

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

December 19, 2007

Karen Kizzia, Superintendent
Oklahoma School for the Blind
3300 Gibson Street
Muskogee, Oklahoma 74403

Dear Ms. Kizzia:

The Office of Juvenile System Oversight (OJSO) conducted the second of two required routine, unannounced oversight visits of the Oklahoma School for the Blind (OSB), also known as Parkview School, on December 5, 2007. The first visit was conducted, May 2, 2007. The OSB is a special school operated by the Oklahoma Department of Rehabilitation Services (DRS). There were ninety-three students enrolled at the OSB on the day of the oversight visit. Forty-six of the students resided at the school during the week.

The OSB is not subject to the Department of Human Services (DHS), Division of Child Care residential licensing standards that are applicable to other children's residential programs in the state; therefore, the OJSO generally reviewed the OSB for minimum standards in addition to the school handbooks and the DRS policy.

After an entry conference with the Dean of Students, the OJSO interviewed four residential students and four day students, one direct care staff member, and one food service specialist. The OJSO reviewed the following documents: immunization records and tuberculin testing of eight students, the Individualized Educational Plans (IEP) for eight students, the personnel files and training records of one direct care staff member and two independent living specialists, the State Fire Marshal's report dated December 4, 2007, and the Oklahoma State Department of Health Food Inspection Report dated November 6, 2007. An exit conference with the Superintendent, Dean of Students and the Human Resources Management Specialist was held at the conclusion of the visit.

There were no issues of concern noted in the student interviews, the staff interviews, the health records review, the IEP review or the personnel file review. During the first oversight visit, one of the personnel files did not contain documentation of three references. The OSB remitted a timely response to the OJSO and has implemented a process to ensure three personal reference checks are completed prior to an employee being hired by the DRS for employment at OSB.

The administration at the OSB is commended on its efforts in completing Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation (OSBI) background checks on seventy-three direct care employees. Some of the employees have been employed at the OSB for more than twenty years and many have been employed more than ten years. None of the employees had any offenses that would lead to concerns regarding the care of the children at the school.

I appreciate the helpfulness of the facility's administration and staff in arranging the interviews and providing the necessary materials for review. If you have any questions regarding this letter, please call me at (405) 606-4900.

Sincerely,

Sara Vincent-Spain,
Oversight Specialist

SVS/lb