

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

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

**Date of Visit:** May 8, 2008

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

**Focus of Visit:** First 2008 Unannounced Visit

**Date:** September 8, 2008

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### **Introduction**

The Office of Juvenile System Oversight (OJSO) conducted a routine, unannounced visit at the Oklahoma School for the Blind (OSB), also known as Parkview School, on May 8, 2008. The OSB is a special school operated by the Oklahoma Department of Rehabilitation Services (DRS). The school had 89 students at the time of the oversight visit; 41 of them were residential students.

### **Interviews Conducted**

- Entry conference with the Superintendent and the Human Resources Management Specialist
- Sample of five residential students
- Two direct care staff members
- Informal visit to the Student Health Center
- Informal visit with the Dean of Students
- Informal visit with the secondary Principal
- Exit conference with the Superintendent

### **Documents Reviewed**

- Records of immunizations and tuberculin testing on five students
- Personnel files and training records of two direct care staff members
- Records of tuberculin testing on two direct care staff members

### **Areas Toured**

- Two dormitories for girls (A-2 and A-3)
- One dormitory for boys (B-2)

- Lowrey Hall (independent living dormitory)
- Dining room and the kitchen
- Corridors, the recreation center, and other common areas used by the students

## **Findings**

### Interviews

Overall, the responses from the five residential students interviewed were favorable regarding the school and living in the dormitories. No themes of concern were identified from the student interviews. Both direct care staff members interviewed were relatively new employees but appeared to be familiar with facility policies. Both seemed to be conscientious in caring for the students and meeting their needs. No issues of concern were identified from the staff interviews.

### File Reviews

The immunization records and tuberculin tests in the student health center were current for all five students interviewed. Tuberculin testing was current for one of the staff members and had been documented as deferred for the other due to pregnancy. No concerns were identified from the review of medical records. The personnel files of the two staff members interviewed were reviewed. Employment documentation was complete for the items reviewed, and training was documented for applicable standards.

The dean of students and the secondary principal were instrumental in arranging the interviews with the staff and the students and in conducting the tour of the facility. No concerns were identified from the tour.

## **Summary**

The OSB is not subject to the residential child care licensing standards by the division of Oklahoma Child Care Services (OCCS) of the Oklahoma Department of Human Services (OKDHS) 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. The OJSO appreciated the helpfulness of the administration, professional staff, support staff, and the direct care staff with the provision of materials for review, hosting the tour, and arranging the interviews.

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