

JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMISSION JUVENILE HALLS AND CAMPS INSPECTION REPORT

Please respond to the sections that apply to the facility you are inspecting

Facility Name: Sonoma County Probation Camp

Inspection Date: 1/6/2014

Facility Capacity: 25

Last Inspection: 3/1/2013

Address: 7400 Steve Olson Lane
Forestville, CA 95436

Telephone Number: 707-565-8900

FAX Number: 707-565-8903

Superintendent: Vanessa Fuchs

Staff Interviewed: Giovanni Barbieri
Vanessa Fuchs

Type of Facility: Juvenile Hall Camp Co-Ed?

Presiding Juvenile Court Judge: Ballinger and Hardcastle

Commission Chair: Mary Cone

Telephone No. 707-565-8164

Signature

Commission Inspection Team: Manuel Lopez

Susan Moreno

Major Concerns and Recommendations:

No major concerns.

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AREA REVIEWED: Please Check

QUALITY OF LIFE

- Physical Plant
- Meals/Nutrition
- Mental Health
- Physical/Dental Health
- Religious Services
- Volunter Involvement
- Visiting
- Volunter Involvement
- Other

PROGRAMS

- Education
- Vocation/Employability
- Community Service
- Victim/Gang Awareness
- Substance Abuse
- Other

PERSONS INTERVIEWED

- Minors
- Superintendent
- Medical/Psyche. Staff
- School Staff
- Supervisor
- Child Supervision Staff
(Counselors)
- Food Services Staff
- Other

GENERAL INFORMATION

Has the facility exceeded capacity since the last inspection?

No. Currently the number of youth is 13+1. Capacity is 24.

Does the facility house minors under Section 601 of the Welfare & Institutions Code?

Yes No

If "yes", are 601's separated from 602's?

Not applicable.

Date of Last Fire Drill: 12/8/2013

SINCE THE LAST INSPECTION INDICATE:

Number of Suicides: 0

Number of Attempted Suicides: 0

Number of Deaths From Other Causes: 0

Number of Escapes: 13

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SLEEPING ROOMS (Cells)

Comments:

Two dormitories. Beds were neatly made. Dorm area was clean, organized, and uncluttered. Bedding is changed weekly

LOCAL INSPECTIONS

Fire: No Yes **Date:** 11/19/2012
(Health & Safety Code Section 13146.1)

***Medical/Mental Health:** No Yes **Date:** 11/7/2013

***Environmental Health:** No Yes **Date:** 9/4/2013

***Nutritional Health:** No Yes **Date:** 9/1/2013
(Health & Safety Code Section 101045)

Facility Safety and Security:

STAFFING

Staff To Child Ratio - Awake and Sleeping:

1:12 When awake and 1:12 When sleeping

Communication In Language Minor Can Understand?

Bilingual staff is available.

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STAFFING (Continued)

Diversity of Staff:

Very diverse.

Staff/Minor Interactions:

Interactions are caring and supportive. Always looking to improve and add services that can be beneficial to the youth. Staff is also trying to get parenting classes up and running. Staff has introduced more programs for the youths such as Art classes which started on April 2013. Youths also go on "Wilderness trips". As has been tradition, youths also participate in vocational competitions at the Sonoma/Marin Fair as well as the Sonoma County Fair. Staff give the youths the tools to succeed and are very much willing to work with the youths as needed.

Staff Interviews - Comments:

Good rapport between minors and staff according to staff reports as well as youths interviewed. Youth speak very highly of staff and youths rave about the food and would like to learn how to cook so they can do it for a living. I advised them to speak with Jose and try to get him to make them assistants to him. The youths like learning the art of cooking and baking.

CONDITIONS OF GROUNDS

Lawns, Playing Fields, Blacktop, Asphalt, Other:

Buildings are well maintained. Grounds are well kept. The outside of the buildings is paved with asphalt, which includes the basketball play area that has two basketball hoops. There is a baseball field which is located in the lower area of the campgrounds. Youths are, on occasion, taken to a local area that has a regular baseball diamond. There is also a garden area with raised beds where vegetables are grown to supplement what the kitchen has to offer.

EXTERIOR OF BUILDING

General Condition, Paint, Roof, Drains/Gutters, Other:

The condition of the outside of buildings is very clean and orderly. It appears the buildings are regularly painted and well maintained. The roof seems to be in very good shape with adequate drainage and gutters in good working order. It is evident that Probation Camp staff take pride in assuring that their facilities are kept up to the highest standards.

