

Okaloosa County News Release

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Department of Corrections Receives 4th Reaccreditation

Upon an extensive review of files, a multiple-day observation of jail operations, and numerous focused interviews with staff and inmates, the Florida Corrections Accreditation Commission (FCAC) found the Okaloosa County Department Corrections to be in full compliance with all required accreditation standards. **FCAC voted unanimously to award the department its fourth reaccreditation at its fall conference held on October 25, 2016, in Weston, Florida.** “In spite of the challenges with overcrowding and an aging facility, Corrections staff are dedicated and do a remarkable job,” said County Administrator John Hofstad.

Assessors noted department files were organized and jail operations met the highest of applicable standards. **Compliance with all functions and aspects was easily verified, which allowed adequate time for interviews of both staff and inmates.** Housing areas were noted as quiet and well controlled. Inmates voiced few complaints, were overall compliant, and had a clear understanding of departmental rules and regulations. The Okaloosa County Department of Corrections staff was described as being professional, friendly, and well versed in their existing policies and procedures.

“We can all be very proud of this tremendous accomplishment by the members of our department. **The accreditation process and the awarding of this fourth reaccreditation serves to validate the high levels of professional correctional services our department provides the citizens we serve here in Okaloosa County.** We have a great team at Corrections, and the efforts of our members, and those of our service partners, such as Corizon Health, can truly not be understated. I could not be any more proud of our department, our officers, and our civilian employees...they did an amazing job!” stated Chief Correctional Officer Stefan Vaughn. For more information, contact Okaloosa County Department of Corrections, 850-689-5690.

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The Okaloosa Department of Corrections houses inmates awaiting trial in Okaloosa County, those who have been sentenced to short periods of incarceration, and those who return from prison for court proceedings. We are committed to ensuring public safety, while providing a clean, safe, and secure correctional environment. We are accredited by the Florida Corrections Accreditation Commission and the National Commission on Correctional Healthcare. We remain committed to fostering the public's trust through accountability, fiscal responsibility, and professional correctional services.

The Florida Corrections Accreditation Commission (FCAC) inspection is held every three years and takes about three days. According to FCAC, accreditation is a voluntary program that is more comprehensive than current Florida inspection standards. Accreditation standards are patterned after a combination of the Florida Model Jail Standards, standards from the American Correctional Association, and the Commission for Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation.