

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

Name and Location of Facility: Oklahoma School for the Blind
Muskogee, Oklahoma

Date of Visit: October 25, 2006

Oversight Reviewer: Sara Vincent-Spain, Oversight Specialist

Subject: Second Unannounced Visit for 2006

Date: January 9, 2007

General Information

The Office of Juvenile System Oversight (OJSO) conducted a routine, unannounced visit of the Oklahoma School for the Blind (OSB), also known as Parkview School, on October 25, 2006. The OSB is a special school operated by the Department of Rehabilitation Services (DRS). There were eighty-seven students at the OSB on the day of the oversight visit. Forty-five of the students resided at the school during the week.

Persons Interviewed

- Entry interview and an exit conference with the Superintendent and the Dean of Students
- Five students
- Two direct care staff members
- Informal visit to the Student Health Center

Documentation Reviewed

- Immunization records and tuberculin testing of five students
- Personnel files and training records of two direct care staff members
- Tuberculin testing of three direct care staff members
- Office of the Oklahoma State Fire Marshal inspection report, dated January 17, 2006
- Oklahoma State Department of Health inspection report, dated September 18, 2006

Areas Toured

- Girls' dormitory, A-2
- Lowrey Hall (independent living dormitory)
- Kitchen and dining room
- Recreation center

Overview

The OSB is not subject to the residential child care licensing standards of the Division of Child Care of the Department of Human Services (DHS); therefore, the OJSO reviewed the OSB regarding established responsibilities and DRS policies.

Interviews

The OJSO interviewed two day students, five residential students, and two direct care staff members. No issues of concern were noted from the student and staff interviews.

File Reviews

The health records on five students, the personnel files and training records of two direct care staff members, and the tuberculin testing results of three direct care staff members were reviewed. No issues of concern were noted from the file reviews.

Observational Tour

The OJSO conducted a tour of a girls' dormitory, the independent living dormitory, the kitchen, and recreation center. No issues of concern were noted from the observational tour.

Exit Conference

The DRS policy regarding a felony record search was discussed with the Superintendent and the Dean of Students. Department of Rehabilitation Services policy OAC 612:20-3-39, Felony record search, (a), in part, states, "The Oklahoma School for the Blind . . . policy requires a felony record search for the recommended applicant for employment including a search of local law enforcement records maintained pursuant to the Sex Offenders Registration Act." The policy did not address employees who were employed prior to this policy. The OJSO recommended the OSB require, solicit, and maintain on file a felony record search on each employee, regardless of employment date. It was also recommended that the facility post a list of current DRS Grievance Managers.

Summary

On the day of the OJSO visit, the OSB was in compliance with established responsibilities and DRS policies.

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