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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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TECUMSEH JUVENILE FACILITY NAMED AS A FINALIST FOR PbS AWARD

OKLAHOMA CITY – Office of Juvenile Affairs (OJA)

Performance-based Standards (PbS) is proud to announce the finalists for the 2015 PbS Barbara Allen Hagen Award recognizing facilities for young offenders that best exemplify PbS' commitment to treating all youths in custody as one of our own. The finalists were selected from about 40 high-quality applications from across the country that developed and implemented strategic plans to change practices and services using PbS' data-driven improvement model that resulted in positive outcomes for youths, staff and families. In addition to demonstrating with data they improved the conditions of confinement and quality of life, the finalists were selected because they linked the improvement strategies to research, developed thorough sustainability plans and connected daily operations with the ultimate goal of providing effective and developmentally-appropriate care for youths placed in residential facilities.

The nine finalists addressed significant challenges facing facility leaders and staff including reforming adult-oriented cultures to be youth-focused and less punitive, increasing volunteers and volunteer programming, improving reentry services, reducing and eliminating harmful practices such as isolation and restraints and creating developmentally-appropriate behavior management systems.

The 2015 PbS Barbara Allen-Hagen Award Finalists are:

Correction Facility Category:

- Central Oklahoma Juvenile Center, Tecumseh, OK
- Cuyahoga Hills Juvenile Correctional Facility, Highland Hills, OH
- Tillamook Youth Correctional Facility, Tillamook, OR

Detention and Assessment Centers Category:

- Greene County Juvenile Detention Center, Springfield, MO
- Muskegon River Youth Center, Ladoga, IN
- Southwest Utah Youth Center-Detention, Cedar City, UT

Community-based Residential Programs Category:

- South Hadley Girls Treatment Program, South Hadley, MA
- White's Residential and Family Services, Wabash, IN
- Youth Opportunity Center, Muncie, IN

One winner in each category will be selected and honored at the PbS 20th Anniversary Gala and Awards Ceremony Aug. 14 in Indianapolis.

“All the applications reflect what we have learned over the past 20 years about how to treat adolescents placed in youth justice facilities as kids and how to help them mature to be healthy productive adults – it’s awesome to see such demonstrated and documented commitment to treating all youths in custody as one of our own,” said PbS Executive Director Kim Godfrey. “Despite the changing laws and leaders, politics and funding, there is tremendous good work being done on behalf of youths entering the justice system. It’s not easy and it’s not done, but it is imperative we recognize what works.”

Performance-based Standards (PbS) is a data-driven improvement model grounded in research that challenges youth correction, detention, assessment and community-based facilities and agencies to treat all youths in custody as one of our own. PbS sets national performance-based standards of excellence to guide facility operations, services and programs to best serve youths, staff and families. PbS provides tools, training, technical assistance and expert coaching to continuously monitor daily practices and facility culture with performance outcome measures. Over the past 20 years, PbS uniquely has established uniform data definitions and a quality assurance process that creates the most timely, comprehensive and accurate national database of its kind.