

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

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**Name and Location of Facility:** Lawton Adventure Program  
Lawton, Oklahoma

**Date of Visit:** May 15, 2008

**Oversight Reviewer:** Dana S. Holden, Oversight Specialist

**Subject:** First Biannual Visit for 2008

**Date:** July 14, 2008

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**Introduction**

The Office of Juvenile System Oversight (OJSO) conducted a routine, unannounced visit to the Lawton Adventure Program on May 15, 2008. The Office of Juvenile Affairs (OJA) contracts with Southwestern Oklahoma State University 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 is licensed for sixteen residents by the office of Oklahoma Child Care Services of the Department of Human Services (DHS). On the day of the visit, the census was sixteen.

Interviews Conducted

- Entry interview and an exit conference with the Program Administrator
- Five residents
- One Resident Guidance Specialists
- Recreation Coordinator

Documentation Reviewed

- Case records on five residents
- Personnel files of two Resident Guidance Specialists and the Recreation Coordinator
- DHS office of Oklahoma Child Care Services inspection report dated January 24, 2008
- Office of the Oklahoma State Fire Marshal inspection report, dated January 28, 2008
- Oklahoma State Department of Health inspection report, dated February 11, 2008.

## **Findings**

### Interviews

The OJSO interviewed five residents. The interview questions pertained to the residents' perceptions of safety, program services, resident rights, discipline practices, and other residential program issues. No concerns were noted from the resident interviews.

Two staff members were interviewed. The interview questions pertained to the staff members' perception of program services, resident rights, discipline policies, and other residential program issues. One of the interviewees, the Recreation Coordinator, stated that she had taken four to six residents at a time on outings by herself. The Recreation Coordinator also stated that she had never felt threatened by the residents and was comfortable with being the only staff member on the outing. It was concerning to the OJSO that a female staff member had taken male residents on outings, without the assistance of a second staff member. No other concerns were noted from the staff interviews.

### File Reviews

The OJSO reviewed the files on five residents. The files were well-organized, and the materials were easy to locate. The OJSO noted that one resident file did not contain an immunization record. No other issues of concern were noted from the resident file reviews.

The personnel files of three staff members were reviewed. The files were well-organized, and the materials were easy to locate. The OJSO noted that two files did not contain current job performance evaluations. No other areas of concern were noted from the staff file reviews.

The OJSO reviewed the most recent inspection reports by the DHS licensing unit, the fire marshal's office, and the health department. The DHS report had cited the facility for missing documentation from the employee files and not providing the required number of training hours to employees. On the day of the OJSO visit, documentation indicated that the employees were receiving training for 2008, and it appeared the correctable violations cited in the licensing report had been completed. The fire marshal's report had not cited any deficiencies. The health department's report had cited minor deficiencies that had been corrected prior to the OJSO's visit.

### **Area of Concern**

1. The female Recreation Coordinator had taken male residents on outings alone. The OJSO is concerned that this staff member could possibly be overpowered or assaulted when alone off-campus with a group of male residents.

## **Violations**

1. One of the five resident files reviewed did not contain an immunization record. DHS licensing standards, Section 154.3, Health and medical services, (d), Immunizations, states, "Each resident is immunized against communicable diseases in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Oklahoma State Department of Health."
2. Two of the three staff files reviewed did not contain current job performance evaluations. DHS licensing standards, Section 153.1, Personnel, (o), Personnel Records, (2), in part, states, "The personnel record includes: (E) annual performance evaluations and any reports and notes relating to the individual's employment with the facility."

## **Summary**

The OJSO was advised that the facility had purchased approximately 140 acres of land near Geronimo, Oklahoma, on which to build a new facility. The program director stated that a job training program will be incorporated at the new facility. The OJSO's findings from the oversight visit were discussed with the program director in the exit conference.  
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