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SUBJECT: BEHAVIOR MODIFICATION CAMPS IN SAMOA

1. BEGIN SUMMARY AND INTRODUCTION.

SINCE THE ARRIVAL OF CHARGE FRANKIE CALHOUN IN SEPTEMBER, SHE HAS MADE SIX VISITS TO THE THREE BEHAVIOR MODIFICATION CAMPS LOCATED ON THE ISLAND, PARADISE COVE, A BETTER WAY, AND PACIFIC COAST ACADEMY. TOTAL NUMBERS OF JUVENILE AMCITS ENROLLED AS OF DECEMBER 3 IS 73, A REDUCTION OF ABOUT 50 FROM SIX MONTHS AGO.

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SOME SIX 18-YEAR OLDS REMAIN IN THE CAMPS VOLUNTARILY, ACCORDING TO CAMP DIRECTORS, HEALTH AND SANITARY CONDITIONS OVERALL VARY BUT APPEARED ADEQUATE DURING THE VISITS. ALL THREE CAMP DIRECTORS TOLD CHARGE THAT THE JUVENILES HAVE ACCESS TO IMMEDIATE MEDICAL CARE AND ARE MEDICALLY EVACUATED TO NEW ZEALAND OR HONOLULU IN EMERGENCIES. ALL CLAIM TO PROVIDE DAILY EDUCATIONAL INSTRUCTIONS, EITHER BY CORRESPONDENCE OR IN CLASS. ALL TOLD CHARGE THAT THEY OFFER A MEANS OF COMMUNICATION WITH PARENTS, BY PHONE, UNDER VARYING CIRCUMSTANCES. ONLY ONE CAMP OFFERS DAILY E-MAIL COMMUNICATION. SAMOAN GOVERNMENT OVERSIGHT IS LIMITED WITH ONE VISIT IN THE PAST SIX MONTHS BY A GOVERNMENT COMMISSION. THERE IS NO LICENSING ARRANGEMENT WITH THE GOVERNMENT. THE CAMPS FUNCTION INDEPENDENTLY AND ASIDE FROM INDIVIDUAL COMPLAINTS TO CONCERNED PARENTS, THERE APPEARS TO BE NO ENFORCEMENT MECHANISM OVER THE BEHAVIOR AND PRACTICES OF THE INDIVIDUAL DIRECTORS. END SUMMARY AND INTRODUCTION.

2. THE GOOD NEWS

**REVIEW AUTHORITY: Charles Lahiguera, Senior Reviewer**

THE POSITIVE NEWS ABOUT THE THREE BEHAVIOR MODIFICATION CAMPS ON THE ISLAND OF UPOLU IN SAMOA IS THAT ALL HAVE GRANTED ACCESS TO CHARGE. CHARGE HAS HAD NO COMPLAINTS DIRECTLY FROM JUVENILES IN THE CAMPS OF FROM PARENTS SINCE HER ARRIVAL IN SEPTEMBER 1999. THIS IS MARKED IMPROVEMENT FROM EVENTS OVER THE PAST YEAR IN WHICH SOME YOUTH CLAIMED TO HAVE BEEN DENIED ACCESS TO PHONES TO COMMUNICATE WITH THE OUTSIDE AND UNCONFIRMED, THIRD PARTY CHARGES OF ABUSIVE PROCEDURES CIRCULATED.

