

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

Name of Facility: Oklahoma School for the Blind

Date of Visit: November 8, 2005

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

Subject: Second Unannounced Oversight Visit for 2005

Date: May 11, 2006

General Information

The Office of Juvenile System Oversight (OJSO) conducted a routine, unannounced visit on November 8, 2005, of the Oklahoma School for the Blind (OSB), also known as Parkview School, located in Muskogee, Oklahoma. The OSB is a special school operated by the Oklahoma Department of Rehabilitation Services (DRS). The purpose of the visit was to assess compliance with established responsibilities, facility policy and procedures, and DRS policy. There were ninety-six students at the OSB at the time of the oversight visit. Forty-six of the students resided at the school during the week.

Persons Interviewed

- Entry interview and an exit conference with the Superintendent
- Six residential students
- Three direct care staff members
- Informal visit with the Dean of Students
- Informal visit with the secondary Principal
- Informal visit with the social worker

Documentation Reviewed

- Immunization records and tuberculin testing of six students
- Personnel files and training records of three direct care staff members
- Tuberculin testing of three direct care staff members

Areas Toured

- Girls' dormitories (A-2 and A-3)
- Boys' dormitories (B-2 and B-3)
- Lowrey Hall (independent living dormitory)
- Dining room and kitchen
- Corridors, recreation center, and other common areas used by the students

Overview

Interviews

A sample of six of the residential students, ranging from eleven to eighteen years of age, was selected to be interviewed. Overall, the responses were positive about the school, living in the dormitories, and the staff. Complaints included:

- Not being at home.
- Other students yelling.
- Staff has been grumpy at times.

No issues of concern were identified from the student interviews.

Two of the three staff members interviewed were newly hired part-time employees. The other staff member had worked at the school for twenty-two years. All three demonstrated familiarity with appropriate procedures. None of them had ever had to restrain a student during their employment at the facility. All three staff members demonstrated a desire to care for the students. No issues of concern were identified from the staff member interviews.

The staff in the Student Health Center reported that tuberculin testing and immunizations were current for all of the students who attended the school. The Dean of Students reviewed the orientation curriculum for new direct care staff for the oversight team. The training included paraprofessional training through the Oklahoma State Department of Education.

Documentation Reviews

Samples of tuberculin testing and immunization records were reviewed at the Student Health Center. The records were current for the six students who were interviewed. The documentation of tuberculin testing was current for the three staff members whose files were reviewed.

The personnel files and training records of three newly hired part-time direct care staff members were reviewed. The documentation was current for all of the applicable items reviewed on the day of the visit.

Observational Tour

The oversight team toured all five of the occupied dormitories at the school. On the day of visit, the dormitories were clean and aesthetically decorated and furnished. The Dean of Students stated that regular inspections identified and corrected routine maintenance issues. No issues of concern were identified from the tour of the dormitories, the common areas, the kitchen, or the dining room.

Summary

On the day of the OJSO visit, the OSB demonstrated compliance with established responsibilities and facility policy and procedures.

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