



Southwestern Oklahoma State University
Cedar Canyon Adventure Program

TO: Dana S. Holden, Oversight Specialist
Oklahoma Commission on Children and Youth

FROM: Wes Warren, Director
Cedar Canyon Adventure Program

DATE: February 3, 2010

RE: Response to Office of Juvenile System Oversight's Visit

cc: Dr. Ken Rose
Robert E. Christian
Mike Heath
Donna Glandon

In reference to your Oversight Report on October 15, 2009, please find attached our written response to the findings in this report.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to call me at 580-343-2132.

AREAS OF CONCERN:

1. Annual inspections by the Health Department and the fire Marshal's office were past due. It remains concerning that the facility has to rely on the OKDHS licensing worker to schedule inspection by the Health Department and the Fire Marshal's office rather than scheduling the inspections itself.

Response #1: We have discussed this process with OKDHS and voiced our concerns as well.

2. A female staff member and male resident were walking alone on the country road. A safety risk was posed when a female staff member and a male resident separated from the general population in an uncontrolled environment.

Response #2: I spoke with our Counselor and explained the risks that could occur while being separated from the population.

Violations

1. The majority of the residents interviewed spoke of horseplay initiated by staff and fights among residents occurring frequently. Statements by the interviewees indicated that staff initiated horseplay with the residents and when the residents responded back with horseplay, the staff assigned sanctions to the residents for misbehavior. Statements also indicated that some staff members did not always intervene when residents fought and allowed the residents to fight among themselves.

Response #1: All Cedar Canyon employees went through orientation and discussed in detail that horse play with residents is grounds for termination of employment.

2. Chairs in the conference room were not in good repair and created a serious risk to the safety of the residents and staff.

Response #3: All furniture has been repaired.

3. The majority of the residents interviewed reported having heard staff curse at residents and or having heard staff curse among themselves.

Response #3: All employees went through orientation and understand the importance of being a positive role model to the residents. Any staff member that does not follow Cedar Canyon, DHS, and OJA policy will be reprimanded.

Wes Warren, M.Ed.
