



TARRANT COUNTY JUVENILE SERVICES

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To: Juvenile Board Review Committee Members

From: Bennie Medlin, Director Juvenile Services

Date: February 17, 2021

Subj: Report on Power Outages and Weather Emergency at Lynn Ross Detention Center

On Monday, February 14, 2021, we lost power to the Lynn W. Ross Juvenile Detention Center at approximately 2:00am due to the unprecedented winter storm. There were 98 residents (12 Females/82 Males) in the center at the time of the outage. When the power went off the backup emergency generators came on immediately, however some of the center's heating units and hot water boilers did not operate when the center lost power, and the telephone systems went down. When this happened, we lost the ability to heat some of the housing units, and staff responded by issuing additional coats, blankets, and clothing to the residents.

Facilities Management were notified and responded to the center with the expectation that these systems would be repaired on Monday or we would regain power to the center. As the day went on, we learned the heating and hot-water systems could not be repaired, and we still did not have power to the center. I advised the County Administrator and additional Facilities Management personnel of the situation, because temperatures in the center continued to drop. The power to the center was restored on Wednesday, February 17, 2021. After the power was restored, we learned that two water pipes had burst on one of the boys housing units, and staff had to relocate the residents to other housing units to sleep. Facilities Management and department staff have been working throughout the day to bring the heating units back on line and repair the broken water line.

We currently have heating on all housing units, and partial heating on one unit that cannot be repaired this evening. We presently have 105 youth (19 females/86 males) in the center. We entered the day with one female resident on medical quarantine due to a positive Covid-19 diagnoses. We also have 17 youth on medical quarantine due to our Covid-19 admission protocols. MedStar Emergency Services reported to the center this afternoon to test all youth who are currently being quarantined due to Covid-19 precaution and we are awaiting the results of these test. The facility is operational and appropriately staffed. Detention Administrative and Management staff have been on site at the center daily throughout the winter storm emergency. The residents are safe, and many have been given the opportunity to contact their parents, if they can be reached. We have plenty of bedding and clothing for all residents and they have received daily hot meals and other critical services during this period. There have been not major incidents or critical medical emergencies during this period. We are currently working with the Juvenile Court to determine if some residents can be released to their parents and this is ongoing.

We will be on site at the center as needed over the coming days, and I am available to respond to any questions you may have.