

May 27, 2009

Gail Edwards, Shelter Director
Mid-Del Youth and Family Services
Emergency Youth Shelter
316 S. Midwest Blvd.
Midwest City, Oklahoma 73110

RE: Mid-Del Youth and Family Services Emergency Youth Shelter
OJSO Announced Visit, 2009

Dear Ms. Edwards:

The Office of Juvenile System Oversight (OJSO) conducted an announced visit at the Mid-Del Youth and Family Services Emergency Youth Shelter on February 26, 2009. During the oversight visit, the OJSO spoke with administrators, staff, and residents; reviewed documents and files; and toured the facility buildings and grounds. During the exit conference, the OJSO discussed the violations noted during the visit. Those violations were:

1. One staff did not complete behavioral intervention techniques training within thirty days of employment. Oklahoma Department of Human Services (OKDHS) Licensing Requirements for Residential Child Care Facilities, OAC 340:110-3-153.1, Personnel, (m), Staff training, (5), Behavioral intervention techniques, (A) through (E), states, "Within 30 days of employment, all child care staff and those support staff who occasionally provide instruction or training to residents complete training in behavioral intervention techniques that includes: . . . rules and appropriate consequences of various interventions; . . . techniques for early de-escalation and preventive intervention; . . . team approaches to behavior management; . . . verbal crisis intervention; and . . . safe and appropriate physical restraint."
2. One personnel file contained two employment references dated prior to employment, a third employment reference was dated approximately three weeks after employment began. OKDHS Licensing Requirements for Residential Child Care Facilities, OAC 340:110-3-153.1, Personnel, (g), Employment requirements, (1), References, (A) through (B), states, "The facility obtains a minimum of three references for all staff prior to employment. . . . References include the date, interview questions, responses, and the interviewer's signature. . . . Copies of the references are maintained in the employee's personnel record."

No other issues or concerns were noted during the visit. On the date of the OJSO visit, the facility records were well organized and the facility was well maintained.

Please mail to the OJSO an original, signed response addressing the violations noted above, avoiding identification of any child or staff by name. Also, please send a non-scanned, electronic copy of your response to jsharp@okkids.org for publication on the Oklahoma Commission on Children and Youth web page. We will wait thirty days to receive your response before publishing this correspondence on the web page; however, this correspondence has been sent to all appropriate state agencies.

Thank you for your assistance and cooperation in this matter. If you have any questions or comments concerning this correspondence, please call me at 405-606-4900.

Sincerely,

Harold Jergenson
Oversight Specialist

HJ/LB

c: Susan Case
Nancy Long
Dennis Gober