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April 21, 2010

Oklahoma Commission on Children and Youth  
Office of Juvenile System Oversight  
Harold Jergenson, Oversight Specialist  
1111N. Lee Avenue, Suite 500  
Oklahoma City, OK 73103-2600

Dear Mr. Jergenson:

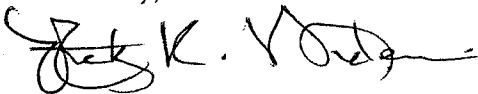
Your December 10, 2009 review of our Emergency Youth Shelter was thorough, professional, and fair. The violation noted in your report states, "Two personnel files reviewed indicated that staff began employment with Southwest Youth and Family Services, Inc. prior to having completed background checks."

Staff A began working in the Shelter one day prior to the receipt of her OSBI background check. We believe this violation was an inadvertent, isolated incident. As a corrective measure, supervisory and human resource personnel have received additional training regarding obtaining background checks prior to employment.

We would like to reiterate that while Staff B was not allowed to perform any job related duties, including the care and supervision of children, she was paid for in-service training prior to receiving her OSBI background check on August 4, 2009. Staff B attended pre-service orientation on July 31, 2009 and a 2-hour Shelter In-Service on Negative Behavior Management and Crisis De-escalation on August 3, 2009. Staff B began working in the Shelter at 11 p.m. on August 4, 2009.

If you have any further questions, please contact me at (405) 222-KIDS.

Sincerely,



Nick R. Widener, MHR, M.Th.  
CEO/Executive Director

c: Robert E. Christian

Mike Heath

Jolene Ring

Susan Case