

Okaloosa County News Release

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Department of Corrections Gets 100 on Accreditation

The Florida Corrections Accreditation Commission (FCAC) voted unanimously in July to award accreditation status to the Okaloosa County Department of Corrections. The department was in compliance with 100 percent of the mandatory and non-mandatory standards required to receive accreditation using criteria set by FCAC and Florida Model Jail Standards.

“This is truly a remarkable achievement given our limited resources. I am proud of our outstanding team of professionals and look forward to continuing to maintain the high standards we have set for ourselves,” exclaimed Chief Correctional Officer Paul Lawson, Okaloosa County Department of Corrections. The FCAC accreditation is a voluntary accreditation program that, according to FCAC, is more comprehensive than current Florida inspection standards. The inspection is held every three years, takes three days, and includes the following:

- Interview of staff members and inmates
- Inspections of the facility
- Administration procedures and records inspections

The 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. In addition, the Okaloosa County Department of Corrections is accredited by the National Commission on Correctional Health Care. For more information, contact Okaloosa County Department of Corrections, 850-689-5690.

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Photo Identification (L-R):

Chief Paul Lawson, Okaloosa County Department of Corrections,
Correctional Officer Garry Hesslerode (2 r's in Garry),
Florida Corrections Accreditation Commission Chair - Sheriff Gary Borders, Lake County,
Correctional Officer Jose Morales,
Programs Manager Tammy Matthews,
Correctional Officer Kimberly Boddy,
Lieutenant April McQueen,
FCAC Executive Director Lori Mizell