

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

**Private Emergency Youth Shelter
Third Quarter 2005**

Name of Facility: Rogers County Youth Services
Emergency Youth Shelter

Date of Visit: July 26, 2005

Oversight Person: Chris Fiesel, M.L.A.

Focus of Visit: Routine Oversight

Date: August 31, 2005

Introduction

The Office of Juvenile System Oversight (OJSO) conducted an unannounced visit on July 26, 2005, to the Rogers County Youth Services' emergency shelter in Claremore, Oklahoma. The purpose of the visit was to assess compliance with the Department of Human Services (DHS) Division of Child Care's licensing standards for emergency shelter care and the facility's policy and procedures. The shelter was licensed for eight children. On the day of the OJSO visit, the census was three.

Persons Interviewed

- One direct care staff member
- Three residents

Documents Reviewed

- Inspection report, dated April 12, 2005, by the DHS Division of Child Care
- Inspection report and fire drill log, dated June 30, 2005, by the Office of the Oklahoma State Fire Marshal
- Most current inspection report by the Oklahoma State Department of Health

Areas Toured

- Children's dormitory rooms
- Kitchen area
- Common area
- Bathrooms

Overview

Resident Interviews

The three female residents interviewed were twelve and thirteen years of age. Their lengths of stay at the facility ranged from one day to one month. All residents interviewed stated that they felt safe and secure because of cameras installed throughout the interior of the facility and the small population. Residents stated that the food was good and additional portions were available at each meal. Brief room restriction (lasting ten to twenty minutes) was the most severe punishment any of the children had experienced while at the shelter. Two of the three residents interviewed had filed grievances. One resident's grievance was resolved, and the other resident stated that the grievance was probably just filed away; however, the resident did talk with facility staff and expressed satisfaction to the OJSO that the problem was resolved. There were no health or safety concerns indicated from the resident interviews.

Staff Interviews

The OJSO interviewed one direct care staff member. Responses to questions regarding discipline, daily recreational activities, safety, and supervision were consistent with the residents' responses. There were no indications of health or safety issues.

Review of Personnel Files

The OJSO reviewed two staff files. One staff member was not current in her annual evaluation. The evaluation was three days overdue. The facility Director agreed to provide the OJSO verification of an evaluation on the employee within thirty days of the oversight visit. All other areas of compliance were met.

Review of Resident Files

The OJSO reviewed the files on three residents. All three indicated compliance with facility and DHS policy requirements.

Summary

The Rogers County Youth Services emergency shelter provides care for children who are in state custody, as well as, private admissions. The facility appeared clean, quiet, and presented an informal, homelike atmosphere. Staff appeared relaxed and the children were observed as comfortable, at ease, quietly occupied, and appropriately interacting with each other during the oversight visit. The facility appeared well maintained and presented no health or safety concerns. The DHS Division of Child Care's inspection report, dated April 12, 2005, also indicated no concerns.

Finding

1. The annual job performance evaluation on an employee was not current in one of the files reviewed. Department of Human Services licensing standards, Section 153.1, Personnel, (g), Employment requirements, (3), Performance evaluation, states, "Each employee has a written job performance evaluation at least annually, which is maintained in the employee's personnel record."

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