### 3. HEALTH CONDITIONS, EDUCATION

A BETTER WAY: CHARGE, DURING AN OCTOBER 19 VISIT TO A BETTER  
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WAY AND AGAIN WITH DESK OFFICER ON NOVEMBER 13, FOUND THAT SANITARY CONDITIONS IN THE STUDENTS' ROOMS, EATING FACILITIES AND IN THE KITCHEN APPEARED ADEQWATE. THE SMALLEST OF THE CAMPS, A BETTER WAY HOSTS EIGHT MALE STUDENTS, AGES 15-17. CHARGE SPOKE PRIVATELY WITH THE YOUTH DURING THE OCTOBER VISIT. THEY VOICED NO COMPLAINTS. THE SAME WAS THE CASE DURING DESK OFFICER'S TALK WITH YOUTH ON NOVEMBER 18. A BETTER WAY OFFERS RESIDENTS DAILY E-MAIL COMMUNICATION WITH PARENTS. INCOMING E-MAILS ARE PRINTED AND DISTRIBUTED DURING LUNCH BREAK. A BETTER WAY HAS A RESIDENT MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELOR, AN AMERICAN, WHO THE SAMOAN DIRECTOR, BREDA FAITUA, SAID MEETS DAILY WITH STUDENTS. STUDENTS ARE HOUSED IN INDIVIDUAL ROOMS. THEY SLEEP ON MATS ON THE FLOOR AND HAVE MINIMAL ITEMS IN THE ROOM, MOSTLY BOOKS AND TOILETRIES. DURING HER FIRST VISIT, CHARGE FOUND THE YOUTH IN CLASS UNDER THE TUTELAGE OF A RESIDENT TEACHER. ALL HAVE INDIVIDUAL PROGRAMS OF STUDY THROUGH A U.S. BASED CORRESPONDENCE COURSE. YOUTH HAVE A DAILY PHYSICAL EDUCATION PROGRAM WITH SWIMMING AND BASKETBALL TEAM. TOTAL STAFF NUMBERS ABOUT 10. THE CAMP DIRECTOR SAID THAT THERE IS AN ADULT SUPERVISOR PRESENT 24 HOURS/DAY.

### 4. PARADISE COVE:

DURING THE CHARGES'S OCTOBER VISIT PARADISE COVE WAS \$OST TO 78 MALE STUDENTS, FOUR OVER THE AGE OF 18. THE CAMP SITE, ACTUALLY THREE SEPERATE LOCATIONS, IS ABOUT 20 YARDS FROM THE OCEAN ON THE BEACH. THE STUDENTS SHARE ROOMS, UP TO ABOUT FOUR PER ROOM. CONDITIONS ARE SOMEWHAT SPARTAN. THEY SLEEP ON FLOOR MATS IN SCREENED CABINS. AGAIN, OVERALL SANITARY CONDITIONS APPEARED ADEQUATE GIVEN THE SURROUNDINGS. SHOWERS AND TOILETS ARE CAMP-LIKE, SEPARATE FROM THE ROOM. CHARGE SPOKE INDIVIDUALLY  
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WITH ONE STUDENT WHO COMPLAINED THAT HE WAS 18 YEARS OLD AND WANTED TO LEAVE. IN A FOLLOW UP CALL, CAMP DIRECTOR ENID BROWN TOLD CHARGE THAT THE DIRECTOR SAID THE STUDENT HAD BEEN ALLOWED TO DEPART SEVERAL DAYS LATER. YOUTH HAVE BOTH INDIVIDUAL CORRESPONDENCE COURSES COMBINED WITH CLASSROOM STUDY. THERE IS AN AIR CONDITIONED LIBRARY WHICH THEY UTILIZE, STAFFED BY AN AMERICAN LIBRARIAN. SHE TOLD CHARGE THAT SHE ALSO TUTORS SOME

OF THE STUDENTS AND COMMENTED THAT MANY LACK MOTIVATION AND ARE UNCOOPERATIVE. YET OTHERS CHANGE SIGNIFICANTLY OVER THE ONE-YEAR PERIOD THAT THEY SPEND IN THE CAMP. YOUTH HAVE A FULL SPORTS HVQQHQHQQ INCLUDING A DAILY RECREATIONAL SWIM IN THE OCEAN AND A BASKETBALL TEAM. STAFF TAKE STUDENTS TWO TO THREE TIMES A WEEK TO WORK OUT AT AL LOCAL GYM IN APIA. AGE RANGE OF STUDENTS IS 13-18. TOTAL STAFF ACCORDING TO THE CAMP SUPERVISORS IS ABOUT 40. THE CAMP IS STAFFED 24 HOURS/DAY. DURING THE SECOND VISIT, STAFF TOLD CHARGE AND DESK OFFICER THAT THERE ARE NOT ABOUT 45 STUDENTS ON SITE. THE OTHERS HAD COMPLETED THE TERM AND THE CAMP HAD NOT RECEIVED NEW APPLICANTS. ONE STAFF MEMBER NOTED THAT MANY PARENTS ARE WAITING UNTIL AFTER THE HOLIDAYS TO SEND OUT THE NEW STUDENTS.

