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## ***Boys' State Training School earns 100 percent compliance during audit National accreditation review shows early positive results***

(ELDORA, Iowa) - The Boys' State Training School (STS) at Eldora has achieved 100 percent compliance in early results shared this week by the American Correctional Association (ACA) as part of its rigorous accreditation review of the campus.

The Boys' State Training School is a secure facility which has up to 130 secure beds to serve seriously delinquent youth. It provides treatment and educational services within a highly-structured setting. <http://dhs.iowa.gov/mhds/mental-health/in-patient/juvenile-facilities/eldora>

During an exit briefing this week, the three-member ACA audit team commended the State Training School on receiving 100 percent compliance on all applicable standards, and exceeding the expectations of those completing the audit. This summer, DHS staff will attend a national ACA conference. While there, staff has the opportunity to challenge any lost standards and the ACA standards committee will review the audit team results. The official results are finalized at the conference.

Following this week's review, the auditors stated "this is truly a humane facility," and that for students, staff and visitors "the campus is a low-stress environment from the moment you get here." They went on to note the level of respect and dedication the Eldora STS staff have for one another, and more importantly, for the juvenile boys they serve. In addition, they praised the STS for the significant decrease in use of physical restraints within the facility, pointing out the hard work and dedication demonstrated in finding more effective ways to connect with the juveniles in moments of crisis.

Other notable remarks from the ACA auditors included the excellence of therapeutic services, extraordinary teachers and educational program, high quality medical care provided to the boys, and level of cleanliness of the campus.

Both the auditors and the Eldora STS Superintendent Mark Day challenged staff to come away from the briefing with a sense of achievement while continuing to advance their efforts to provide exceptional care for the juveniles residing at the State Training School. Department of Human Services (DHS) Director Charles M. Palmer said the STS continues to be an exceptional facility for young men, and that is clearly demonstrated by its high rating by the national accreditation organization.

"I congratulate the staff on their continued commitment to helping the youth they serve find a safe, stable environment where they can take part in programs and receive treatment tailored to their individual needs," said Palmer. "Many young men have found success because of the guidance and structure provided at the STS."

For more information

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