

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

Name and Location of Facility: Oklahoma School for the Deaf
Sulphur, Oklahoma

Date of Visit: November 19, 2008

Oversight Reviewer: Anthony Kibble, Oversight Specialist
Joanne Verity, Program Manager
Jack Chapman, Assistant Director

Focus of Visit: Second Biannual Visit, 2008

Date: March 3, 2009

Introduction

The Office of Juvenile System Oversight (OJSO) conducted an unannounced visit on November 19, 2008, to the Oklahoma School for the Deaf (OSD), located in Sulphur, Oklahoma. The OSD, a special school for deaf and hard-of-hearing students, is operated by the Department of Rehabilitative Services (DRS). The OSD is accredited by the Conference of Educational Administrators of Schools and Programs for the Deaf (CEASD). The focus of the visit was to assess compliance with established responsibilities. The OJSO contracted the services of a certified level five interpreter who accommodated students' and staff members' language preferences and levels.

Interviews Conducted

- Entry and exit interview with the Superintendent
- Five residents
- Five staff members

Documents Reviewed

- Simplex Grinnell Fire Alarm Inspection report dated January 9, 2008
- Oklahoma State Department of Health Food Inspection report dated, August 27, 2008
- Five resident files
- Five personnel files
- Accident or Critical Incident report
- Grievance Tracking Log for August through November
- Three Caretaker Conduct Review reports

- Office of Client Advocacy (OCA) Quarterly Grievance report dated September 30, 2008

Areas Toured

Blattner, Long, and Stewart Halls were toured by the OJSO. No issues of concern were noted.

Findings

Juvenile Interviews

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

Staff Interviews

Five direct care staff members were interviewed. Two staff members reported that they would like to see more computer and puzzle board games for special needs residents. Staff members also reported that playground equipment for handicapped residents would be beneficial. All staff members interviewed reported that they enjoyed working with the residents and felt that OSD provided a positive environment for the residents.

Resident File Review

Five resident files were reviewed. The OJSO noted no concerns from the resident file review.

Personnel File Review

Five personnel files were reviewed. One file indicated that the CPR certification had expired as of August 8, 2008. The OJSO note no additional concerns from the personnel file review.

Grievance Tracking Log

The OJSO reviewed two resident grievance records from the grievance tracking log. The OJSO noted no concerns, but several minor issues were discussed with the OSD Superintendent during the exit conference as mentioned below in the summary.

Caretaker Conduct Review Report (CCR)

The OJSO reviewed three CCR records. The OJSO noted no concerns, but several minor issues were discussed with the OSD Superintendent during the exit conference as mentioned below in the summary.

Area of Concern

1. One personnel file indicated that the CPR certification had expired as of August 8, 2008, for the employee.

Summary

During the exit conference with the OSD Superintendent, the OJSO discussed the resident grievance records, the facility CCR records, and the Accident and Critical incident reports, all of which had been noted in the previous OJSO oversight report. Although the facility had addressed the concerns and violations from the previous OJSO oversight report, and the facility files had improved since the previous OJSO visit, the OSD Superintendent informed the OJSO that the school's social worker had recently retired and some files may have been incomplete as a result of the retirement. The OJSO was informed the social worker position would be filled in the near future. The Superintendent assured the OJSO that the most recent Quarterly Grievance Report would be sent in to the OKDHS Office of Client Advocacy, and the CCR filing would be completed by the next regular OJSO oversight visit when these issues will be addressed again. The OJSO informed the Superintendent that the OSD Accident and Incident Reporting process also will be addressed in the next OJSO oversight. The OJSO provided the OSD Director of Student Assessment a copy of the Oklahoma Administrative Code 340:2-3-37 Caretaker conduct review (CCR) as a reference in the interim. The OJSO commended the OSD on the development of its Sign Language Proficiency Interview (SLPI) program as well as its Residential Life Curriculum and Activities program.

Recommendation

The OJSO recommended that the new social worker participate in the OCA online grievance training as required per Oklahoma Administrative Code 340:2-3-45.

