Indiana Female Juveniles Make the Move Forward

Madison Juvenile Correctional Facility (MJCF) opened its doors to 92 juvenile females transferred from Indianapolis Juvenile Correctional Facility on November 3, 2009. After detailed planning and collaboration between the staff at both facilities, the juveniles made their way safely to their new location in Madison, Indiana. Madison Juvenile Correctional Facility provides a safe, supportive environment for committed female adolescents and encourages the development of responsible young women. MJCF is a maximum security juvenile correctional facility that has the ability to house 167 students. It is now the only female facility in Indiana, and the only reception and diagnostic center for newly committed female youths. MJCF offers a number of groups that address the needs of its student population, including, Criminal and Addictive Thinking, Cage the Rage for Women, Voices, Healthy Relationships, Employability Skills, Substance Abuse, Relapse Prevention, Suicide Prevention, Grief and Loss, and several others.

Ball State University has been awarded the contract to provide education to the girls. The education/vocation program is a collaborative effort between Ball State and Ivy Tech Community College, with the opportunity for the students to earn dual high school and college credits. The students at MJCF also have the chance to earn their high school diploma or GED.

Not only is this a correctional facility, it is a therapeutic environment fully concentrated on the rehabilitation of the female juvenile population that it houses. The staff scheduling at this facility is different than the other Indiana Department of Correction facilities. The custody staff are on an 8 hour rotation instead of the typical 12 hour rotation. This 8 hour shift keeps the staff fresh and attentive. Not only are the custody staff on a different schedule, but so are the treatment and administrative staff. Each week night, at least one Psychiatric Social Services Specialist is at the facility to work closely with the girls until 9:00 p.m. Additionally, each department head works a late night. This allows for an open line of communication between the juveniles and all of the departments.

“We are going to work together to make this the best facility possible by making the students feel safe and the staff feel appreciated,” said Angela Sutton, Superintendent at MJCF. Angela Sutton has served with the Indiana Department of Correction for five years in the capacity of Psychiatric Social Services Specialist, Program Director 1, Assistant Superintendent, and now as Superintendent of MJCF.

Ms. Sutton received her B.A. in Criminal Justice (1999) and M.A. in Criminal Justice (2003) from Southern University at New Orleans. Ms. Sutton has been an adjunct instructor for ITT Technical School of Criminal Justice since 2006. She is a member of the American Correctional Association, Indiana Correctional Association, and a graduate of the IDOC’s Experienced and Emerging Leadership Program.

To volunteer at the Madison Juvenile Correctional Facility and make a positive impact on the youth today, please contact our Community Services Director Galen Bremmer at gbremmer@idoc.in.gov.

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friendship, thereby making a safer and more secure environment in which to work.

There has been much written on this subject. I prefer to boil the essence of it down to creating an environment in which everyone treats everyone the way they expect to be treated. Aligned with the Golden Rule, “Do unto others as you would have them do unto you,” cultural competence espouses the same edict. While this is easily stated and understood, at times, all of us violate its tenets. How we follow up after our violation is what sets us all apart.

When PPCC comes to your facility, be a part of it as you are a part of your facility. Prior to PPCC’s implementation at your facility, if you want to be a Champion, a mentor, or a facilitator of the process, contact Executive Director Richard Curry or Assistant Director Nancy Riley at CTI. Executive Directive 09-69 provides administrative details and expands on the process as it is intended to unfold over the next few years.

Be part of your profession, part of the solution to the issues that face us at each facility, parole district, or the Agency as a whole. Indiana is leading the way in many aspects of corrections throughout the nation. With your involvement, with the involvement of every professional corrections staff member in our Department, we can create a better environment, a better workplace, and a better future. Individually, you do not owe it to your leadership, to your Facility Head, or to the Commissioner; you owe it to yourself!