

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

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**Name and Location of Facility:** Willow Springs Boys Ranch  
Chandler, Oklahoma

**Date of Visit:** April 4, 2008

**Oversight Reviewers:** Cliff Aldridge, Oversight Specialist, and Cynethia Rayford, Trainer/Consultant, from the National Resource Center for Youth Services (NRCYS) of the University of Oklahoma

**Focus of Visit:** Routine Announced Visit

**Date:** July 8, 2008

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### **Introduction**

The Office of Juvenile System Oversight (OJSO) made a routine, announced visit to the Willow Springs Boys Ranch (WSBR) on April 4, 2008. The facility opened in October 1998. The WSBR was initially visited by the OJSO on December 16, 2003, and was subsequently visited on September 15, 2005. The facility accepts private placement of males, seven to twelve years of age, at no fee to the guardians. The program is licensed for sixteen residents by the division of Oklahoma Child Care Services (OCCS) of the Department of Human Services (DHS). The focus of the program is primarily residential care for younger males. On the day of the OJSO visit, the census was thirteen.

### **Interviews Conducted**

- Entry interview and an exit conference with the program director
- Four residents
- Two houseparents

### **Documents Reviewed**

- Case records on two residents
- Personnel files of two houseparents
- Office of the Oklahoma State Fire Marshal inspection report of February 15, 2008
- Oklahoma State Department of Health inspection report of March 28, 2007
- DHS OCCS inspection report of January 24, 2008
- OJSO visit reports dated January 28, 2004, and February 24, 2006

## Areas Toured

- Both cottages
- New independent living cottage
- Driving tour of other parts of the ranch featuring ponds, retreat cabins, and a challenge course

## **Findings**

Four of the thirteen residents were interviewed relative to program services and quality-of-life issues. All of the resident responses were positive about the staff and the program. Each of the two cottages was staffed by houseparent couples. One houseparent from each cottage was interviewed. Both demonstrated knowledge regarding facility policies and reported meeting all training requirements. No concerns were identified from the staff or resident interviews.

No issues were identified from the review of resident case records, personnel files, or staff training records. No significant issues were identified from the review of the inspection reports by the Office of the Oklahoma State Fire Marshal or the DHS OCCS. The most recent inspection report by the Oklahoma State Department of Health had been completed slightly more than twelve months prior to this oversight visit.

On the day of the OJSO visit, both cottages were clean, appropriately furnished, and appeared to be well-maintained. Each cottage was spacious and provided indoor recreational equipment. A new building on the property was designed to accommodate independent living services to eighteen-year-old residents who had graduated from the ranch program. The ranch also featured additional program and recreational facilities, such as a gymnasium, ponds, retreat cabins, and developed outdoor recreational areas available to youth groups or other organizations. The additional facilities were also available to the residents.

## **Summary**

On the day of the visit, the Willow Springs Boys Ranch appeared to be operating in compliance with the DHS licensing standards. The OJSO appreciated the helpfulness of the program director in arranging the interviews, providing the necessary materials for review, and conducting the tour of the cottages.

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