#### 5. PACIFIC COAST ACADEMY:

CHARGE MET DECEMBER 2 WITH PACIFIC COAST ACADEMY DIRECTOR DAVID PARKER. EARLIER ATTEMPTS ON OCTOBER 19 AND AGAIN ON NOVEMBER 13 BY CHARGE AND DESK OFFICER TO VISIT THE CAMPS WERE UNSUCCESSFUL. OF THE THREE SITES, PACIFIC COAST IS THE ONLY ONE TO BAR ACCESS BY MEANS OF A GATE ACROSS THE ROAD. A SIGN WARNS VISITORS THAT ACCESS TO THE CAMP IS AVAILABLE ONLY WITH WRITTEN PERMISSION FROM THE DIRECTOR OR BY COURT ORDER. IN EARLIER ATTEMPTS, CHARGE HAD BEEN UNABLE TO CONTACT PARKER BY PHONE.

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PARKER TOLD CHARGE THAT THERE ARE NO TELEPHONES IN OPERATION ON THE SITE. PARKER HAS A CELL PHONE. PARKER CONTACTED CHARGE IN RESPONSE TO DESK OFFICER'S LETTER LEFT AT THE SITE ON NOVEMBER 13. PARKER CLAIMS THAT HE KNEW NOTHING OF THE PREVIOUS ATTEMPTS TO VISIT THE SITE. AGAIN, HEALTH CONDITIONS APPEARED ADEQUATE AT THE SITE. PARKER TOLD CHARGE THERE ARE 20 RESIDENTS, EVENLY DIVIDED BETWEEN GIRLS AND BOYS. GIRLS ARE HOUSED SEPARATELY, SEVERAL YARDS FROM THE BOYS' QUARTERS. ROOMS RESEMBLE INDIVIDUAL, ENCLOSED CABANAS. AGES ARE 13-18. PARKER SAID ALL 18 YEAR OLDS ARE ENROLLED VOLUNTARILY. THE YOUTH UNDERGO INDIVIDUAL SCHOOLING BY CORRESPONDENCE. A MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELOR, AN AMERICAN, IS RESIDENT. THE RESIDENTS HAVE A PHYSICAL EDUCATION PROGRAM AND SWIM IN A STREAM ON THE CAMP GROUNDS. PARKER SAID THE CAMP HAS BEEN OPEN ABOUT SIX MONTHS AND HAS A STAFF OF ABOUT 40. YOUTH MAY REQUEST TELEPHONE CALLS WITH PARENTS AT ANY TIME, ACCORDING TO THE DIRECTOR. PARKER SAID THEY MAY USE HIS CELL PHONE OR HE OFTEN TAKES STUDENTS INTO TOWN (ABOUT 10 MILES AWAY) TO MGIQQPHONE CALLS. UNLIKE THE OTHER TWO SITES, THIS IS QUITE ISOLATED. IT SITS SOME FIVE MILES FROM THE MAIN ROAD AND IS ACCESIBLE ONLY BY CROSSING A VERY NARROW BRIDGE TO THE ENTRANCE.

#### 6. THE GOVERNMENT'S POSITION

SECRETARY FOR GOVERNMENT POLOMA KOMITI TOLD CHARGE SEPTEMBER 21 THAT HE IS EVERY ENGAGED IN THE GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE CHARGED WITH OVERSIGHT OF THE YOUTH CAMPS. HE OPINED THAT THE QUALITY OF MANAGEMENT AMONG THE CAMPS VARIES GREATLY. THE SECRETARY SAID THAT SOME OF THE YOUTH CAMPS ARE ORGANIZED AS BUSINESSES

WHEREAS OTHERS CLAIM TO BE EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS. THE REVIEW COMMISSION IS TRYING TO OBTAIN DOCUMENTATION ON INCOME OF THOSE  
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CAMPS SET UP AS BUSINESSES SO THAT THE GOVERNMENT CAN TAX THEIR REVENUE. FOR THE EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS, POLOMA KOMITI SAID THE COMMISSION IS REQUESTING A SYLLABUS OF INSTRUCTION. ATTORNEY GENERAL BRENDA HEATHER MADE SIMILAR COMMENTS NOVEMBER 12 IN A MEETING WITH CHARGE AND DESK OFFICER. HEATHER SAID THAT SHE WOULD SUPPORT ANY REQUEST BY THE EMBASSY FOR ASSISTANCE IN ENTERING THE CAMPS IF THE NEED CROSE. SHE NOTED THE PROBLEM WITH OVERSIGHT OF THE INSTITUTIONS AND THAT THE SAMOAN GOVERNMENT IS NOT ADEQUATELY STAFFED TO MONITOR CONDITIONS ON A REGULAR BASIS.

