

Sonoma County Juvenile Justice Commission Group Home Inspection Report

Facility Name:	Children's Village House D
Address:	On File
Phone	On File
Contact Person	Anjana Utarid

J.J.C. Inspector(s)	Richard Miller and James Weathers
Date of Inspection	September 10, 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			<p>The grounds are kept in good order with an onsite gardener. Each house has a small area by the front entrance. In some cases this area is planted and cared by the house residents. Due in part to the current drought situation the area in front of D House was bare.</p> <p>In addition to the community garden the grounds contain various areas for recreational activities e.g. volleyball, softball, and playground set.</p>
Building Exterior		x		The exteriors of all houses were clean and the paint in good condition for the most part.
Living Room		x		The living/dining area in House D was well kept. Furniture appeared new or almost new. The dining room table was large enough to accommodate all residents.
Kitchen		x		Kitchen was clean and the conditions of the floors noted in previous reports had been remedied. There is sufficient silver ware and dishes for all residents. Fresh fruit was available on the counters.

Bedrooms		x		As with all units at this facility this house has one large bedroom downstairs and four upstairs for a maximum capacity of six residents, however, currently there are only three teen age girls in residence. Each child decorates his/her own room provided there are no inappropriate posters or other decorations. All bedrooms appeared to have adequate lighting. The lighting deficiencies noted in previous reports appear to have been corrected.
Bathrooms		x		Bathrooms were clean with no mold or soap scum build up. There were no missing tiles or cracked or broken fixtures.
Fire Safety --Extinguishers		x		There were two fire extinguishers in the house. One on the first floor and one on the second. Both fire extinguishers were fully charged and the inspection dates were current.
Fire Safety --Smoke Alarms		x		There were smoke alarms in each child's bedroom as well as the kitchen area. The stairwell had a hard wired emergency lighting fixture.
Fire Safety --Evacuation Plan		x		Policy requires that there be two copies of the evacuation plan posted in each house, one on the first floor and one on the second. However there was no evacuation posted on the second floor in D House. This was brought to the attention of staff and immediately corrected. The evacuation plans are posted at levels so as to be easily read by the residents and the evacuation route clearly marked in color. Policy requires two fire drills each month. Residents indicated that they do have fire drills but didn't really know how often. As in all houses, the exit doors open inward which might result in difficulties in a panic evacuation.
Food		x		The refrigerator compartment was well stocked. The freezer compartment was empty, but the freezer in the garage was full to capacity. There were no outdated leftovers in the refrigerator. Refrigerator contained eggs, milk. Cabinets held a good mix of dry goods, boxes of cereal, and chili. The freezer in the garage held frozen strawberries, bacon, bread.
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. Emergency food supplies were held in a locked cabinet in the garage.
Health Services		x		Each child is covered by Medi-cal and Denti-cal. While Medi-cal coverage is adequate dental coverage is extremely limited. Staff indicated that the facility has established relationships with mental health practitioners to provide needed counseling to some of the students at reduced costs. Dental visits are scheduled every six months. Per the Pre-Inspection report form no mental health services are "provided on site other than peer counseling"

Medications		x		<p>As in all housing units D House medications are kept in a locked room, in a locked closet and in a locked cabinet. Staff indicated that the broken lock on the cabinet had been reported and was awaiting repair. Medication remains behind locked closet door.</p> <p>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.</p>
Recreation (on site)	x			<p>There were number of bikes, skateboards, scooters and one pogo stick in the garage area along with protective headgear. Besides the library books, television and recorded material available there were a number of board games for the residents' use. Art classes are conducted on site in the recreation hall. This house as well the others had various musical instruments available for the resident's use.</p>
Outings (off site)		x		<p>Children participate at various school functions as well as organized hikes at the nearby Taylor Regional park. This summer several children from the various houses 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.</p>
Education & Classrooms		x		<p>All residents attend classes at the public schools in the area. Transportation to and from school is provided by the facility in unmarked vans. In addition art and music classes are conducted on site.</p>
Mail/Phone		x		<p>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</p>
Discipline		x		<p>Rules of behavior are gone over at time child begins residency and are posted on bulletin board. House rules regarding conduct and dress code were posted on the downstairs bulletin board as well as information regarding the Juvenile Justice Commission.</p>
Library		x		<p>There were a significant number of books in the downstairs area as well as upstairs.</p>
ADDITIONAL NOTES				

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		Both the children interviewed seemed to understand their particular situation. Whether they liked it was an entirely different matter.
Levels (Privileges)		x		All residents get an allowance. Good behavior is rewarded by additional offsite privileges such as shows, shopping etc. Both children interviewed agreed they could spend their money on things they wanted like candy, soda.
Grievances		x		Grievance procedures are prominently posted on the bulletin board, as is the contact information for the Juvenile Justice Commission. One child interviewed in another house indicated that several residents had filed a complaint against a particular staff person who was subsequently removed indicating not only understanding of the process but demonstrating that the process worked.
Discipline		x		The disciplinary process appeared to be understood by the residents interviewed. When asked what happens if you misbehave one stated that when that had happened to her she was just confined to her room for the evening that the event occurred, another child stated they would lose things they had earned. They understood they should "act right".
Staff Evaluation		x		Some staff are easier to talk with than others, but neither resident had complaints about any individual staff members.
Health Services		x		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 home were quite thankful. Routine medical and dental check-ups are scheduled twice a year.
Counseling/Therapy				These services are referred out to community clinicians.
Chores & Allowance				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			<p>The laundry room was clean and appliances in good order. Each child brings his/her laundry to the laundry room but the staff administers the detergent, which is kept in a locked room. No cleaning chemicals were in the laundry room.</p> <p>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.</p>
Clothes			<p>There is a considerable amount of donated clothing of good quality available for the children. In addition many bring clothes from home. Neither child had much to say about the clothing.</p>
Food			<p>The weekly meals menu is posted in the kitchen and appeared to provide for a well-balanced diet. One child interviewed that there was always plenty of food at mealtime.</p>
Snacks			<p>A variety of fresh fruit is available in the kitchen and there are scheduled snack times in the mid-morning and mid-afternoon. Additional snacks are kept in the locked room to avoid over eating.</p>
School			<p>Students attend public school. One child commented that she liked the fact that the vans that take them to school are not marked labeling the kids as residents of a group home.</p>
Library			<p>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.</p>
Activities & Entertainment			<p>The residents indicated a variety of activities and interests such as reading, watching TV, bike riding, hiking in the nearby park, board games etc.</p>
Money			<p>Each child receives a set allowance.</p>

ADDITIONAL NOTES & SUGGESTIONS BY YOUTH

of Youth Interviewed: ___1___

None noted.

Inspection Summary

- IMPROVEMENT NOTED IN LIGHTING AROUND DESK IN EACH CHILDS ROOM.
- AREA OF CONCERN IS AVAILABILITY OF MENTAL HEALTH CARE BY LICENSED CLINICIANS ON PREMISES.
- MAKE SURE EACH CHILD HAS AN ORIENTATION BOOKLET

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