

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

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**Name and Location of Facility:** Murrow Indian Children's Home  
Muskogee, Oklahoma

**Date of Visit:** August 21, 2008

**Oversight Reviewer:** Cliff Aldridge, Oversight Specialist

**Focus of Visit:** Unannounced Visit, 2008

**Date:** February 23, 2009

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### **Introduction**

The Office of Juvenile System Oversight (OJSO) conducted an announced visit at the Murrow Indian Children's Home on August 21, 2008. The program was licensed for forty residents by the division of Oklahoma Child Care Services (OCCS) of the Oklahoma Department of Human Services (OKDHS). The Murrow home contracted with the OKDHS to accept OKDHS custody youth; the facility also accepted tribal custody Indian children. On the day of the OJSO visit, the census was sixteen.

### **Interviews Conducted**

- Entry interview and an exit conference with the director
- Four residents
- Three direct care staff members

### **Documents Reviewed**

- Three resident files
- Personnel files of two house parents
- Office of the Oklahoma State Fire Marshal report dated January 7, 2008
- Oklahoma State Department of Health Food Inspection report dated February 23, 2007
- OKDHS OCCS Residential Child Care Facility inspection report of an unannounced visit on July 2, 2008
- Staff roster
- List of the resident population
- Facility website: <http://www.nationalministries.org>
- OKDHS Office of Client Advocacy incident referral log for first quarter FY-2009
- OJSO report of an oversight visit on October 13, 2005

## **Areas Toured**

- Carlile Cottage (girls' residence)
- Joseph Cottage (boys' residence)

## **Findings**

### Interviews

Two male residents from Joseph Cottage and two female residents from Carlile Cottage were interviewed. One of the three OKDHS custody residents was included in the sample. The OJSO went to the Muskogee High School to interview three residents; the fourth resident attended the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Center and was interviewed after school at the facility. One additional resident declined to be interviewed.

Overall, the residents were positive in their responses about the Murrow home, the staff, and their quality of life. Their complaints were more about not being with their families rather than dissatisfaction with the Murrow home. They reported receiving educational services in the local public schools and participating in a variety of meaningful recreational activities. No concerns were identified during the resident interviews.

Three direct care staff members were interviewed. The interviews included one house parent from the girls' cottage, one house parent from the boys' cottage, and the full-time "floater" house parent who provided relief on weekends for the regular house parents. All three staff members interviewed demonstrated familiarity with facility policies and reported having received required training. All three staff members appeared to be earnest about providing proper care for the residents. No concerns were identified from the house parent interviews.

### File Reviews

Three resident files were reviewed for compliance with the OKDHS licensing standards. Of the three residents whose files were reviewed, two were in tribal custody and the other one was in OKDHS custody. All three files were complete and current on the day of the visit. The personnel files and training records of two full-time house parents were reviewed for compliance with licensing standards. The employment documentation was complete, and both house parents were on track to receive their annual training hours for 2008. No concerns were identified from the personnel file or resident file reviews.

The OCCS inspection report of its unannounced visit on July 2, 2008, did not cite any deficiencies regarding personnel files or resident files. The report identified mold in one shower. According to documentation, the shower was promptly disinfected; mold was not observed on the day of the OJSO visit.

No OCA incident referrals pertaining to the Murrow home were identified from the period reviewed. The OJSO oversight report from the 2005 visit to the Murrow Home did not identify violations of established responsibilities.

### Observational Tour

Both of the occupied cottages were toured. Overall, both cottages were clean and well-maintained. Two or three bricks were noted to be loose on the front step of Carlile Cottage. In Joseph Cottage, damage was observed to the floor linoleum between the hallway and the dining room, a hole in the ceiling was observed where a light fixture had been removed, and a drain pipe protruded from a recess in the hall where a water fountain had been removed. A subsequent telephone conversation with the director indicated that the drain pipe and the hole in the ceiling on Joseph Cottage had been repaired. The director reported that a church group was scheduled to replace all of the flooring in Joseph Cottage in March 2009 rather than try to repair the damage to the linoleum. She also reported that a repair to the step on Carlile Cottage had been attempted but was unsuccessful and that a different solution was being sought.

### **Summary**

Overall, the Murrow Indian Children's Home appeared to be operating in compliance with its established responsibilities on the day of the visit. The OJSO appreciated the helpfulness of the facility's administration and staff in arranging the interviews, hosting the observational tour, and providing the necessary materials for review.

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