

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

Name and Location of Facility: Hope Harbor Children's Home and Academy
Claremore, Oklahoma

Date of Visit: August 28, 2008

Oversight Reviewer: Cliff Aldridge, Oversight Specialist

Focus of Visit: Announced Visit, 2008

Date: March 2, 2009

Introduction

The Office of Juvenile System Oversight (OJSO) conducted an announced visit on August 28, 2008, at the Hope Harbor Children's Home and Academy, located in Claremore, Oklahoma. The program was licensed for twenty-four residents by the division of Oklahoma Child Care Services (OCCS) of the Oklahoma Department of Human Services (OKDHS). The facility contracted with the OKDHS to accept custody youth. On the day of the OJSO visit, the census was twelve; none of the twelve residents were OKDHS custody children.

Interviews Conducted

- Entry interview with the Executive Director
- Six residents
- Three individual house parents
- Exit conference with the Executive Director and the Program Director

Documents Reviewed

- Two resident case records
- Personnel files and training records of two house parent couples
- Resident population list
- Staff roster
- Office of the Oklahoma State Fire Marshal report dated February 14, 2008
- Oklahoma State Department of Health Food Inspection report dated October 30, 2007
- OKDHS OCCS inspection report from a May 6, 2008, visit
- Hope Harbor, Inc. website

Areas Toured

- Chapman Cottage
- Mabee Cottage
- Tucker Cottage
- Brief tour of the academy in the multipurpose building

Findings

Interviews

A sample of two residents from each of the three cottages was interviewed. All six residents reported regular participation in educational and recreational activities. Interview responses were positive regarding supervision by house parents and interactions with staff. The chief complaint by the residents interviewed was the strictness of the program. All six interviewees reported favorable relationships with the house parents. No issues of concern were identified from the resident interviews.

The OJSO interviewed a sample of three individual house parents. Each house parent reported receiving the required training and demonstrated familiarity with facility policies and procedures. No concerns were identified from the staff interviews.

File Reviews

Two resident case records were reviewed for compliance with the OCCS licensing standards. The files were current for the items reviewed on the day of the visit.

The personnel files and training records of two house parent couples were reviewed for compliance with established responsibilities. The records of all four house parents were complete and current except that the first aid training for one of the house parents had expired. The first aid recertification was scheduled for the following week during the oversight visit, and the facility provided documentation that the employee had received the training. The OJSO recommended the facility establish a self-audit system to track training expiration dates.

The OCCS inspection report noted that all corrections from the previous visit had been corrected. A bulb in an emergency light was out in one of the living areas on the day of the visit. The file reviews reflected that the documentation of provision of written facility policies was missing in one resident file; the item was corrected. No concerns were identified from the fire marshal report. The health department inspection report indicated that a plumbing leak in a cottage had been repaired; there were no other health department violations.

Observational Tour

The residential cottages were toured. All three were clean, well-maintained, adequately furnished, and pleasantly decorated. The education academy was briefly toured with the director providing details for augmenting the computer-based learning systems. The staff/resident interactions observed during the oversight visit were appropriate. No concerns were identified during the tour of the physical plant.

Violation

1. The first aid training of one house parent had expired. The OKDHS Licensing Requirements for Residential Child Care Facilities, OAC 340:110-3-153.1, Personnel, (m), Staff training, (3), Training for social services staff, (E), states, "Within 90 days of employment, all child care staff complete training in first aid and cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), including infant and child, if appropriate. Child care staff maintain current training in CPR and first aid thereafter."

Summary

The Hope Harbor Children's Home and Academy appeared to be operating in compliance with the OKDHS licensing standards on the day of the oversight visit, with the exception of the violation noted above. The facility responded immediately and the deficiency was corrected the following week. The OJSO appreciated the helpfulness of the staff for arranging the interviews, providing necessary materials for review, and hosting the observational tour.

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