

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

Name of Facility: Oklahoma Youth Center
Dates of Visit: November 2, 3, and 4, 2005
Oversight Reviewer: Ellen Harwell, Oversight Specialist
Subject: Second Unannounced Visit, 2005
Date: June 27, 2006

General Information

The Office of Juvenile System Oversight (OJSO) conducted a routine, unannounced visit on November 2, 3, and 4, 2005, to the Oklahoma Youth Center, located in Norman, Oklahoma. The purpose of the visit was to assess compliance with established responsibilities and facility policy and procedures.

Interviews Conducted

- Ten juveniles
- Six staff members

Documentation Reviewed

- Files on three residents
- Three personnel files
- Most recent inspection reports by the Oklahoma State Department of Health, the Division of Child Care of the Department of Human Services (DHS), and the Office of the Oklahoma State Fire Marshal
- Facility policy and procedures

Areas Toured

- Entire facility

Overview

On the day of the OJSO visit, the facility's census was twenty-eight. The residents interviewed reported lengths of stay of less than three months. Six reported they were in DHS custody.

Resident Interviews

Ten residents were interviewed. The OJSO noted:

- Nine interviewees stated the school teachers were helpful.
- Nine stated the OYC was helping them with their treatment goals.
- Six reported familiarity with the grievance process.
- None were able to identify the grievance coordinator.
- All ten reported they received regular individual and group therapy sessions. Interviewees reported they received one to two individual sessions per week and participated in group sessions daily.
- Nine reported they were on medications. All nine were able to name their medications and the purposes of the medications.
- Eight reported feeling safe at the facility. The interviewees who reported not feeling safe indicated the acting-out behaviors of other residents as cause for their fears.

Staff Interviews

The OJSO did not note any concerns from the staff interviews.

Staff files

The three personnel files reviewed lacked documented cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and Creating a Positive Environment (CAPE) training. Sign-in sheets were located in the files, but no CPR cards or certifications of completion were found in the files. Upon request, administration provided documentation of training and completion dates.

Facility Tour

The OJSO did not note any concerns from the observational tour of the facility.

Summary

On the day of the OJSO visit, the residents interviewed were knowledgeable about their treatment. Residents were able to list their treatment goals and state the purposes of their medications. Residents consistently reported participation in group and individual therapy sessions. The residents interviewed were not able to name the grievance coordinator.

Staff members were knowledgeable about their job duties and responsibilities. Staff files maintained at the facility did not contain certificates of completion for training, such as CPR and CAPE. Although these documents were accessible through the main personnel files maintained in a separate location, it is recommended that the OYC maintain copies in the files kept at the facility.

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