

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

Name of Facility: Deborah Rothe Group Home
Date of Visit: November 21, 2005
Oversight Reviewer: Chris Fiesel, Oversight Specialist
Subject: Second Visit of 2005
Date: April 4, 2006

Introduction

The Office of Juvenile System Oversight (OJSO) conducted a routine, unannounced visit to the Deborah Rothe Group Home on November 21, 2005. The purpose of the visit was to assess compliance with established responsibilities and facility policy and procedures. The group home was licensed by the Division of Child Care of the Department of Human Services (DHS) for eight female residents, ages thirteen to seventeen. At the time of the oversight visit, the census was eight.

The facility is staffed with nine employees, three of whom work in a temporary capacity. The first work shift has three employees on-duty, and the second shift and overnight shift each has two employees on-duty. A traditional level-and-point system was being phased out and replaced with a system that resolves disciplinary issues and rewards behavior on an individual basis.

Interviews Conducted

- Entry interview and exit conference with the Program Director
- Two direct care staff
- Four residents

Materials Reviewed

- Oklahoma State Department of Health's inspection report of May 2005
- Office of the State Fire Marshal's inspection report of August 2004
- DHS Division of Child Care's inspection report of October 2005

Areas Toured

- Two resident rooms
- Kitchen, including the food preparation and serving-line areas

- Walk-in freezers
- Pantry

Overview

Resident Interviews

The OJSO interviewed four residents, whose responses to the interview questions indicated:

- they felt safe at the facility;
- they believed the rules were fair and reasonable;
- discipline consisted of restrictions and loss of activities;
- each demonstrated familiarity with the grievance procedure;
- each were knowledgeable of the names of the resident and facility grievance coordinators;
- each demonstrated awareness of the objectives and goals of her treatment plan;
- each had been in recent contact with their child welfare workers.

The OJSO did not note any concerns regarding the resident interviews.

Staff Interviews

The OJSO interviewed two full-time direct care staff, whose responses to the interview questions indicated:

- morale at the facility was rated from medium to high;
- support and cooperation among staff were rated as high; and
- each demonstrated familiarity with the residents' treatment and discharge plans.

The OJSO did not note any concerns of safety or behavior management.

Review of Resident Files

The OJSO noted from the three files reviewed:

- all records were complete and well-organized, including caseworker and adjudication information and personal and medical histories;
- all treatment plans had clearly stated goals and objectives and contained discharge plans;
- one resident's health screening was not conducted within policy timelines; however, the resident did receive health screenings by a physician approximately three and five months after admission; and
- required visits by DHS workers or the facility liaison were in compliance with DHS policy, as evidenced by the visitor log.

Review of Personnel Files

The OJSO noted from the two personnel files reviewed:

- one employee's criminal record background check was not conducted prior to the employee's hire date.

Observational Tour

The OJSO conducted a tour of the facility. The only concern noted was that an annual inspection of the fire extinguishers was overdue.

Summary

On the day of the OJSO visit, the facility was clean and well-maintained. Staff were familiar with the residents' treatment plans and demonstrated appropriate supervision of the residents. Residents who were interviewed indicated that staff were approachable and attentive to the residents' personal problems and concerns. The OJSO observed a comfortable and personal interaction between the staff and residents.

Findings

1. All residents had not received timely health screenings. Department of Human Services policy OAC 340:110-3-154, Social services, (a), Admission, (5), states, "Residents receive a medical examination by a health professional within 60 days prior to admission or within 30 days following admission."
2. Fire extinguishers had not been inspected annually. Department of Human Services policy OAC 340:110-3-143, Construction and fire safety, (d), Maintenance of equipment, (2), states, "All fire extinguishers must be inspected, serviced and tagged annually by a competent authority." The OJSO notified the DHS Division of Child Care on November 28, 2005, of the expired date for inspection of the fire extinguishers. The OJSO received confirmation of notification, via facsimile, from the DHS Division of Child Care on November 28, 2005.
3. Criminal record background checks had not been completed on all staff prior to hiring. Department of Human Services policy OAC 340:110-3-153.1, Personnel, (h), Criminal history investigations, (1), Owner or executive director responsibility, (B), states, "Section 404.1 et seq. of Title 10 of the Oklahoma Statutes requires that every child care facility arrange, prior to employment, for a criminal history investigation for each applicant for employment prior to hiring"

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