

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

Name of Facility: The Children's Center
Date of Visit: November 9, 2005
Oversight Person: Chris Fiesel, Oversight Specialist
Subject: Oversight Visit
Date: December 30, 2005

General Information

The Office of Juvenile System Oversight (OJSO) conducted an unannounced visit on November 9, 2005, to The Children's Center, located in Bethany, Oklahoma. The purpose of the visit was to assess compliance with established responsibilities and facility policy and procedures.

The facility was licensed for 100 patients by the Division of Child Care of the Department of Human Services (DHS). On the day of the OJSO visit, the census was 92. The OJSO did not interview the medically fragile children residing at the facility.

Interviews Conducted

- Three direct care staff

Files Reviewed

- Files on five residents
- Two personnel files

Areas Toured

- Food preparation area
- Kitchen
- Resident rooms
- Common areas, including the therapy units and the swimming pool area
- Nurses' station
- Restrooms
- Shower areas

Overview

Staff Interviews

The lengths of employment of the three direct care staff members interviewed ranged from two years to two and one-half years. No concerns regarding safety of the residents or staff were identified in the interviews. The three interviewees:

- stated that communication was positive among departments, as well as, support and cooperation by other staff members and the administration;
- were aware of the grievance procedures for staff and residents;
- had access to and were familiar with the employee policy manual;
- stated that training was comprehensive and was conducted periodically for each direct care staff and as required for licensure; and
- stated that the strengths of the facility were the care and personal concern staff demonstrated in providing the best possible environment for the residents.

Staff members interviewed were asked about employee morale and behaviors or attitudes that might suggest actual or potential mistreatment of residents. No indications were apparent.

Staff File Reviews

The OJSO reviewed two personnel files. Both were complete and presented no concerns.

Resident File Reviews

The OJSO reviewed the files on five residents; four of the files were of DHS-custody children and one was of a private admittance, all in need of long-term care. Treatment goals, admission information, medical and social histories, consent forms, visitor records, and discharge plans were reviewed. Documentation regarding the DHS-custody children indicated that discharge plans were contingent upon securing placement resources. The other information was easily discernable, well-organized, and complete.

Observational Tour

The facility maintained classrooms with teaching staff who are certified in Special Education. Staff included speech pathologists; occupational, physical, and music therapists; a facility social worker; and medical personnel. The fire suppression system in the kitchen was red-tagged by the Bethany Fire Marshal. An order for a replacement part was documented, and the cooking appliance relative to the red tag was inoperable until the part could be replaced. There were no health or safety concerns indicated.

Summary

No recommendations or concerns regarding health, safety, or program effectiveness were indicated. Staff appeared well-trained, motivated, and committed to maintain a comfortable and caring environment for the residents.

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