

June 24, 2009

Robin McSpadden, Executive Director
ROCMND Emergency Youth Shelter
Post Office Box 912
Vinita, OK 74301

RE: ROCMND Emergency Youth Shelter
OJSO Announced Visit, 2009

Dear Mr. McSpadden:

The Office of Juvenile System Oversight (OJSO) conducted an announced visit at the ROCMND Emergency Youth Shelter in Miami on February 25, 2009. During the oversight visit, the OJSO spoke with administrators, staff, and residents; reviewed documents and files; and toured the facility buildings and grounds. The ROCMND Emergency Youth Shelter was licensed as a Residential Child Care Facility by the division of Oklahoma Child Care Services (OCCS) of the Oklahoma Department of Human Services (OKDHS). The ROCMND Emergency Youth Shelter contracted with the Office of Juvenile Affairs (OJA). The facility was licensed for eight residents. The census was seven on the day of the visit.

During the exit conference, the OJSO discussed the violation that it had noted during the visit; that violation was:

1. One personnel file contained two employment references dated prior to employment; the third employment reference was dated three days after employment began. OKDHS Licensing Requirements for Residential Child Care Facilities, OAC 340:110-3-153.1, Personnel, (g), Employment requirements, (1), References, (A) through (B), states, "The facility obtains a minimum of three references for all staff prior to employment. References include the date, interview questions, responses, and the interviewer's signature. Copies of the references are maintained in the employee's personnel record."

No other issues or concerns were noted during the visit. The OJSO commends the facility administration and staff for the services provided to the residents. The ROCMND Emergency Youth Shelter utilizes live-in shelter parents, in lieu of staff

working rotating shifts. At the time of the announced oversight, the shelter parents and the residents appeared to be interacting in more of a home type atmosphere than a shelter setting

Please mail to the OJSO an original, signed response addressing the violation noted above, avoiding identification of any child or staff by name. Also, please send a non-scanned, electronic copy of your response to jsharp@okkids.org for publication on the Oklahoma Commission on Children and Youth web page. We will wait thirty days to receive your response before publishing this correspondence on the web page; however, this correspondence has been sent to all appropriate state agencies.

Thank you for your assistance and cooperation in this matter. If you have any questions or comments concerning this correspondence, please call me at 405-606-4900.

Sincerely,

Harold Jergenson
Oversight Specialist

HJ/LB

c: Dennis Gober
Susan Case
Jolene Ring