

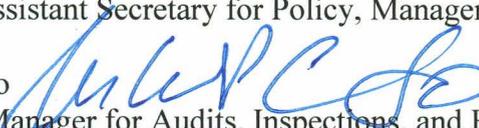


OFFICE OF
INSPECTOR GENERAL
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

September 16, 2015

Memorandum

To: Kristen J. Sarri
Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management and Budget

From: Michael P. Colombo 
Western Regional Manager for Audits, Inspections, and Evaluations

Subject: Verification Review – Recommendations for the Report, “Bureau of Indian Affairs’ Detention Facilities” (WR-EV-BIA-0005-2010)
Report No. 2015-WR-082

The Office of Inspector General (OIG) has completed a verification review of the three recommendations presented in the subject report. Our objective was to determine whether Indian Affairs (IA) implemented the recommendations as reported to the Office of Financial Management (PFM), Office of Policy, Management and Budget. PFM reported to OIG that it has closed the recommendations. We concur that all of the recommendations have been resolved and implemented.

Background

Our report, “Bureau of Indian Affairs’ Detention Facilities,” dated March 31, 2011, made three recommendations designed to improve the staffing and condition of detention facilities.

The Assistant Secretary for IA concurred with Recommendations 2 and 3 in a memorandum dated May 4, 2011, and detailed IA’s plans to implement those recommendations, as well as reasoning for not concurring with Recommendation 1. In a May 23, 2011 memorandum, we referred the recommendations to the Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management and Budget to track their implementation. In January 2012, PFM reported to OIG that it had closed Recommendations 1 and 3. On September 27, 2012, PFM reported to OIG that it had closed Recommendation 2 and considered all of the report’s recommendations closed.

Scope and Methodology

The scope of this review was limited to determining whether IA implemented the recommendations we reported. To accomplish our objective, we reviewed PFM’s documentation supporting its closure of our recommendations and IA’s documentation relating the actions it took to implement our recommendations. We did not test internal controls, visit sites, or conduct fieldwork to determine whether the underlying deficiencies that were initially identified have been corrected. As a result, this review was not conducted in accordance with Generally Accepted Government Auditing Standards, issued by the Comptroller General of the United

States, or with the Quality Standards for Inspection and Evaluation, issued by the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency.

Results of Review

Our current review found that IA has resolved and implemented all three recommendations.

Recommendation 1: Develop and implement a financial management system that identifies, accumulates, and reports on detention funding priorities, budget allocations, and expenditures agencywide by activity or cost category.

Action Taken: PFM reported that the Office of Justice Services (OJS) has begun mandating and providing training at the field level on accessing financial management system data.

After this recommendation was closed, the Financial and Business Management System (FBMS) was implemented. As a result, we requested evidence that FBMS identifies, accumulates, and reports on detention funding agencywide by activity or cost category. OJS provided a funds status report from FBMS that demonstrates this level of detail.

Recommendation 2: Develop and implement plans and strategies to alleviate detention staff shortages (staff recruitment and retention). Specifically, these plans and strategies should address issues such as the lack of proactive management, unavailable housing, remote locations of the facilities, low pay grade structure, and human resources processing delays.

Action Taken: OJS has emphasized hiring within the Division of Corrections. PFM provided evidence that OJS hired an administrative officer to serve as a liaison between OJS and IA's human resources office, moved the OJS Servicing Personnel Office from Anadarko, OK, to Reston, VA, to facilitate communication and increase customer relations, conducted numerous job fairs in hard-to-fill areas, worked with the Office of Facilities Management and Construction to develop plans for new housing for corrections personnel, and increased grade levels for many law enforcement positions in the field.

In August 2015, OJS provided us with its Fiscal Year (FY) 2010 – 2015 Recruitment and Retention Strategy and reported that 51 new or replaced housing units had been completed since 2009, with 3 to 5 additional housing units scheduled for FY 2016. OJS also provided details of its plan to streamline hiring by conducting direct hires using its excepted service appointing authority.

Recommendation 3: Improve the physical condition of Bureau-operated and tribally operated detention facilities, and ensure that maintenance and repairs are being performed as required.

Action Taken: PFM reported that the IA facilities program is based on the correction of building deficiencies using a “worse first” priority system. There are three levels of repairs: maintenance, building component repair, and major improvement and repair projects.

1. Maintenance repairs are those costing less than \$2,500 per incident to correct. Each U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs region receives maintenance funds based on a formula. As of 2011, IA’s annual appropriation was sufficient to correct 40 percent of these types of maintenance items, with local facility managers prioritizing the items to be corrected.
2. Building component repairs are funded through annual appropriations, which are insufficient to correct all deficiencies. Priority rankings are prepared annually with some funds reserved each year for correcting deficiencies that are determined priority projects.
3. Major improvement and repair projects are those that combine a sufficient number of necessary component repairs within one facility into a single project.

PFM also sent us a facility condition index report dated July 2011 that shows deferred maintenance of OJS facilities totaling about \$30 million with about 76 percent of OJS facilities in good or fair condition. A facility condition index report dated October 2014 shows deferred maintenance totaling about \$22 million with 92 percent of OJS facilities in good or fair condition.

Conclusion

We informed IA officials of the results of this review on September 9, 2015.

cc: Olivia Ferriter, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management and Budget
Douglas Glenn, Director, Office of Financial Management
Allen Lawrence, Division Chief, Internal Control and Audit Follow-up, Office of Financial Management
Alexandra Lampros, Audit Liaison Officer, Office of Financial Management
Kevin K. Washburn, Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs
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David Little, Associate Director – Field Operation, Office of Justice Services
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