

MEMORANDUM

Name of Facility: J. D. McCarty Center
Dates of Visit: May 11 and May 12, 2005
OJSO Person: Chris Fiesel, Oversight Specialist
Focus of Visit: Unannounced visit
Date: August 22, 2005

Introduction

The Office of Juvenile System Oversight (OJSO) conducted an unannounced visit to the J. D. McCarty Center in Norman, Oklahoma, on May 11 and May 12, 2005. The purpose of the oversight visit was to assess compliance with established responsibilities.

Persons Interviewed

- Director
- Five direct care staff

Materials Reviewed

- Incident reports from January 2005 through April 2005 by the Office of Client Advocacy of the Department of Human Services (DHS).
- Inspection report of December 2004 by the Oklahoma State Department of Health.
- Certificate, Specialized Hospital: Rehabilitation, issued by the Cerebral Palsy Commission.
- Report issued by the Office of the Oklahoma State Fire Marshal; however, an inspection had not been conducted by the Fire Marshal's office. The facility was less than a year old. Construction plans were certified by the Fire Marshal's office. The fire extinguishers and fire suppression system were inspected by the Fire Marshal's office in April 2005.
- Fire drill log.
- Four personnel files.
- Files on five residents.

Areas Toured

- Six hospital unit cottages, each with a self-contained kitchen.
- Main facility kitchen, including food preparation and serving line areas, walk-in freezers, pantry, and food warehouse.
- Rehabilitation areas.
- Observation rooms.
- Conference rooms.
- Patient-guardian waiting areas.

Overview

Resident Interviews

The OJSO observed residents in the rehabilitation areas and hospital units. The residents available for interview were not able to participate in a traditional verbal questionnaire.

Staff Interviews

The OJSO noted the following information from the interviews with five direct care staff members:

- Morale was rated as high.
- Staff-to-patient ratio was most often one-to-one and rarely was one-to-two.
- Weekly and monthly house meetings were conducted to address problems and concerns regarding the units, the progress of specific patients, and safety issues.
- They were able to identify specific goals relative to the residents' treatment plans.
- No inappropriate disciplines were reported.
- Staff were familiar with the procedure to report suspected abuse.

Personnel File Reviews

Two of the files did not contain current annual employee performance evaluations. The OJSO was told it was unknown as to why the evaluations were not in the files. The Director informed the OJSO in the exit conference that he had conducted and had signed one of the two evaluations that were missing. The Director agreed to have new evaluations conducted within thirty days of this oversight visit and to submit copies to the OJSO for verification. No other concerns or issues were noted.

Resident File Reviews

The files reviewed on five residents represented four children who were in DHS custody and one who was admitted by the parents. All records and documents were complete and well-organized, with one exception: Required visits by DHS caseworkers or the facility's liaison were not in compliance with DHS policy, as indicated by the visitor log

and the files reviewed on the four DHS-custody residents. The facility now tracks the caseworkers' visits by documentation in a separate file.

Telecommunication Therapy Services Review

The program offers telecommunication therapy services to twenty-seven facilities throughout the state, with eleven real-time links to physical and occupational therapists at various locations in Oklahoma. The OJSO observed the interactions of a McCarty Center therapist working with a child in a public school via the link.

Dental Services Review

The facility had two dental rooms capable of full dental services to patients. A dentist and an assistant provided health screenings and other services to patients on a weekly, or as needed basis.

Summary

During the visit to the J. D. McCarty Center, the staff demonstrated a strong staff-to-patient ratio, access to technology, and innovative outreach treatment efforts. The hospital units are cottages staffed with full-time nursing staff and direct care workers. The housing units present a home-like atmosphere, despite the fully equipped amenities used to provide care for children who are medically fragile and who have severe disabilities. Closed circuit cameras are operational in each patient bedroom and in all common areas. Each of the six units is equipped to function as an environmentally isolated quarter. Further, although all units have the capacity for pure oxygen supplies, one cottage is currently available for patients with such needs in an emergency situation.

Findings

To the J. D. McCarty Center:

1. Two current employees' annual evaluations were missing from the personnel files. [Facility policy No. 6020.3, A, b.]

To the DHS Child Welfare Services:

1. Required visits by the DHS workers or the facility's liaison were not in compliance with DHS policy, as indicated by the visitor log and files reviewed on the four DHS-custody residents. [DHS policy OAC 340:75-6-48]

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