



JI-GA-002-008

SUMMARY OF AGREEMENT

This agreement reserves basic policy choices about the operation of juvenile justice to the state and recognizes the state's significant interest in protecting the safety of its citizens. It applies to all secure juvenile justice facilities in the state. The agreement builds on improvements the state has made in its juvenile justice programs in recent years to ensure the protection of the federal rights of juveniles.

Education. A new Director of Education will develop a state-wide curriculum for all juvenile justice facilities and monitor the quality of education services throughout the system. New special education policies and procedures will be developed and additional special education teachers will be hired. The state will also expand classroom space.

Mental Health Care. A new Director of Mental Health will develop a series of plans regarding suicide prevention, mental health assessments, treatment standards, and standards for identifying mentally ill youth who need outside placements in psychiatric institutions. The level of mental health services provided by psychologists, psychiatrists, and counselors will be increased.

Medical Care. Nursing coverage will be expanded in all facilities and physicians assistants will be hired in order to provide a higher level of skilled care. More dental services will be provided.

Facilities. The state will continue its program to expand existing facilities and construct several new ones.

Staffing. An additional 128 Juvenile Correctional Officers will be hired to improve supervision of youths, especially at night. An additional 44 counselors as well as contract staff will be hired to provide necessary services.

Training. All staff will receive enhanced training.

Placements. The state will expand placement options for pre-trial youths to help relieve crowding in the RYDCs.

Discipline. The state will create uniform discipline policies specifying the types and duration of punishments allowed in all facilities. Additional resources will be committed for the investigation of allegations of abuse.

Quality Assurance. A new Deputy Commissioner of Quality Assurance will monitor the quality of services in the areas such as education, mental health, and medical care. The new Deputy Commissioner will implement a quality assurance plan which shall include regular audits, review of important documentation, data collection, review of significant incidents, and regular unannounced site inspections.

Monitoring. An independent monitor will oversee the implementation of the agreement and will participate in negotiation and mediation of plan development disputes. The state, as has been its practice, will continue to grant access to its facilities to the Department of Justice to monitor compliance with the agreement.