



Division of Youth Services

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October 10, 2014

Capt. Fran Hall, Director
Sebastian County Juvenile Detention Center
801 S. "A" St.
Ft. Smith, AR 72901
VIA MAIL & EMAIL: fhall@co.sebastian.ar.us

RE: The WRAP Restraint System

Dear Director Hall:

Recently, as has been published in state media, the Division of Youth Services issued a directive to a juvenile detention center which holds DYS-committed youth under a memorandum of understanding with the Division. That directive prohibited the use of a restraint device known as "The WRAP" on any DYS-committed youth, and urged that JDC to refrain from using the device on any youth in that facility's custody. We have since learned that the WRAP system is used by three other JDCs in the state including your own, although reportedly in limited circumstances and in perhaps a different manner than was being used at your sister JDC.

DYS, as the administrative agency over the youth services system in the state, has a keen interest in ensuring all system-involved youth are receiving safe and appropriate care, including in response to disruptive conduct. Although DYS does not have a contractual relationship with your JDC, we would like to extend our support and assistance to you in adopting best practices, obtaining any needed training, and otherwise helping to identify resources that will assist your facility in caring for the youth in your custody.

To that end, would you object if DYS residential and community services staff were to visit your facility in the near future to ask questions about your use of the WRAP restraint, and perhaps see a demonstration of its typical use in your facility (on a willing adult, of course)? Depending on what we observe, we may make recommendations about alternative interventions or restraint procedures, or offer to provide or facilitate training of your staff.

Please let me know if this meets your approval, and I will have my staff contact your facility to make the necessary arrangements.

Yours sincerely,

Tracy Steele

cc: Keesa Smith, DHS Deputy Director