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INTERIOR OF BUILDING

Walls, Paint, Floors, Drains, Plumbing Fixtures Working, Air Vents, Windows:

Everything is in good shape. Camp obtained a large industrial washing machine and dryer last year and is in good working order. The shower area has been modified since the last inspection from being completely open to now having stalls for more privacy amongst residents while showering. (Residents shower in groups). The walls, paint and floors all look in very good shape and are clean. No plumbing problems; air vents and windows are in good shape.

Are cleaning fluids and chemicals labeled and safely stored?

Locked and in the storage closet.

Weapons Locker Location:

No weapons; staff has pepper spray and handcuffs.

Recreation/Sports Equipment:

All sports equipment is stored in a controlled area. This is not usually a problem. Youths are sometimes taken to play baseball to a local baseball field. There is plenty of recreation time.

Are the hallways clear and doors propped open?

Yes. There are no obstructions that could possibly pose a hazard.

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INTERIOR OF BUILDING (Continued)

Court Holding Area - (If present) Access to drinking water and toilet?

Not applicable

Sleeping Rooms/Dormitories:

Two dormitories/12 beds per dorm
Clean and tidy conditions and well organized and uncluttered.

BEDS - Type? 12" off the floor:

Beds are metal cots with 5-inch mattresses. At least 12 inches off the floor, and floor seems to be pretty clean and uncluttered.

Art, books, personal possessions allowed in sleeping rooms?

Minors have one foot locker which holds approved personal possessions. Too many personal possessions, if left uncontrolled, could pose a fire hazard or lead to rodents.

Graffiti Present?

Graffiti is well controlled. None visible.

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INTERIOR OF BUILDING (Continued)

Ample Blankets?

One blanket on bed and one extra one. There is no real need for more blankets than those provided due to well-controlled temperature by staff.

Study Area:

Minors are able to study on their cots, on benches outside, in the library and in the study area. Residents also have access to three computers that have Word software for their homework assignments as well as other creative writing purposes. There is no internet access.

Adequate Lighting:

Yes. There is ample lighting.

Temperature:

Never below 68 degrees. Very comfortable temperature and not stuffy.

ORIENTATION OF MINORS

Are minors oriented to rules and procedures?

Minors are oriented by caseworkers. They are given a rule book (available also in Spanish). They are required to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the content through a written test as their first program step.

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ORIENTATION OF MINORS (Continued)

Are rules and grievance procedures posted?

Yes. Posted and understood. Residents feel that most staff is approachable if issues need to be discussed to "clear the air" if there was "rude behavior" or conflict between staff and residents. These types of incidents are few and far between.

Are rules and grievance procedures understood by minors?

The grievance procedures are understood by residents and are posted. The telephone number to the Juvenile Justice Commission's hotline is also posted for further assistance if needed.

Minors Interviewed - Comments:

The residents are very polite, well groomed and very helpful. They have regrets about "messaging up" but are grateful to the staff at Camp for all the support they've received from them and for all the skills that have been taught to them. One of the residents who was interviewed was graduating from Camp at the end of the week. Interviewed minors were clear about the rules, grievance procedures, school and work expectations and the step system for earning incentives and furlough time. The combination of work and school is giving them viable skills as they are able to accelerate credit redemption towards a high school diploma or GED. "Camp is a great place to learn a trade and allow you to turn your life around." said one of the residents who likes his teachers and their teaching

MEALS/NUTRITION

Kitchen - Clean; Are Knives and Chemicals Locked?

Staff lock knives when not in use and they are never left unattended. Minors are part of meal preparation and are closely monitored by staff. Chemicals are locked in a secure room.

Have the youths working in the kitchen been trained?

Yes. They are trained by Jose, the chef. They receive orientation and rules before starting. Working in the kitchen is part of a 15-day house assignment duties rotational schedule. Sanitation practices are a must by all kitchen workers. Kitchen workers, including residents, must attend a safety meeting before starting to work every day.

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MEALS/NUTRITION (Continued)

Are meals served or cafeteria style?

Nutritious meals are served and include a salad bar. Fruit at every meal is also available.

Are minors permitted to converse during meals?

Yes, but only to others at their table. There is to be no loud talking from one table to the next, etc.

Are staff present and supervising?

Yes, always. There has to be constant visual supervision.

Is a weekly menu prepared? Is it posted?

Yes. Menus are posted and all meals are prepared in the Camp's commercial kitchen. Accommodations are made for those residents on special diets. A well-stocked salad bar for the evening meal is also available. Ample amounts of fruit are available on the kitchen counter for residents to eat during transition times between vocational training and school sessions. An ample supply of food was available in the pantry and refrigerators.

Are servings ample, nutritious and appetizing?

