

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

Name and Location of Facility: Tenkiller Adventure Program
Park Hill, Oklahoma

Date of Visit: April 24, 2008

Oversight Reviewer: Cliff Aldridge, Oversight Specialist

Focus of Visit: First 2008 Unannounced Visit

Date: September 10, 2008

Introduction

The Office of Juvenile System Oversight (OJSO) conducted a routine, unannounced visit to the Tenkiller Adventure Program (TAP) on April 24, 2008. The TAP is licensed by the Department of Human Services (DHS) for eighteen residents. The Office of Juvenile Affairs (OJA) contracts with the Southwestern Oklahoma State University (SWOSU) for the operation of the program, which serves OJA-custody males. On the day of the OJSO visit, the census was eighteen.

Interviews Conducted

- Entry and exit conferences with the program director
- Five residents
- Two direct care staff members
- The OJSO ate lunch with the residents and visited informally with them

Documents Reviewed

- Case records on two residents
- TAP Daily Placement Census
- Oklahoma Department of Human Services (DHS), division of Oklahoma Child Care Services (OCCS) inspection report dated April 29, 2008

Areas Toured

- Dormitory
- Kitchen
- Dining area

Findings

Interviews

Five residents were interviewed relative to their participation in program services, quality of life, and interactions with the staff. All five consistently reported their participation in educational services, recreational activities, and individual/group counseling services. One resident indicated not being cursed by the staff or witnessing other residents being cursed. Two said that residents were not cursed at, but an occasional curse word was heard. The remaining two residents interviewed said that they were cursed at by the staff. No other issues of concern were identified from the resident interviews.

Two newer staff members, one employed for ten months and the other for thirteen months, were interviewed relative to their familiarity with facility policies, their training, and program services provided to the residents. One of them believed that the computer learning systems used by the residents were outdated. One believed that the program focused more on recreation than on treatment. Both reported meeting training requirements, and both demonstrated familiarity with facility policies. No issues of concern were identified from the staff interviews.

File Reviews

The case records on two residents were reviewed. One file did not document the provision of pertinent facility policies to the resident or the custodian, as required. One treatment plan review was marked "NA" for the custodian's signature but had been facsimiled to the OJA worker for signature. The worker had signed and returned the page but had not dated his/her signature.

The ninety-day review in one resident file referenced the treatment plan objectives by number, rather than by content of the treatment objective. The file did not document the participation of the custodian or the reason for non-participation of the custodian in the review. The ninety-day review in the other resident's file contained the signatures of the required participants in the review but failed to evaluate the resident's progress in the plan.

Observational Tour

The dormitory, dining room, and kitchen were toured. Modifications in the dormitory to improve supervision of the residents were noted. No concerns were identified from the tour.

Areas of Concern

1. The DHS Licensing Requirements for Residential Care Facilities require the facility to document "the reason for non-participation" of the custodian in the service plan review. Technically, the standard was met by the signature of the OJA worker in

one of the files reviewed, but use of the term “NA” can be confused with “not available” or “not applicable”, but neither term documented the reason for non-participation by the parent.

2. One service plan review evaluated the progress of the resident by (treatment) objective rather than by the content or topic of the objective. The OJSO was concerned that the practice devalued the resident’s progress in meeting his treatment objectives.
3. The OJSO did not substantiate a violation regarding comments from residents that staff used curse words or other demeaning language toward the residents, but the issue was discussed with the program director during the exit conference. Subsequent telephone conversation with the program director indicated that he had addressed the use of abusive language with the staff.

Violations

1. One of the two resident files reviewed did not document the provision of pertinent facility policies to the resident or the custodian. The OKDHS Licensing Requirements for Residential Child Care Facilities, OAC 340:110-3-154 Social services, (a) Admission, (7), in part, states, “The facility documents, by the resident’s and parents’ or custodian’s signatures, that the resident and parents or custodian have been provided written copies of the facility’s policies.”
2. One resident file reviewed did not document the reason for the non-participation of the custodian (OJA worker or parent) in the review of the service plan. The OKDHS Licensing Requirements for Residential Child Care Facilities, OAC 340:110-3-154 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.”
3. One of the two resident files reviewed documented the signatures of the participants in the service plan review; however, the review failed to document an evaluation of progress toward meeting identified needs, as required. The OKDHS Licensing Requirements for Residential Child Care Facilities, OAC 340:110-3-154 Social services, (b) Service planning, (2) Service plan review, (C), (i) in part, states, “The service plan review includes an evaluation of progress toward meeting identified needs.”

Summary

The OJSO appreciated the helpfulness of the facility’s administration and staff in arranging the interviews, hosting the observational tour, and providing the necessary materials for review.

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