

**OKLAHOMA COMMISSION ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH
OFFICE OF JUVENILE SYSTEM OVERSIGHT**

Name of Facility and Location: Brush Creek Youth Ranch
Jay, Oklahoma

Date of Visit: March 30, 2009

Oversight Reviewer: Dana Holden, Oversight Specialist

Subject: Announced Visit, 2009

Date: April 13, 2009

Introduction

The Office of Juvenile System Oversight (OJSO) conducted an announced visit on March 30, 2009, at the Brush Creek Youth Ranch, located in Jay, Oklahoma. The purpose of the visit was to assess compliance with established responsibilities and facility policy and procedures. All of the residents were private placements; none of the residents were in the Oklahoma Department of Human Services' (OKDHS) custody, as the facility had cancelled its contract with the OKDHS. The facility was licensed for sixteen juveniles by the OKDHS division of Oklahoma Child Care Services (OCCS). The facility only admitted male juveniles. On the day of the OJSO visit, the census was fifteen.

Persons Interviewed

- Entry interview and an exit conference with the Director
- Dean of Boys staff member
- Three residents

Documents Reviewed

- Three resident files
- Office of the Oklahoma State Fire Marshal report dated August 25, 2008
- Oklahoma State Department of Health Food Inspection report dated June 20, 2008
- OKDHS OCCS inspection report dated December 4, 2008

Findings

Interviews

The OJSO interviewed three residents. The residents interviewed stated staff members used group punishment on a regular basis. The residents gave three examples of group punishment that they said had occurred. In one incident, a staff member believed a resident had thrown ice at another resident in the cafeteria; none of the residents were allowed to have ice in their drinks for one month. In another incident, a staff member accused a resident of talking in line at the cafeteria; none of the residents were allowed to have dessert for one month. In the third incident, a resident took a snack from the kitchen without permission; snacks purchased by the residents or by someone else for them were taken from the residents for a month. No other concerns were noted from the resident interviews.

The OJSO interviewed the Dean of Boys staff member on-duty. The staff member demonstrated familiarity with policy and procedures and expressed appropriate knowledge regarding allowable forms of discipline. No concerns were noted from the staff member interview.

File Review

The OJSO reviewed three resident files. The OJSO noted that the service plan in one file did not have a six-month review, and the service plans in all three files reviewed did not document the signatures of the parents or guardians to indicate participation in the development of the service plans, nor did documentation indicate the reasons for nonparticipation. No other concerns were noted from the resident files reviewed.

Inspection Reports Review

The OJSO reviewed the most recent inspection reports by the fire marshal's office, the health department, and the OKDHS licensing unit. Minor violations were noted on the fire marshal's report; a plan of compliance was submitted by the facility and accepted by the fire marshal's office. No violations of noncompliance were noted on the health department's report. Minor maintenance violations were noted on the OKDHS licensing unit's report. No concerns were noted by the OJSO regarding the inspection reports.

Summary

On the day of the OJSO visit, the facility was well-maintained and appeared to meet the needs of the residents. The OJSO discussed its findings with the director in the exit conference. The director stated he believed that the incidents of group punishment reported were the result of one staff member's actions. The director informed the OJSO that he would make inquiries regarding the incidents, meet with the staff person who might be responsible for the group punishment occurring, and discuss with all of the

staff members that group punishment was not an acceptable form of discipline. The director believed that the issue could be easily rectified.

Area of Concern

1. Residents reported that one or more staff members used group punishment as a form of discipline. The director assured the OJSO that he would meet with the staff members to discuss that group punishment was not an acceptable form of discipline.

Violations

1. The service plan in one of the three resident files reviewed did not have a six-month review. OKDHS Licensing Requirements for Residential Child Care Facilities, OAC 340:110-3-154, Social services, (b), Service planning, (2), Service plan review, (A), states, "The service plan is reviewed within 90 days after it has been developed and at least every six months thereafter."
2. The service plan reviews in all three of the resident files reviewed did not document the signatures of the parents or custodians to indicate participation in the review of the service plans, nor did documentation indicate the reasons for non-participation. OKDHS Licensing Requirements for Residential Child Care Facilities, OAC 340:110-5-154, Social services, (b), Service planning, (2), Service plan review, (B), states, "The facility involves the resident and parents or custodian in the service plan review. If the parents or custodian do not participate in the service plan review, the reason for non-participation is documented in the service plan."

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