Jose Lombera, the chef, provides nutritious and diverse meals. Snacks are served mid-morning and mid-afternoon. Fruit is available at all times.

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MEALS/NUTRITION (Continued)

Are weaker youths protected from having food taken from them?

Staff supervise meal times and insure that weaker youths are not taken advantage of or have their food taken by other bigger, stronger minors or bullies.

Length of time allowed to eat:

Minors are afforded at least 30 minutes per meal with 45 minutes for dinner. The allotted meal times are appropriate and sufficient.

PERSONAL APPEARANCE OF MINORS

Appearance?

Clean, appropriately dressed. Clothing is based on "step level." Camp attire consists of jeans and a short-sleeved tan shirt. Clothing worn by residents is clean and absent of stains and grime. All the residents who we saw were well groomed and clean shaven as is protocol.

SHOWERS - Frequency, Privacy Maintained, Supervised by Staff? Any assault by other youths?

No more than four minors are allowed in the shower at a time which is supervised by staff. There is a half-wall for privacy. No assaults. Still, some youths would rather be at home with a completely private shower. Since last inspection, there have been shower stalls installed to provide more privacy for the residents.

CONDITION OF CLOTHING - Does clothing fit? Clothing appropriate to the weather?

Clothing fits and is appropriate for weather conditions. Clothing is clean and absent of stains or grime. Shirts are tucked in and the residents look sharp.

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PROGRAMS

RECREATION - Types and amount each day:

There are at least two hours of recreation per day, including after school and at lunch time. Basketball, baseball, soccer, running, ping pong and calisthenics are offered. The youth look forward to recreation times.

EXERCISE - Daily schedule and amount of time each day:

There is structured physical education from 3:00 to 4:00 p.m. each day. There is extended recreational time on Fridays.

Access to religious services:

Religious services are provided by volunteer spiritual advisors.

Medical/Mental Health Services:

There is a nurse one day a week. This is augmented by a nurse practitioner. Minors are transported to doctor appointments by parents or, in an emergency, by staff. Mental health services are regularly provided by a therapist. Dental services are, if needed, done by the JJC dentist. If dental surgeries are needed then an outside dental surgeon will perform the surgery.

Volunteer Program:

David Ramsey continues to be the volunteer gardner. There are two-to-three spiritual advisors available weekly. Tutors assist students during instructional time. There is a "Friendly Visitors" component established for visiting days.

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PROGRAMS (Continued)

Counseling and Casework:

Each minor is assigned a caseworker who works closely with him. The caseload is approximately five minors. Minors receive regular counseling from their caseworker in addition to the availability of two therapists (one is bilingual).

Family Reunification Planning:

The goal of the entire Camp Program is family reunification and this is the purpose of the furloughs. For those minors who are lucky enough to be in Camp, being away from home has made them appreciate their homes and family lives in addition to learning vocational skills.

Substance Abuse Counseling:

Provided through alcohol and other drug services (AODS). There are weekly meetings which alternate between AA & NA meetings. Staff take up to three youths to community-based NA meetings once a week.

Victim Awareness Classes:

Victim awareness is a big focus of the every-day program at Camp. Each year a four-hour gun violence program is presented with two hours from the District Attorney's Office and two hours from a nurse from the ER at Santa Rosa Memorial Hospital. Each resident must write a victim impact essay. Victim restitution is completed while at Camp.

Gang Awareness Classes:

Yes. This is a requirement to moving up in step levels.

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PROGRAMS (Continued)

Sexual Harassment Classes:

There are no formal classes, but harassment is dealt with both in the educational and Camp Program setting. There is a Sexual Harassment Prevention policy in place and strictly enforced.

Parenting Classes:

Weekly classes are offered. The wives and girlfriends of the residents are very supportive of this program.

Vocational Classes:

Woodworking, welding, electrical, forklift operation and gardening are offered and each minor participates. The youths learn to make picnic tables, benches, planters, display cases, fire rings, bear-proof food storage containers and other products sold to State and County Parks. Minors also learn the basics of cooking and kitchen operations as well as vegetable and ornamental plant gardening. For those minors who want to learn a trade, this is the perfect setting if they take advantage of it.

Community Service:

Minors participate in catering jobs in the community with the chef as well as with the new development of a catering program where minors have day training with the opportunity to learn restaurant etiquette, hospitality, protocol, etc. They are offered jobs at restaurants owned by the facilitator of the restaurant's program. Camp now has weekend work crews which are provided by the Probation Department.

Work Program:

As part of after care, minors are assisted in seeking jobs or volunteering. They are guided in job obtainment skills and job placement that includes collaboration with the Sonoma County Job Link and California Youth Outreach. Weekend work crews are now provided through the Probation Camp. Good work experience.

