

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

Name and Location of Facility: Thunderbird Youth Academy
Alpha Company
Pryor, Oklahoma

Dates of Visit: September 14 and 15, 2006

Oversight Reviewer: Cliff A. Aldridge, Oversight Specialist

Subject: Unannounced Visit for 2006

Date: November 27, 2006

General Information

The Office of Juvenile System Oversight (OJSO) conducted an unannounced visit on September 14 and 15, 2006, to Alpha Company of the Thunderbird Youth Academy (TYA), located in Pryor, Oklahoma. Alpha Company is operated by the Oklahoma Military Department (OMD). The program accepts private placement of youths who are at least sixteen years of age and have dropped out of high school. On the day of the OJSO visit, Alpha Company's census was 140.

Persons Interviewed

- An entry conference with the site director of Alpha Company
- Four direct care staff members
- Seven cadets
- A telephone debriefing was subsequently conducted with the site director of Alpha Company

Documentation Reviewed

- Case records on two residents
- Personnel files of two direct care staff members
- Cadet roster
- Staff schedule for the week of September 10, 2006
- Standard Operating Procedures Manual

Area Toured

- Dining room while the cadets were having lunch

Overview

Interviews

Seven of the residents representing each of the four platoons were interviewed. Overall, the responses were positive about the program and the staff. The four staff members interviewed reported receiving appropriate training and appeared to be familiar with facility policies. No particular concerns were identified from the resident or staff interviews.

Documentation Review

Personnel files and resident case records were reviewed in accordance with established responsibilities of the Standard Operating Procedures in the Oklahoma National Guard Youth Challenge State Plan (Updated July 2005). The two Alpha Company residents' case records and the two personnel files were complete for the items reviewed. No issues were identified from review of documentation.

Summary

The OJSO appreciated the helpfulness of the administration, professional staff, support staff, and the direct care staff with the provision of materials for review and arranging the interviews.

