

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

Name and Location of Facility: Cedar Canyon Adventure Program
Weatherford, Oklahoma

Date of Visit: November 13, 2006

Oversight Reviewer: Dana S. Holden, Oversight Specialist

Focus of Visit: Second Biannual Visit

Date: January 10, 2007

General Information

The Office of Juvenile System Oversight (OJSO) conducted an unannounced visit on November 13, 2006, to the Cedar Canyon Adventure Program, located in Weatherford, Oklahoma. The focus of the visit was to assess compliance with established responsibilities and facility policy and procedures. The Office of Juvenile Affairs (OJA) contracts with the Southwestern Oklahoma State University for the operation of the program which serves OJA-custody males. The program was licensed by the Division of Child Care of the Department of Human Services (DHS) for twenty residents. On the day of the OJSO visit, the census was eighteen.

Persons Interviewed

- Entry interview and exit conference with the Administrative Assistant
- Four residents
- Two direct care staff members

Documents Reviewed

- Files on four residents
- Two personnel files
- Most current inspection reports by the Oklahoma State Department of Health, the Office of the Oklahoma State Fire Marshal, and the DHS Division of Child Care

Overview

Interviews

The OJSO interviewed four residents. The interview questions pertained to the residents' perceptions of safety, program services, the rights of residents, discipline practices, and other residential program issues. All:

- stated they felt safe at the facility (two interviewees attributed those feelings to the care staff provided);
- reported the food tasted good and that second servings were allowed;
- demonstrated knowledge of the facility's grievance system;
- described appropriate forms of discipline; and
- reported receiving appropriate amounts of recreation time.

Two direct care staff members were interviewed. The interview questions pertained to the staff members' perceptions of program services, the rights of residents, discipline policies, and other residential program issues. Both:

- demonstrated appropriate knowledge of the facility's grievance procedures;
- described appropriate forms of discipline;
- demonstrated a genuine desire to provide appropriate care to the residents;
- reported receiving adequate training for their positions; and
- rated staff morale as high.

No issues of concern were noted from the resident and staff interviews.

File Reviews

The OJSO reviewed the files on four residents. The files were well-organized and were complete for the items reviewed. No concerns were identified from the resident file reviews.

Two personnel files were reviewed. The files were orderly. The files reviewed did not document that the staff members completed orientation training prior to working with the residents. No other concerns were identified from the staff file reviews.

Summary

On the day of the OJSO visit, the facility was clean and well-maintained. The interactions observed between the staff and the residents were appropriate. The residents made positive comments regarding the program, and the staff demonstrated a willingness and desire to provide appropriate care to the residents. The OJSO noted that each resident received training in home construction through career technological

education to prepare him for discharge from the facility. Reportedly, the training has proven over time to provide the residents with options for their future.

Finding

1. Documentation in the personnel files reviewed did not indicate the staff members had completed orientation training prior to working with the residents. Office of Juvenile Affairs policy OAC 377:3-13-43, Staff requirements, (a), General provisions, (8), Staff training, (A), states, "Each direct care staff member shall be provided orientation before being allowed to work independently."

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