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PROGRAMS (Continued)

Other:

There are a number of adjunct programs that support minors in becoming self-reflective individuals and responsible citizens. There are regular interactive journaling classes which are offered by Camp staff and also earn the students high school elective credits. Other programs offered include Aggression Replacement Training (ART), parenting classes, "My Strength" (sexual harassment) -- two times a year/ten weeks each -- and one-day sex education class once a year by the Southwest Health Clinic.

DISCIPLINE OF MINORS

Frequency and Type:

Most discipline involves taking points away or talking to a minor. Rules and consequences are well known. As a last resort, a minor may be returned to Juvenile Hall. There are also group consequences such as time outs and freezes (lockdowns) as well as time out on bed or structured activities on Institutional days.

GRIEVANCES

Number and Type:

Grievances average about five to six per week. They usually involve petty disputes and are resolved before they escalate. Very few grievances, especially with low resident numbers.

TELEPHONE

Access:

The phone is restricted and supervised by staff. Minors may receive calls with the permission of the caseworker. The Juvenile Justice Commission phone number is posted.

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CORRESPONDENCE

Postage Free:

Two letters per week are allowed postage free which is helpful to indigent minors who have no money.

INCOMING/OUTGOING - Is mail read?

Mail is scanned for any inappropriate content or other contraband per camp protocol.

Confidential Correspondence:

Minors are allowed confidential correspondence with their lawyers.

VISITING

Adequate space, convenient times or accommodations to parent work schedule, etc. special visits:

Visiting is one hour on Wednesday evenings and one and one-half hours on Saturdays and Sundays. No one aged 13-21 is allowed to visit except for family counseling. Minors who were interviewed welcome family visitors even though they used to not get along before coming to Camp. They learn to appreciate family.

Do staff supervise visits?

Yes. That is protocol.

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VISITING

Adequate privacy during visits?

Yes.

Have all minors had visits? If no, give reasons:

No. Transportation problems exist for some families. As a result, the development of the "Friendly Visitor Program" for those whose families cannot visit was created.

SCHOOL

TEACHERS - Number of full-time; frequency of substitutes:

There is one full-time teacher and two resource specialists. Two algebra volunteers come twice a week.

Number of minors attending school:

All residents attend school until they have passed their GED or received their diploma.

Number of minors in each classroom:

No more than 14 students. Students are divided into morning and afternoon sessions. The other half of their day is in a vocational skills setting.

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SCHOOL (Continued)

Number of minors on independent study:

No one is on independent study. When youths complete the high school diploma/GED program, they work full-time in the vocational skills program.

Atmosphere of Classroom:

Although students were not observed in this setting during this visit, prior visits indicate there is an atmosphere of real learning and mutual respect, thanks to the dedicated staff at Camp. The classroom has been rearranged and there seems to be more room in the classroom now.

Adequate Supplies? Books, paper, computers, etc.

Yes. Camp residents are fortunate to have an ample supply of school supplies including three computers.

Activities and Coursework:

Standard high school required courses with many special activities. With one teacher, students are often working on specific courses toward graduation or the GED individually; however, this teacher also provides direct, whole instruction that includes algebra, hands-on lab science and current events on a weekly basis as well.

Are minors required to do homework?

Students are not required to do homework unless directed to do so by their caseworker. It is, however, in their best interests to ask for homework so the students can form study groups if they want to "catch up."

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SCHOOL (Continued)

Number of minors not attending. Reason?

All youths attend school unless they have their GED or diploma. Post GED or graduation academic endeavors include full-time vocational education activities at the Camp, attending Santa Rosa Junior College and/or continuing in the classroom as a tutor or teaching assistant.

Relationship between school and juvenile hall staff:

Good to excellent according to the residents who were interviewed.

Describe access to school, recreation, exercise and recreation for minors confined to their rooms:

Not applicable

ACCESS TO MEDICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

Nurse visits once a week. If medical attention is needed, they are transported to a doctor by a parent. In emergencies, staff will transport the youth. There are two mental health professionals available; one is bilingual. They can also be transported by parents to therapy sessions off campus.

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Distribution of Juvenile Justice Commission Inspection Reports

Corrections Standards Authority Recommendation

The Corrections Standards Authority recommends commissions prepare and submit an inspection report for each juvenile hall and camp inspected by the commission. We suggest that copies of inspection reports be distributed to the Chief Probation Officer and other pertinent county agencies as directed by the court.

Please submit your annual report to the court and mail a copy to:

**LINDA PENNER, DIRECTOR
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