial program to be a necessity, and further stated that it will continue to strive towards that end.

Status of Prior Audit Finding and Recommendation

The following is a summary of the finding and recommendation presented in our audit report for the period July 1, 2002, to March 2, 2004, along with a description of Youth Camp No. 2's disposition of the recommendation.

Prior Finding IV-1 – The required number of fire drills were not conducted during sleeping hours at the Youth Forestry Camp No. 2.

Our prior audit of the Loysville Complex disclosed that Camp No. 2 did not conduct a fire drill during resident sleeping hours at least once every six months.

We recommended that the Loysville Complex management instruct Camp No. 2 personnel to conduct fire drills during sleeping hours in accordance with policy requirements.¹²

Status:

Our current audit disclosed that three drills are conducted quarterly, one during the day, one at night and one during sleeping hours, which begin at 10:00 pm. When interviewed, the Fire Marshall stated that the night drill is usually done between 10:00 and 11:00 pm. When we suggested that the Camp conduct one of the three quarterly drills later at night, he concurred. We verified the fire drill information in the logs and verified the worksheets for drills going back to October of 2005, when the Fire Marshall took over. The worksheets were completely filled out. As a result of the actions taken by Camp No. 2 personnel, the finding has been resolved.

¹² 55 Pa Code §3800.132. Child Residential and Day Treatment Facilities; Fire Drills.

Audit Report Distribution List

This report was initially distributed to the following:

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