

Sonoma County Juvenile Justice Commission Group Home Inspection Report

Facility Name:	Children's Village House B
Address:	On file
Phone	On file
Contact Person	Anjana Utarid

J.J.C. Inspector(s)	Richard Miller, James Weathers, and Susan Moreno
Date of Inspection	September 4, 2014
Date of Last Inspection	July 6, 2013
C.C.L. Contact	Pauline Muntzer
Date of Last C.C.L. Inspection	August 27, 2014

**O = Outstanding *S= Satisfactory or exceeds *N.I. = Needs Improvement/corrective*

Action

INSPECTED	O	S	N.I.	Comments
Grounds	x			The outside grounds are in very good order. The gardens appear to be well cared for lending an almost park like atmosphere to the facility. A House has a small garden directly outside its front door cared for by its residents.
Building Exterior		x		The fronts of the residences are in good shape however the fences in the rear of all the houses might benefit from a new coat of paint in the near future.
Living Room		x		<p>The living room is spacious with two large couches and several chairs. The dining area is located between the living room and kitchen and has adequate seating for the residents and staff. The worn out dining table noted in the last evaluation has apparently been replaced.</p> <p>There is a large flat screen TV in the living room atop a cabinet storing books, games and videos. The living room was clean and tidy with ample, sturdy furniture for seating. There was a TV and a supply of CDs, DVDs, and books.</p>

Kitchen		x		The kitchen was clean and well stocked. The unclean conditions noted in the last inspection seem to have been ameliorated. However there was some cooked on residue on some of the stovetop burners. There appears to be adequate dinnerware for the residents and all sharps are kept in a separate locked room. The kitchen was clean and tidy. Ample plates, glasses, utensils, cookware. Sharps are kept in the locked cabinet with the meds – which are kept in the locked office.
Bedrooms		x		Currently B House has a capacity for 6 residents. It currently houses 5. The rooms are well lighted. Resident rooms were neat and clean. Residents can choose their own bedding and decorate their own room and hang posters from the walls. Floors were clear of clutter. As opposed to our last inspection, floor lamps have been added to each bedroom so that residents now have ample light when doing homework or working at their desks.
Bathrooms		x		Bathrooms were clean. No mold or soap scum build up was noticeable in the fixtures. There were no missing tiles or cracked or broken fixtures. Cleaning supplies are locked up.
Fire Safety --Extinguishers		x		There were two fire extinguishers with full charges charged and with current inspection dates placed in the main hallways.
Fire Safety --Smoke Alarms		x		There are smoke alarms in each child's bedroom and emergency lighting in stairwell.
Fire Safety --Evacuation Plan			?	Although there were two evacuation plans posted (one on the first floor and one on the second), they were posted high on the wall much above the eye level of the children. One potential problem is that the doors open inward. In the event of a panic this might represent a problem. Fire drills are conducted every six months.
Food		x		Kitchen refrigerator and kitchen cabinets were adequately stocked. Staff indicated that additional reserves of food frozen, canned and packaged were maintained in the main building. The garage freezer had bread but little meat. Unlike A House, the refrigerator in this house was stocked with an ample supply of fresh milk, fresh vegetables, bread, and eggs. The pantry was fairly well stocked but did not have a supply of food to last for two weeks. There were some canned and dry goods. An abundance of fresh fruit was available on the counter.
Emergency Supplies		x		In addition to the food supplies kept in the individual houses and in the main building each house has a complete first aid kit for minor scrapes and bruises.

Health Services		x		Each child is covered by Medi-cal and Denti-cal. Staff indicated that the facility has established relationships with mental health practitioners to provide needed counseling to some of the students. Dental visits are scheduled every six months. Dental and medical services are provided on an as needed basis. <i>Smiles for a Lifetime</i> provides scholarship funds for braces. CV picks up what isn't covered by <i>Smiles</i> when the dental professional recommends braces.
Medications		x		Medications are stored in a locked cabinet, in a locked closet, in a locked room accessible only by staff. Each child's medical history, prescribed medications, future dental and medical appointments are kept on a computer file and in a binder maintained in the closet. In addition, another copy of the binder is kept in a backpack by the closet in case of emergency evacuation.
Recreation (on site)		x		There were number of bikes, skateboards and scooters in the garage area along with the necessary helmets. Actually more than needed for the children currently in residence in this house. Besides the library books, television and recorded material available there were a number of board games for their use. Art classes are conducted on site in the recreation hall. Although there were no computers in the house, there were several available for the children's use in the Recreation Center.
Outings (off site)		x		Children participate at various school functions as well as organized hikes at the nearby Taylor Regional park. This summer several children attended Owl Camp, an outing held at Rancho Mark West and sponsored by the Land Paths Organization "In Our Own Back Yard (IOOBY). Residents state that they also enjoy going to the movies, swimming and just going to the mall.
Education & Classrooms		x		Children all attend public school. They are transported to their various schools via unmarked vans.
Mail/Phone		x		One landline is available for the children's use while in the house. Cell phones provided when children are offsite on weekends or in evenings
Discipline		x		Rules of behavior are gone over at time child begins residency and are posted on bulletin board. One child interviewed indicated that she had had some privileges suspended when new to the facility but stated that was because this was when she was new and did not fully understand the rules of behavior. She indicated that she thought the rules were fair and evenly applied. Although she indicated the rules are posted on the bulletin board she thought it would be better if each person had their own copy.

Library		x		There was a well-stocked library on the first floor under the television and a smaller library on the second floor. In addition some of the children had a number of books in their own rooms.

ADDITIONAL NOTES

- The children's living area is composed of four quadruplex type houses separated by garages, which are used primarily for storage. Each unit or house has its own unmarked van to provide transportation to and from school as well as other offsite functions for the children.
- Each two story unit is structured similarly with a kitchen, dining area, locked office space for medical records and sharps, another locked storage room for cleaning chemicals, living room, bath room and large bedroom downstairs.
- The second floor contains four bedrooms, a study area, laundry room and bathroom. Each unit has the capacity to house a maximum of six children. All units are similarly furnished but not exactly to the same level.
- In addition to the residence units for the children there is a separate building that houses the administrative offices, a large recreation area, storage areas, and classrooms used for art and music classes.
- In addition to the small garden patches in front of each of the living units there is a large community garden cared for by the residents and staff
- This facility is currently on probation by CCL.

Youth Interviews

TOPICS	O	S	N.I.	Comments
Evaluation of Program		x		Programs seem to vary according to the needs of the individual children. In some cases the goal is the immediate unification of the family in other cases this is not so.
Program Understood		x		The children interviewed seemed to understand their particular situation.
Levels (Privileges)		x		All residents get an allowance. Good behavior is rewarded by additional offsite privileges such as shows, shopping etc.
Grievances		x		Grievance procedures are prominently posted on the bulletin board, as is the Contact information for the Juvenile Justice Commission.
Discipline		x		The disciplinary process is apparently understood and residents interviewed seemed to feel it is fair and administered equitably.

Staff Evaluation			Some staff are easier to talk with than others. At times a child may ask one staff member to intercede on his/her behalf with another counselor. This has apparently worked out well.
Health Services			The facility has made arrangements with "Smiles for Life" to obtain braces for a number of residents and those relatively few children who obtained braces in this way were quite thankful. Routine medical and dental check-ups are scheduled twice a year.
Counseling/Therapy		x	The facility has a special fund for mental health counseling since Medi-cal provides so little in this area. Some counseling is provided through CPI. All counseling is done off site.
Chores & Allowance		x	A list of chores is posted weekly. The amount of the allowance given each child is not dependent on the chores he or she handles.
Laundry		x	Each child brings his/her laundry to the laundry room but the staff administers the detergent, which is kept in a locked room. Older children take a more active part in the laundry process e.g. sorting, transferring to the dryer and folding the laundry when completed. In all cases however staff controls the laundry chemicals. The laundry room was clean and the space behind the washer and dryer appeared to be fairly clean. Cleaning supplies are locked up. Older residents gather and sort their clothes but staff does the laundry. Younger residents help with laundry by doing things that are age-appropriate.
Clothes			There is a considerable amount of donated clothing of good quality available for the children. In addition many bring clothes from home.
Food			The weekly meals menu is posted in the kitchen and appeared to provide for a well-balanced diet. Residents stated that they have a say in the preparation of the weekly menu. They don't always get what they want but do a lot of the time.
Snacks		x	The posted menu also provides for snacks at specific times during the day. In addition a variety of fresh fruit is always available in the kitchen.
School		x	Students attend public school.
Library		x	Each house contains a variety of books in the downstairs living room and in the upstairs hallway. The number and types of books varies from house to house.
Activities & Entertainment		x	The residents indicated a variety of activities and interests such as reading, watching TV, bike riding, hiking in the nearby park, board games etc. The computer is sometimes used to correspond with friends far away.

Money				Each child receives a set allowance. "More would be nice"
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ADDITIONAL NOTES & SUGGESTIONS BY YOUTH

of Youth Interviewed: ___3___

Inspection Summary

- CHILDREN WOULD LIKE THEIR OWN BOOKLET OF RULES

_____ **Annual Inspection**
 Inspection Commissioner

Next Inspection Recommended: _____ **or**

 Mary Cone, Chairperson

cc: Honorable Judge of the Sonoma County Superior Court
 Commissioner of the Juvenile Court
 Probation Department, Chief of Probation
 Sonoma County Family Youth & Children's Services
 State of California, Community Care Licensing
 Facility Inspected