

**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: November 5, 2009

Oversight Reviewer: Tina Pendergraft, Oversight Specialist
Penny Hill-Malone, Oversight Specialist

Focus of Visit: Second 2009 Unannounced Visit

Date: January 26, 2010

Introduction

The Office of Juvenile System Oversight (OJSO) conducted a routine, unannounced visit on November 5, 2009, at the Oklahoma School for the Blind (OSB), located in Muskogee, Oklahoma. The OSB is a special school for blind students operated by the Oklahoma Department of Rehabilitation Services (DRS). The school had ninety-three students at the time of the oversight visit; thirty-eight of the ninety-three students were residential students. The focus of the visit was to assess compliance with recreation and food and nutrition programs. On the day of the unannounced oversight visit, the facility had scheduled OSB Future Shock Day (Career Day).

Interviews Conducted

- Entry conference with the superintendent, secondary principal, and the dean of students
- Four residential students
- One director of recreation/dorm care staff member
- One assistant recreation director/dorm care staff member
- One food service supervisor
- Exit conference with the superintendent

Documents Reviewed

- Four personnel files
- Monthly menu
- Oklahoma State Department of Health Food Inspection report dated October 9, 2009
- Oklahoma State Department of Education Child Nutrition Program (CNP) Management Checklist dated November 2, 2006

- Office of the Oklahoma State Fire Marshal report dated March 19, 2009
- Oklahoma Department of Rehabilitation Services deficiencies report dated April 2, 2009

Areas Toured

- Four dormitories for girls and two bathrooms
- Four dormitories for boys and two bathrooms
- Lowrey Hall (independent living dormitory)
- Dining room and the kitchen
- Recreation center, gym, outside recreational area, medical, and other common areas used by the students

Findings

Resident Interviews

Four residents were interviewed. The OJSO noted no concerns from the resident interviews.

Staff Interviews

Three staff members were interviewed. The OJSO noted no concerns from the staff interviews.

Staff File Review

Four staff files were reviewed. The OJSO noted no concerns during the file review.

Facility Tour

The OJSO noted no concerns during the tour of the facility.

Summary

On the date of the oversight visit, the facility was very clean and appeared well organized. The staff was very helpful and cooperative. The residents appeared to be happy and satisfied with the facility and the school. The OJSO noted that not all staff had received behavioral management training as of the date of the oversight visit. The OJSO discussed with the Superintendent that although behavioral management training was not required for staff at OSB, the OJSO recommended staff behavioral management training to ensure safety for the residents and students at OSB as well as for the staff. Overall, the oversight visit was a very pleasant experience.

