**BSCC Regulations Revision Process**

**Proposed Changes to Title 15 and/or Title 24 Minimum Standards for Juvenile Facilities**

**Submitted January ##, 2017 to Ginger Wolfe,** **ginger.wolfe@bscc.ca.gov**

**1. Of the juvenile regulations listed in Title 15 and Title 24 (for example, Section 1328. Safety Checks, or Section 1230.1.17. Visiting Space), which regulations would you like to see improved?**

#### If specific section unknown: Clothing/Underwear

#### If specific section known: Title 15, Section 1480 “Standard Facility Clothing Issue” – Underwear

#### 2. Please identify the subject area in which you would like to see improvement and list any recommendations. Be as specific as possible.

In 2007, Title 15 Section 1480 was revised to require that undergarments issued to youth be “free of stains” However, children in our facilities are still forced to wear undergarments that have been worn by other youth. How many of us in the community would be willing to do that, especially if the underwear had been worn by a 15 year-old we didn’t know? We proposed providing new underwear for boys and girls.

The youth’s personal clothing, undergarments and footwear may be substituted for the institutional clothing and footwear specified in this regulation. The facility has the primary responsibility to provide clothing and footwear. Youth will be provided with new (previously unused) underwear unless they substitute their own. Clothing provisions shall ensure that:

(a) clothing is clean, reasonably fitted, durable, easily laundered, and in good repair; and

(b) the standard issue of climatically suitable clothing for minors youth shall consist of but not be limited to:

(1) socks and serviceable footwear;

(2) outer garments; and,

(3) undergarments, that are freshly laundered and free of stains, including shorts and tee shirts for males, and bra and panties for females.

c) clothing is laundered at the temperature required by local ordinances for commercial laundries and dried completely in a mechanical dryer or other laundry method approved by the local health officer.

#### 3. Please describe the rationale for your recommendation and provide any data or evidence (optional).  Why is this revision necessary? How will it improve conditions in juvenile facilities? What problem(s) will it solve?

Welfare and Institutions Code section 851 provides that juvenile halls shall not be treated as penal institutions and that they shall provide a safe and supportive homelike environment. Welfare and Institutions Code section 202 requires that youth in the system receive care, treatment and guidance in accordance with their best interests.

Requiring youth in detention to wear used underwear is demeaning and dehumanizing. Also, requiring youth to wear institutional used underwear exposes them to disease. In 2008, for example, dozens of Kings County Jail inmates in Seattle were exposed to a drug resistant bacterial infection, and a primary cause was inadequate laundry procedures; the only way inmates could get clean underwear was to buy it from the commissary. (Hector Castro, Dozens of jail inmates hit with superbug; 65 cases of MRSA raise questions of cleanliness, hygiene at facility, *Seattle PI* (Mar. 20, 2008).)

**4. Would your recommendation cause an impact on facility operations (for example, staff levels) or create any new costs?**

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Yes

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ No

\_\_X\_\_\_ Not sure

If YES, please specify potential operational impact(s), cost or savings.

Many youth will opt to bring their own underwear. A number of juvenile halls around the state are already coming up with ways to provide new underwear. Regular underwear is also very cheap, and this is an issue that would surely prompt donations from local community groups.

#### 5. What relevant personal or professional experience can you provide that suggests this revision would improve juvenile facilities? (optional)

Example: I have personally visited juvenile halls and spoken to girls who feel violated and dehumanized by being forced to wear used underwear. They feel uncomfortable in their own skin and disassociate from their bodies.

Name, Title, Department or Organization

Email address:

Phone number: