

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

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

**Date of Visit:** December 13, 2007

**Oversight Reviewer:** Cliff A. Aldridge, Oversight Specialist

**Focus of Visit:** Second Unannounced Visit, 2007

**Date:** February 27, 2008

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### **Introduction**

The Office of Juvenile System Oversight (OJSO) conducted an unannounced visit on December 13, 2007, to Bravo Company, also known as the Thunderbird Regimented Training Program, of the Thunderbird Youth Academy. The purpose of the visit was to conduct routine oversight and to follow-up on a complaint of asbestos contamination in some of the buildings at the Whitaker Education and Training Center (WETC), where the Bravo Company is located.

The Bravo Company operates through a contract between the Oklahoma Military Department (OMD) and the Office of Juvenile Affairs (OJA) to provide residential placements and treatment for OJA-custody juveniles. The facility is licensed for ninety-six residents. On the day of the visit, the census for Bravo Company was twenty-nine male residents.

### **Interviews Conducted**

- Entry interview with the Bravo Company Director, OJA Liaison, Training Specialist, Cadet Commandant, and the Lead Counselor
- Five residents
- Two direct care staff members
- Exit conference with the Bravo Company Director and key administrative staff members

### **Documents Reviewed**

- Case records on two residents
- Training records and personnel files of two direct care staff members
- Roster of the cadets

- Department of Human Services (DHS), Division of Child Care (DCC) inspection reports of August 1 and December 19, 2007
- DHS DCC Residential Child Care Facility License, K8500129
- Oklahoma State Department of Health inspection report of October 26, 2007.
- Department of Labor (DOL), Asbestos Division Consultation/Investigation Form of May 31, 2007
- Various email communications with the DOL Asbestos Division
- Office of the State Fire Marshal inspection report of March 14, 2007
- Summary letter, dated November 20, 2007, of consultative services and recommendation by a licensed dietitian
- Photocopies of the dietitian's dietetic registration and Oklahoma license

### Areas Toured

- Food service area
- Dining hall during the noon meal

### **Findings**

#### Interviews

Five residents were interviewed regarding their participation in program services, treatment by the staff, and residential issues. One resident could not identify anything he liked about the program; although, he had no specific complaints, other than the rigor of the program. Four residents gave positive responses to the interview questions about the staff and the program; although, one of them described inappropriate comments by a platoon sergeant. The staff member and his comments were discussed with the administration in the exit conference. The OJSO was advised that the concern had been communicated to them through a resident grievance and they were addressing the staff member's behavior.

Both staff members interviewed appeared to be familiar with facility policies and reported receiving training in compliance with established requirements. They appeared to be positive about the program.

No concerns were noted from the resident or staff interviews.

#### File Reviews

The case records on two residents were reviewed for compliance with established responsibilities. Both files were complete on the day of the visit for admission and program services documentation requirements.

The personnel files and training records of two staff members were reviewed. One file was complete for all of the items reviewed. The other file did not document first aid and cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) training within ninety days of employment, as

required; however, documentation was provided that the employee was scheduled for the training. Subsequently, the facility sent documentation that the training was completed.

The DHS DCC inspection reports reviewed noted minor physical plant deficiencies and work orders submitted for the corrections on the days of the licensing visits. No significant issues were reported by the fire marshal's office or health department inspection reports. The OJSO has not obtained the OMD Asbestos Management plan for the WETC; however; the DOL has notified the OJSO by email that asbestos abatement activities were conducted in the buildings used by the Bravo Company.

The dining facility was operated by a private contractor and provided food service to the Bravo Company and other OMD programs and personnel on the post. The dietician's letter noted minor errors regarding serving sizes listed on the menu, but compliance with the provision of correct serving sizes. No violations were identified, but a minor recommendation was made for more variety of meats at a given meal.

### Facility Inspection

The residential quarters were not toured, because the residents were being moved on the following day to alternate quarters to allow for asbestos abatement activity in the attic of their quarters. The dining room and the serving line were toured during a noon meal. The items being served appeared to provide sufficient varieties and amounts of nutritious foods. No concerns were identified from the tour.

### **Violation**

1. One of the four training files reviewed did not document that the staff member had received training in first aid and CPR within ninety days of employment, as required by the DHS Residential Child Care Facility standards. The Oklahoma Administrative Code in 340:110-3-153.1, Personnel, (m), Staff training, (3), Training for child care staff, (E), states, "Within 90 days of employment, all child care staff complete training in first aid and cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), including infant and child, if appropriate. Child care staff maintain current training in CPR and first aid thereafter."

### **Summary**

The OJSO appreciated the helpfulness of the administration and staff for providing the materials for review and arranging the interviews.

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