

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

Name and Location of Facility: Salt Fork Adventure Program
Nash, Oklahoma

Dates of Visit: June 22 and June 30, 2009

Oversight Reviewer: Dana S. Holden, Oversight Specialist IV

Subject: First Biannual Visit, 2009

Date: July 9, 2009

Introduction

The Office of Juvenile System Oversight (OJSO) initiated an unannounced visit on June 22, 2009, at the Salt Fork Adventure Program, located in Nash, Oklahoma. The OJSO returned on June 30 to conclude the visit. The purpose of the visit was to assess compliance with established responsibilities and facility policy and procedures. The Office of Juvenile Affairs (OJA) contracts with Southwestern Oklahoma State University (SWOSU) for the operation of the program, which serves OJA-custody males. The program was licensed for eighteen residents by the Oklahoma Child Care Services (OCCS) division of the Oklahoma Department of Human Services (OKDHS). On the day of the OJSO visit, the census was eleven.

Interviews Conducted

- Entry interview and an exit conference with the facility director
- Four residents
- One current direct care staff member

Documents Reviewed

- Three resident files
- OKDHS OCCS inspection report dated June 9, 2009
- Office of the Oklahoma State Fire Marshal report dated October 17, 2008
- Oklahoma State Department of Health Food Inspection report dated June 17, 2009
- Grievance log for April 1, 2009, through June 30, 2009
- Thirty-four grievances filed between April 1, 2009, and June 30, 2009

Findings

Resident Interviews

The OJSO interviewed four residents. The interview questions pertained to the residents' perceptions of safety, program services, resident rights, discipline practices, and other residential program issues. Three residents interviewed reported having been cursed at, or hearing other residents having been cursed at, by a staff person.

No other areas of concern were noted from the resident interviews.

Staff Interview

The OJSO interviewed one current direct care staff member. The staff member did not report any concerns regarding the residents, and the staff member believed that the facility provided a therapeutic environment for the residents. The OJSO interviewed only one staff member, as the remaining staff members working at the facility on the days of the OJSO visit either were newly hired and were in training status or were away from the facility with residents on an adventure outing. No areas of concern were noted from the staff interview.

Resident File Review

The OJSO reviewed three resident files. No areas of concern were noted from the resident files reviewed.

Grievance Log and Grievance Review

The OJSO reviewed the grievance log for April 1, 2009, through June 30, 2009, and the thirty-four grievances filed during that time period. Three grievances did not document that the issues had been resolved within the required time frame specified by OKDHS Office of Client Advocacy (OCA) and OJA policy and procedures pertaining to the grievance process.

Documentation indicated the facility had reported to the OCA for review a grievance alleging a staff person had cursed at residents. The OCA had referred the report back to the facility for the facility to conduct a caretaker conduct review (CCR) of the allegation. Documentation indicated the facility director conducted the CCR inquiry and performed appropriate follow-up discipline and training for the staff person(s) concerned.

Facility Tour

The Salt Fork Adventure Program, formerly known as Enid Adventure Program, had recently moved from Enid, Oklahoma, to Nash, Oklahoma, and at the time of this

oversight visit, occupied the former high school building. The building had been completely renovated and offered the residents a more positive environment. The OJSO toured the entire facility. The OJSO noted that security cameras had been installed, and the doors provided secured access and egress. No areas of concern were noted from the observational tour.

Inspection Reports Review

The OJSO reviewed the most recent inspection reports by the OKDHS OCCS, the Office of the Oklahoma State Fire Marshal, and the Oklahoma State Department of Health. The OCCS report cited only minor violations that appeared to have been corrected. The fire marshal's office report and the health department report did not note any deficiencies.

Summary

The new facility director had initiated several new practices at the facility that appeared to have made a positive impact on the staff members and the residents. The installed cameras enabled staff to observe the residents in all areas of the facility. Documentation indicated that the amount of counseling for the residents had increased dramatically from prior OJSO visits. The facility director reported that the administration had been proactive in addressing staff and resident concerns. The OJSO noted that the change in administration might have accounted for the three grievances not having been resolved in the required time frame, as all other grievances filed during the three-month-period had been properly addressed within the required time frame.

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