

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

Name of Facility: Goodland Presbyterian Children's Home
Date of Visit: February 14, 2006
Oversight Reviewer: Chris Fiesel, M.L.A.
Purpose of Visit: Oversight Visit
Date: April 4, 2006

Introduction

The Office of Juvenile System Oversight (OJSO) conducted an announced visit on February 14, 2006, to the Goodland Presbyterian Children's Home in Hugo, Oklahoma. The purpose of the visit was to assess compliance with established responsibilities and facility policy and procedures. The facility was licensed by the Division of Child Care of the Department of Human Services (DHS) for thirty-six males, ages thirteen to seventeen. The facility is privately funded through grants and donations. On the day of the OJSO visit, the census was thirteen. All the residents were private admissions.

The Goodland Presbyterian Boys Home, as it is known locally, maintains three cottages, each supervised by a pair of houseparents (married couple), who are in residence. On the date of the OJSO visit, two cottages, Sheppard and Shoap, were in use. The facility had an onsite elementary school; the older residents attended the public schools in Goodland or Hugo, Oklahoma.

Persons Interviewed

- Facility Director
- Two houseparents
- Four residents

Documents Reviewed

- Office of the State Fire Marshal's inspection report, dated December 7, 2004
- DHS Division of Child Care's inspection report, dated October 27, 2005
- DHS Office of Client Advocacy's last quarterly incident report
- Two houseparents' files
- Files on four residents

Areas Toured

- Two residential cottages, Shoap and Sheppard
- Recreational center, Bacon Hall

Overview

Staff Interviews

The OJSO interviewed two houseparents, one from each cottage. Both stated:

- communication between staff and the administration was ideal;
- the facility's director staffed on a weekly basis with the houseparents regarding the renovation plans for the facility, long-term progress reports on treatment plan and educational curriculum development, and the status of the Board of Directors' decisions regarding the building of or the relocating to a new facility; and
- meals were eaten with the residents; one interviewee said that he did all of the cooking at the facility.

Both interviewees expressed approval of the program, in terms of effectiveness and consideration of the spiritual, physical, emotional, and academic developments of the residents.

Resident Interviews

The OJSO interviewed four residents. The interviewees:

- felt safe at the facility;
- said the food was excellent;
- believed the rules were fair and were imposed reasonably;
- were pleased with their placement at the facility;
- believed they could trust and confide in the staff;
- stated the Director was available and approachable for problems they might be experiencing;
- stated that recreation was provided on a daily basis, including ball games, field trips, and indoor activities;
- understood the provisions of their treatment plans, including their educational goals and behavioral objectives; and
- attended the onsite school and believed the curriculum was at grade level.

Two of the four residents had been restrained; both said the restraints were executed safely and appropriately. Two had filed grievances against peers. Both stated that the Director had discussed their concerns with them, and that the resolutions were achieved to their satisfaction.

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

Review of Personnel Files

The OJSO reviewed four personnel files, which were in compliance with the items reviewed. No concerns were noted from the personnel file reviews.

Review of Resident Files

The OJSO reviewed four resident files, which also were in compliance with the items reviewed. No concerns were noted.

Observational Tour

The OJSO conducted a tour of Shoap Cottage, Sheppard Cottage, and Bacon Hall. The tour of the cottages included the food preparation areas, resident rooms, bathrooms, common areas, the offices where medications and emergency information were kept, and storage areas. The kitchen in Bacon Hall was toured.

The Office of the State Fire Marshal's report, dated December 7, 2004, cited a number of violations and made suggestions regarding the renovation of the facility; each had been corrected or had been addressed.

On the day of the oversight visit, the OJSO's concerns were:

- a toilet in Sheppard Cottage did not drain properly;
- three showers in Shoap Cottage, that remained operative but were not used, needed shower curtains and minor repair;
- a window in a resident room in Shoap Cottage was broken and the curtain was missing; and
- three light fixtures needed operable fluorescent tubes and lamp covers.

Summary

The program is housed in an older building that is maintained relatively well. The OJSO was told there is a concerted effort by the Board of Directors to rebuild the facility or relocate the program. Funding sources and a needs assessment are currently being researched and reviewed. The program is undergoing a transition toward a positive re-directive disciplinary structure that integrates an educational component, a positive self-image and emotional needs development philosophy, and a non-sectarian spiritual emphasis.

Administration is developing programming and facilities to prepare for female residents, out-of-state admissions, and residents as young as six years old. Administration stated that new programming will include components of the CORE model.

Findings

1. A toilet did not drain properly. Department of Human Services licensing standards, Section 157, (h), Bathrooms, (1), states, "At least one flush toilet . . . in good working condition is available. . . ."
2. Two showers needed repair and shower curtains. Department of Human Services policy licensing standards, Section 157, (j), Sanitation and safety, (7), states, "Floors, walls, ceilings, doors, and windows are maintained in good condition."
3. A window was broken and the curtain was missing in a resident room. Department of Human Services licensing standards, Section 157, (k), Furnishings and décor, (2), states, "Every bedroom and bathroom window is equipped with window treatments for privacy."
4. Three light fixtures did not have bulbs and lamp covers. Department of Human Services licensing standards, Section 157, (k), Furnishings and décor, (3), states, "Broken, defective, or recalled furnishings and equipment are repaired or replaced."

CF:js