

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

Name of Facility: Hope Harbor Children's Home and Academy

Date of Visit: May 26, 2005

Oversight Reviewers: Cliff A. Aldridge, Oversight Specialist, and Lou Truitt, Program Supervisor of the National Resource Center for Youth Services of the University of Oklahoma

Subject: 2005 Announced Oversight Visit

Date: May 5, 2006

General Information

The Office of Juvenile System Oversight (OJSO) conducted a routine, announced visit on May 26, 2005, to the Hope Harbor Children's Home and Academy, located in Claremore, Oklahoma. The program was licensed by the Division of Child Care of the Department of Human Services (DHS) for thirty-six residents. On the day of the OJSO visit, the census was thirteen. The home contracted with the DHS to accept DHS-custody youth; however, there were no DHS-custody residents on the day of the oversight visit.

Persons Interviewed

- Entry interview with the Executive Director, the Operations Manager, and the Program Director
- Four residents
- Two houseparents
- Exit conference with the Executive Director and the Program Director

Documentation Reviewed

- Case records on two residents
- Personnel file of one houseparent couple
- DHS contract
- Facility personnel policy
- Resident Handbook
- Parent Handbook
- Facility policy on child physical/sexual abuse and neglect
- Facility operations manual
- Facility resident population list

- Facility staff roster
- Office of the Oklahoma State Fire Marshal's inspection reports of April 2, 2004 and August 2, 2004
- Oklahoma State Department of Health's inspection report of March 26, 2004
- DHS Division of Child Care's inspection report of March 31, 2005
- Hope Harbor, Inc. website

Areas Toured

- Chapman Cottage, girls' residence
- Mabee Cottage, boys' residence
- New multipurpose building

Overview

Interviews

Two female and two male residents were interviewed relative to their quality of life, interactions with the staff, and participation in program services. Overall, the resident responses were favorable; although, some of the residents interviewed did not like the level system, because family visits were based on the level system. Each of the residents interviewed felt safe in the facility and with the staff.

One individual houseparent from each of the two houseparent couples was interviewed. Both of the houseparents interviewed reported having received mandatory training and demonstrated familiarity with facility policies. They reported using only appropriate disciplinary consequences for behavior violations by the residents. Both of the houseparents interviewed demonstrated they were conscientious about their responsibilities in working with children.

Documentation Reviews

The case records on two residents were reviewed for compliance with licensing standards. Both were complete for the materials required for admission. In one of the files, the initial service plan was not completed within the required thirty days from admission. The plan was overdue more than thirty days before it was completed. Subsequent reviews of the plan were in accordance with the time frames. The other service plan was completed by the counselor within the required time frame. The plan documented that the child had refused to sign the initial plan and the subsequent service plan reviews.

The personnel file of one houseparent couple was reviewed for compliance with DHS licensing standards. The information pertaining to both individuals was contained in one file. Generally, the file was in good order, and materials were easy to locate. The annual performance evaluation of the houseparents was overdue. (Subsequent to the visit, the OJSO received notification of a completed performance evaluation.) One of

the houseparents was current for training requirements, and additional training had been rescheduled because of illness for the other.

The Oklahoma State Department of Health's inspection report of March 26, 2004, noted the need for soap and a sign at the hand washing sink in the kitchen of the new building. The DHS Division of Child Care's inspection report of March 31, 2005, cited two case records in which the service plans had been completed after the thirty-day time frame. According to the Office of the Oklahoma State Fire Marshal's inspection reports, the new building was approved on April 2, 2004, and one of the cottages was approved on August 2, 2004.

Facility Tour

The review team toured the two cottages that were in use at the time of the visit. Construction of a new multipurpose building had been completed since the last OJSO visit. The new main building housed the administrative offices, the school, a dining room, and other program areas. No issues were identified from the tour of the facility.

Summary

The OJSO is mandated by statute to periodically inspect residential facilities for children in the State of Oklahoma. An oversight report is critical in nature. Any findings or suggestions do not reflect or identify the positive findings, programs, and resources of the Hope Harbor Children's Home and Academy.

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