#### 7. NEXT STEPS

CHARGE WILL CONTINUE TO MAKE REGULAR VISITS TO ALL THREE CAMPS AND ENCOURAGE DIRECTORS TO REGISTER THE INCOMING YOUTH WITH THE EMBASSY. IN ADDITION SHE MEETS FREQUENTLY WITH CAMP DIRECTORS IN APIA, MOST RECENTLY A BETTER WAY DIRECTOR, BRENDA FAITUA, DURING A WARDEN MEETING AND DIRECTORS ENID AND GEORGE BROWN, PARADISE COVE DURING A NOV. 13 DINNER AT THE RESIDENCE FOR DESK OFFICER AND VISITING SPREP REPRESENTATIVE. CHARGE ASKED CAMP OFFICIALS IN ALL THREE LOCATIONS TO ALLOW STUDENTS TO CONTACT THE EMBASSY AT ANY TIME. ALL RESPONDED AFFIRMATIVELY. HOWEVER, EMBASSY HAS NOT RECEIVED ANY CALLS FROM CAMP RESIDENTS SINCE CHARGE'S SEPTEMBER ARRIVAL. CHARGE ALSO RAISES THE ISSUE REGULARLY IN MEETINGS WITH SAMOAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS. REALISTICALLY, THERE IS VERY LITTLE OVERSIGHT FROM THE SAMOAN GOVERNMENT. IT IS UNREALISTIC TO RELY ON WHAT LITTLE THERE IS WHEN THESE SAME OFGKXQQ&S DO NOT HAVE THE CAPACITY TO PROVIDE OVERSIGHT TO OPERATION MEDICAL FACILITIES. STANDARDS IN THE CAMP, TO THE UNTRAINED EYE, APPEAR AT LEAST AS GOOD IF NOT BETTER THAN MANY RESIDENTIAL FACILITIES IN SAMOA. WHILE HEALTH  
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CARE APPARENTLY IS PROVIDED REGULARLY TO CAMP RESIDENTS, THE STANDARD OF CARE IN LOCAL PUBLIC HOSPITALS AND ONE PRIVATE HOSPITAL IS WELL BELOW ADEQUATE. HEALTH CARE OFFICIALS TOLD A GROUP OF VISITING DOCTORS FROM THE U.S. NAVY IN NOVEMBER THAT THE PUBLIC HOSPITAL HAD CEASED DOING ANY BUT EMERGENCY SURGERY BECAUSE THERE IS ONLY ONE ANESTHESIOLOGIST ON ISLAND. DESK OFFICER NOTED THE ACCESS TO UNSUPERVISED SWIMMING SITES, RIVERS AND THE OCEAN. NONE OF THE CAMPS HAD A LIFE GUARD. AGAIN, THIS POINTS TO LOCAL CONDITIONS. CHARGE HAS SEEN NO LIFE GUARDS AT ANY SWIMMING SITE, POOL OR BEACH, IN SAMOA. SOME PARENTS OF THE YOUTH APPARENTLY ARE AWARE OF CONDITIONS. CHARGE HAS BEEN TOLD THAT SOME PARENTS VISIT THE SITES AND INDEED ONE COUPLE WAS AT PARADISE COVE WHEN CHARGE VISITED. NONE OF THE VISITING PARENTS HAS CONTACTED CHARGE.

#### 8. COMMENT:

THE SMALLER FACILITIES APPEAR TO HAVE MORE CONTROL OVER THE STUDENTS AND THEIR ENVIRONMENT. WE SHOULD CONTINUE TO ENCOURAGE SAMOAN GOVERNMENT INVOLVEMENT AND STRONGLY ENCOURAGE THE GOVERNMENT TO LIMIT ALLOWABLE NUMBERS OF YOUTH IN CAMPS. IF WE DO NOT MOVE TO ENCOURAGE CLOSING THE CAMPS SITES, WE SHOULD URGE THE GOVERNMENT TO REFRAIN FROM ALLOWING ANY NEW SITES TO OPEN.

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