

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

Name and Location of Facility: Southwest Oklahoma Juvenile Center
Manitou, Oklahoma

Date of Visit: June 20, 2006

Oversight Reviewers: Ellen Harwell, April Simmons, and Sara Vincent-Spain, Oversight Specialists, and Kevin C. Rodgers, Programs Manager

Focus of Visit: Unannounced Visit, 2006

Date: November 28, 2006

General Information

The Office of Juvenile System Oversight (OJSO) conducted a routine, unannounced visit of the Southwest Oklahoma Juvenile Center (SWOJC) on June 20, 2006. The focus of the visit was to assess compliance with established responsibilities and facility policy and procedures.

Persons Interviewed

- Fourteen residents
- Six staff members

Documentation Reviewed

- Facility policy and procedures
- Office of Juvenile Affairs Rules
- American Correctional Association (ACA) Standards
- 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
- Files on five residents
- Three personnel files

Areas Toured

- Entire facility

Overview

Resident Interview (instrument attached)

Fourteen residents were interviewed to assess their perceptions of safety, program services, the rights of residents, discipline practices, and other residential issues. The average age of the residents interviewed was 16.9. Eighty-six percent (12 of 14) were sixteen years of age or older. Two residents interviewed had previously been placed at the L. E. Rader Center, located in Sand Springs, Oklahoma, and one had previously been placed at the Central Oklahoma Juvenile Center, located in Tecumseh, Oklahoma.

Regarding the responses, the OJSO noted:

- Ninety-three percent (13 of 14) reported they had received upon admission a copy of the Resident's Rights and written notification of policies on visitation, mail, telephone calls, gifts, discipline policies, religious practices, the education program, and grievance procedures.
- Eighty-six percent (12 of 14) stated the teachers were helpful to them.
- Eighty-six percent (12 of 14) reported receiving plenty of food.
- Twenty-nine percent (4 of 14) reported additional serving of food were allowed.
- On a scale of one to five, seventy-one percent (10 of 14) rated the food as a 3 or 4.
- Fifty-seven percent (8 of 14) reported the use of group punishment.
- All of the interviewees were able to identify the goals listed on their treatment plans.
- Fifty percent (7 of 14) reported attending individual counseling sessions with a counselor or a therapist.
- Twenty-one percent (3 of 14) reported receiving family counseling.
- Ninety-three percent (13 of 14) reported receiving substance abuse treatment.
- Fourteen percent (2 of 14) reported receiving independent living services.
- Ninety-three percent (13 of 14) reported having filed grievances.
- Twenty-one percent (3 of 14) stated the grievance process worked.
- Fifty percent (7 of 14) stated that staff members had cursed at them.
- Seventy-one percent (10 of 14) reported witnessing staff members curse at other residents.
- Thirty-six percent (5 of 14) reported being assaulted by other residents (residents reported that the assaults had been reported and were investigated).
- Twenty-one percent (3 of 14) reported being assaulted by a staff member (residents reported that the assaults had been reported and were investigated).
- There were no reports of sexual assaults.
- All of the interviewees reported receiving medical and dental examinations.
- Seventy-one percent (10 of 14) stated they feel safe at the facility.

Staff Interviews (instrument attached)

Six staff members were interviewed. The interview questions pertained to the staff perceptions of program services, the rights of residents, discipline policies, and other residential issues. The OJSO noted:

- Five of the six staff members reported having high school diplomas. One staff member reported being in the process of obtaining a general education diploma (GED).
- Four of the six staff members reported prior work experience with juveniles.
- Four of the six staff members reported being injured in a restraint.
- Four of the six staff members reported seeing other staff members injured in restraints.
- Three of the six staff members stated that residents were allowed additional servings of food.
- Four of the six staff members stated that they believed their input was valued by administration.
- Four of the six staff rated the morale as medium and two rated the morale as low. The ratings were the same when the interviewees were asked about the morale of the residents.

Resident File Reviews

The files on five residents were reviewed. The OJSO noted:

- Documentation indicating that copies of the Resident Handbook had been provided to the parents or guardians were not located in any of the files reviewed.
- One treatment plan for May 2006 lacked the signature of a parent or guardian.
- The treatment plans for April and May 2006 in two files lacked the signatures of the parents or guardians.
- Verification of the legal status of a juvenile could not be located in one file.
- The file on a resident who was dually adjudicated as deprived and delinquent documented telephone contact between the juvenile and a parent whose parental rights had been terminated. The file did not document any contact with the DHS for approval of the contact.

Staff File Reviews

Three personnel files were reviewed. Documentation contained in one personnel file indicated that the staff member did not meet the educational requirements for the position.

Observational Tour

The OJSO conducted a tour of the entire facility. The OJSO noted:

East Unit

- Room #15 had two missing doors on the dresser.

Orientation Unit

- Room #1 was missing a drawer in the dresser.

Summary

The residents interviewed were able to state their treatment goals, and they stated that the facility placed a high priority on the treatment program requirements. Most responses were consistent with information gathered from previous oversight visits. Two notable differences were identified: (1) During the last oversight visit in 2005, eighty percent (12 of 15) reported additional servings of food were available as compared to twenty-nine percent (4 of 14) for this visit, and (2), currently, fifty-seven percent (8 of 14) reported the use of group punishment as compared to seventy-three percent (11 of 15) in December 2005.

Findings

1. Treatment plan reviews in three resident files reviewed did not document the signatures of the parents or guardians to indicate participation, nor did the files document the reasons for the lack of participation. The Department of Human Services licensing standards, Section 154, Social services, (b), Service planning, (2), Service plan review, (B), states, "The facility involves the resident and parents or custodian in the service plan review. If the parents or custodian do not participate in the service plan review, the reason for non-participation is documented in the service plan."
2. Maintenance issues with furnishings were noted on two units. The Department of Human Services licensing standards, Section 157, Physical facility and equipment, (k), Furnishings and décor, (3), states, "Broken, defective, or recalled furnishings and equipment are repaired or replaced."
3. The resident files reviewed lacked documentation of receipt of the Resident Handbook by the parents or custodians. The Department of Human Services licensing standards, Section 154, Social services, (e), Resident's records, (1), (J), states, "The [resident] record includes signed documentation that the resident and parents or custodian have been provided written copies of the facility's policies on resident's rights, grievance procedures, behavior management policies, trips away from the facility, use of volunteers and frequency of reports to the parent or custodian."
4. One staff member, who had worked at the facility for at least eight years, did not have a GED or high school diploma. The Department of Human Services licensing standards, Section 153.1, Personnel, (e), Child care and supervisory staff qualifications, (2), states, "Staff hired after June 15, 1990, have a high school diploma or its equivalent within one year of employment."

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