

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

Name and Location of Facility: Speck Home
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Dates of Visit: January 31, 2008

Oversight Reviewer: Ellen Harwell, Oversight Specialist
Anthony Kibble, Intern

Focus of Visit: Announced Visit 2007

Date: May 8, 2008

Introduction

The Office of Juvenile System Oversight (OJSO) conducted a routine announced visit of the Speck Home on January 31, 2007. The focus of the visit was to assess compliance with established responsibilities. The licensed capacity for the facility is 36, which was the census the day the oversight visit began. Speck Home is an Office of Juvenile Affairs (OJA) and Department of Human Services (DHS) contracted level E group home that provides services to adjudicated delinquent and/or deprived youth placed in the custody of the OJA and/or DHS.

Interviews Conducted

- Entry and exit with the program director and administrative staff
- Six residents
- Three staff members

Documents Reviewed

- Three resident files
- Oklahoma State Department of Health inspection report, dated January 22, 2008
- Department of Human Services (DHS) Division of Child Care Facility inspection form, dated January 11, 2008

Findings

The Department of Human Services Residential Child Care Program Field Representative conducted a visit to the facility on January 11, 2008. The

Program Field Representative toured the facility. No areas of noncompliance were noted for physical plant issues.

Resident Interviews

Six residents were interviewed. The OJSO noted:

- All residents reported previous placements outside of their homes. The most common reported placement was inpatient mental health treatment. Other placements reported included detention centers and jails.
- Five of six residents reported feeling safe. The sixth resident reported being “somewhat” safe. All residents commented that staff members ensure their safety.
- Four of six residents reported having been involved in a physical restraint. There were no complaints of inappropriate restraints.
- Five of six residents reported that additional servings of food are available to them. One resident reported that it depends because some residents are attempting to diet.
- Three of six residents reported witnessing juvenile on juvenile assaults. There were no reports of assaultive behavior by staff members.
- All residents were able to describe the grievance process.
- All residents reported participating in community activities.
- Five of six residents were able to identify an employee they could speak to if they had a problem.
- Three of the six residents reported that staff members have used curse words when addressing them.
- All residents denied anyone had touched them with or without their consent while at the facility.

Staff Interviews

Three staff members were interviewed. All staff members interviewed reported having been employed by the facility for at least four years.

- Two of three staff members reported prior experience working with children.
- All reported current training in First Aid, CPR, and behavior management.
- All reported that additional servings are permitted for residents.
- All reported the use of group punishment is not allowed.
- All reported being able to contribute ideas to solve problems at the facility.
- Two of the three staff members reported that their input is valued by the administration.
- When asked what changes could be made to improve the facility, suggestions included the following: A better facility, remodeling, more living space, and a gymnasium.

Resident Files

Three resident files were reviewed. The files were in good condition and order. The OJSO noted:

- One juvenile lacked a medical exam 30 days prior to admission.

- The treatment plan of one youth stated that substance abuse counseling would be provided two times per week. Documentation indicated services were provided once per month.
- One juvenile file lacked substance abuse progress notes for May, June, September, and October 2007.
- One youth's medication log documented that the youth ran out of his medication on November 30, 2007. The prescription was not filled until December 2, 2007.
- Photo copies of group documentation were made and no individual treatment information was provided.
- In one file, a clinical staff member did not properly complete treatment notes and did not make additional comments when documenting that no progress was made during the group session.
- All treatment plans were current and signed by all parties.

Staff Files

Staff files were reviewed by the Program Field Representative from the DHS on January 11, 2008. The OJSO followed up on the findings made by the DHS. The facility had completed an out of state background check for one employee and a test for tuberculosis for another employee. Two employees did not have sufficient training hours for calendar year 2007. This error cannot be corrected but the facility reported being aware of the need for increased monitoring of training hours in calendar year 2008.

Areas of Concern

1. Some progress notes for services provided to the youth lacked individualized information either due to being photo copied to document for all youth present in the group or forms not being filled out properly. The youth reported regular and frequent clinical services. The OJSO would recommend the facility work to improve the documentation of the services being provided.

Violations

To Speck Group Homes

1. One resident's prescription medication ran out and was not filled for three days. OAC 377: 30-3-17 (f) states, "Medication shall be distributed or administered by staff members trained in medication administration in accordance with the physician's orders."

To the Office of Juvenile Affairs Juvenile Services Unit

1. One resident in the custody of the OJA did not have a medical physical examination at least 30 days prior to admission to the facility. Office of Juvenile Affairs P-25-07-17 II states, "Each juvenile in OJA custody must have a physical exam within 30 days prior to the juvenile's being placed at

Level E Group Home or Regimented Program. The JSU worker shall include the physician's report as part of the Placement Packet."

Summary

Both residents and staff members spoke favorably of the group home. Residents were trustful of staff members and reported being confident that staff members would ensure their safety. Staff members reported a commitment to the facility and enjoyment for the work. Staff members conveyed an understanding of the sexual offenses committed by the residents and reported confidence in the ability of the treatment program to rehabilitate the youth.

Residents reported they are allowed to participate in community outings on a regular basis. The youth reported confidence and trust in the therapeutic staff.

