EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

DEPARTMENT OF LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY
JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMISSION

Our audit found an opportunity for potential cost savings if additional residential centers can be consolidated. In addition, there are internal control weaknesses related to resident trust funds and a lack of detailed recidivism rates to be used in determining the effectiveness of program services provided to the residential centers.

AUDIT HIGHLIGHTS

- During our field work, we suggested that management consider consolidating under-utilized residential centers. In May 2012, the commission took the initiative by relocating the Campus and Camden centers to one state-owned facility in Vineland. The commission estimated an annual savings of $620,000 due to lease cancellations. Additional centers can be consolidated.

- A youth worker who requests and receives group trip cash advances is generally the person who obtains residents’ signatures authorizing the withdrawals. At the Ocean residential center we found 11 questionable resident signatures on approved group trip advances (business remit forms). This matter will be referred to the Department of Law and Public Safety, Division of Criminal Justice, for further investigation.

In addition, our reconciliation of bank balances to the resident trust fund subsidiary account ledger for December 2011 disclosed cash balance discrepancies at 10 of the 13 residential centers. Specifically, five residential centers had cash shortages ranging from $602 to $19,400 and five residential centers had excess cash ranging from $227 to $6,004.

- The Department of Corrections in conjunction with the Juvenile Justice Commission and State Parole Board record and analyze the recidivism of all inmates and juveniles adjudicated delinquent to assist in measuring the effectiveness of the State’s reentry initiatives and programs. However, the report did not categorize the recidivism rates by individual residential center. As a result, the commission’s management cannot determine the effectiveness of program services provided at the residential centers at an annual cost of $22.3 million.

AUDITEE RESPONSE
The department generally concurs with our findings and recommendations.

For the complete audit report, click here.