

August 11, 2009

Mark Howard, Director  
United Methodist Children's Home  
1 Mathes Park Drive  
Tahlequah, Oklahoma 74464

RE: Announced Visit, 2009

Dear Mr. Howard:

The Office of Juvenile System Oversight (OJSO) conducted an announced visit at the United Methodist Children's Home, in Tahlequah, on July 22, 2009. The facility is one of several facilities operated by the Oklahoma United Methodist Circle of Care. The facility was licensed by the division of Oklahoma Child Care Services (OCCS) of the Oklahoma Department of Human Services (OKDHS) for ten female residents. The facility is also licensed as a child placing agency in order to operate an independent living program under OAC 340:110-5-115, Independent living. The program serves children in a faith-based environment and provides residential services, educational opportunities, and appropriate lifestyle experiences for the residents. The facility contracted with the OKDHS to provide services to OKDHS custody children.

During the oversight visit, the OJSO spoke with the director, one houseparent, and four residents; reviewed documents and four resident files; and informally toured the campus. No issues or concerns were noted during the visit.

During the exit conference, the OJSO commended the facility on the independent living services being provided to the females age sixteen to eighteen.

A response to this letter is not required. We will wait thirty days before publishing this correspondence on the web page; however, this correspondence has been sent to all appropriate state agencies.

Thank you for your assistance and cooperation in this matter. If you have any questions or comments concerning this correspondence, please call me at 405-606-4900.

Sincerely,

Anthony Kibble, MSW  
Oversight Specialist

AK/LB

c: Donald Batson  
Nancy Long  
Susan Case

