

Caliente Youth Center

1. What were you impressed with at this site?

During this visit, I was very impressed with the school including the layout. While touring the school I felt I was in a school rather than a juvenile correctional facility. This can allow the youth to focus on their school work rather than constantly be reminded they are in a detention center. Also, this can make it easier for a youth to transition back home and back to school in their community.

2. Was your visit observation(s) consistent with what you anticipated detention and corrections would be?

This facility was much more open and similar to a camp rather than a correctional facility. I was not sure what to expect when I visited the facilities, so this was not anticipated.

3. What were you most surprised about?

I was surprised by how run down the facility was. It was in need of many repairs.

4. What changes would you make to the facility?

One thing mentioned during the tour was they provided all programming to every youth whether they needed the programming or not. I felt this was counterproductive and each youth should be assessed and provided the programming they actually need.

5. What would you like each site you visited to know?

I greatly appreciated the opportunity to visit their site and I would like them to continue to have an open dialogue with the youth and listen to their concerns. I think an important part of ensuring these children are getting what they need to succeed is to listen to their feedback including what is working and what is not working for them. This includes talking to youth formerly in the facility to find out how the facility prepared them to go back home.

6. What information did you learn from the youth in detention and corrections?

Many of the youth enjoyed the various vocational programs offered at the facility. They felt this would prepare them for careers after they left. Also, some of them were upset their entire group would get in trouble when one youth did something wrong. They felt this was unfair and did not promote them to have good behavior if they were still able to get in trouble. (this was similar at the other facility) A few youths at this facility also complained about the way staff treat them (can be too rough) and they felt the staff needed more training.