

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

Name of Facility: Lawton Adventure Program

Date of Visit: April 4, 2006

Oversight Reviewers: Cliff A. Aldridge, Oversight Specialist, and Cynethia Rayford, Trainer/Consultant of the National Resource Center for Youth Services of the University of Oklahoma

Subject: First Biannual Visit for 2006

Date: May 11, 2006

General Information

The Office of Juvenile System Oversight (OJSO) conducted a routine, unannounced visit to the Lawton Adventure Program on April 4, 2006. The Office of Juvenile Affairs (OJA) contracts with the Southwestern Oklahoma State University (SWOSU) for the operation of the program, which serves OJA-custody males. The purpose of the visit was to assess compliance with established responsibilities and facility policy and procedures. The program was licensed for sixteen residents by the Division of Child Care of the Department of Human. On the day of the OJSO visit, the census was sixteen.

Persons Interviewed

- Entry interview with the staff during a staff meeting
- Sample of four residents in the facility on the day of the visit
- Two direct care staff members
- Informal conversations with the social worker, the therapist, and a therapist in training
- Exit conference with the Program Administrator and the social worker

Documentation Reviewed

- Case records on two residents
- Personnel files of two direct care staff members
- Inspection report of March 2, 2006, by the DHS Division of Child Care
- Inspection report of January 18, 2006, by the Office of the Oklahoma State Fire Marshal

- Inspection report of November 3, 2005, by the Oklahoma State Department of Health
- Current resident census

Areas Toured

- Two residential buildings
- Kitchen
- Classroom

Overview

Interviews

The residents were asked questions regarding their quality of life, program services, their treatment plans, and the staff. Overall, the residents were consistently favorable in their responses about the staff. All reported regularly participating in educational, therapeutic, and recreational activities. A midnight shift staff member and the supervisor of the direct care staff were interviewed. Both reported receiving required training and expressed appropriate care and treatment of the residents. No issues of concern were identified from the staff or resident interviews.

Documentation Reviews

Two resident case records were reviewed for compliance with DHS residential facility licensing standards. The personnel and training files of two residential juvenile specialists were reviewed. The personnel files and the resident records were complete for all of the items reviewed on the day of the visit. The DHS Division of Child Care's inspection report of March 2, 2006, noted corrections to deficiencies to the physical plant and minor corrections to be made.

Facility Tour

The age and generally poor condition of the main residential house has been addressed in previous oversight visit reports. On the day of the visit, minor physical plant deficiencies observed included holes in the plaster walls or paneling, two broken tiles in the area between the downstairs kitchen and the bathroom, and a loose vent in the bathroom. The Program Administrator indicated that the property owner was making renovations to the physical plant.

The program had constructed a connecting passageway from the annex to an existing adjacent building to increase the bed capacity of the program from twelve to sixteen. The additional residents were living in the new space and the renovation was nearly complete at the time of the visit. Improvements were also being made to the outside area between the main house and the annex at the time of the visit. The residents and

vocational staff from another SWOSU adventure program, with a focus on construction trades, had completed a new concrete walkway between the house and the annex.

The single classroom was a small room in the office suite that housed the administration. A variety of colorful educational materials had been added to the walls to produce a more interesting environment since the last oversight visit.

Conclusion

On the day of the OJSO visit, the Lawton Adventure Program was in compliance with established responsibilities and facility policy and procedures. The staff demonstrated diligence in providing clinical services and the ability to maintain a safe environment in an aging facility.

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