



NEWS RELEASE

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Jackson County Juvenile Detention Center and residential facilities only juvenile programs accredited in State of Missouri

The Jackson County Juvenile Detention Center and the residential treatment facilities of Hilltop and McCune were re-accredited on Sunday, April 22, by the American Correctional Association (ACA) at the annual meeting of the Correctional Accreditation Managers' Association in Austin, Texas. They were three of the 11 juvenile facilities throughout the country that were re-accredited at the conference.

The three Jackson County facilities for juveniles are overseen by the Jackson County Family Court. They are the first and only juvenile facilities in the State of Missouri that have achieved and maintained accreditation. Initial accreditation was awarded in April 2009.

In order to become accredited or maintain accreditation, the facilities had to achieve a 100% rate of compliance on all mandatory national standards, such as those standards involving fire and life safety, health care and nutrition. In addition, a minimum 90% rate of compliance was required on all other non-mandatory national standards. The facilities received a 97.6% rate of compliance for all non-mandatory standards such as citizen and volunteer involvement, fiscal management and education. About 1,200 standards were reviewed for the three facilities.

An audit team of experienced independent auditors from outside of the state were assigned by the association to audit the facilities. They included a former warden, an operations and program specialist, and a medical auditor. The audit team reviewed policies and procedures, interviewed most of the youth in custody, interviewed staff one-on-one, interviewed partner agencies, and inspected and toured all of the buildings and grounds. The Family Court was required to provide three years of documentation as evidence of practice that all standards had been adhered to for the entire period. The audit took place February 6 – 10, 2012.

The American Correctional Association, located in Alexandria, Virginia is a private, nonprofit organization that administers the only national accreditation program for adult and juvenile corrections in state and federal systems. For more information about the ACA and its standards, contact 1-800-222-5646.

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