

Sonoma County Juvenile Justice Commission Group Home Inspection Report

| | |
|----------------|--|
| Facility Name: | Sierra Girls Center, Crossroads Treatment Center |
| Address: | On File |
| Phone | On File |
| Contact Person | Laurel Anderson |

| | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|
| J.J.C. Inspector(s) | Gina Crozier |
| Date of Inspection | 6/9/2016 |
| Date of Last Inspection | 4/2015 |
| C.C.L. Contact | Pauline Muntzer |
| Date of Last C.C.L. Inspection | 7/17/2015 |

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

Action

| INSPECTED | O | S | N.I. | Comments |
|----------------------------------|---|---|------|---|
| Grounds | | x | | |
| Building Exterior | | x | | |
| Living Room | | x | | Neat. Table covering was dirty, but girls were finishing eating. Recreation room was messy. Girls were reading magazines and had lots of them spread all over. Signs on behavior levels seemed worn, forms were mixed together in a plastic mounded file. Books stacked together on the shelf. The recreation room has a very teenage lived-in feeling, which considering this is summer seemed somewhat appropriate. |
| Kitchen | | x | | Trash needed to be emptied, but also neat. |
| Bedrooms | x | | | Very neat. All beds made. Girls have their own rooms, decorated to their interests. |
| Bathrooms | | x | | Trash not emptied, but clean. |
| Fire Safety --Extinguishers | | x | | |
| Fire Safety --Smoke Alarms | | x | | |
| Fire Safety --Evacuation Plan | | x | | Clearly posted and visible in the hallway. |
| Food | | x | | Freezer and refrigerator full, fruit basket also full. |
| Emergency Supplies | | x | | |
| Health Services | x | | | These seem very good. Full time MFT on site daily; sometimes on weekends as well. |

| | | | | |
|------------------------|--|---|--|--|
| Medications | | x | | No psychotropic drugs. Only melatonin or asthma meds at present. |
| Recreation (on site) | | x | | Girls enjoy gardening, movies on Sunday night. Some girls enjoy cooking with various staff members. |
| Outings (off site) | | x | | We spoke about other things instead. |
| Education & Classrooms | | x | | One girl at the public junior high, two girls at a charter schools. The Career pathways program that was being proposed last year has not happened. There was a discussion about having a mentor program. The women who work with the girls in the garden also act as mentors and may possibly in the future take the girls to various sites to experience an actual work environment. |
| Mail/Phone | | x | | Girls have no problem speaking to family during their allotted time. |
| Discipline | | x | | Two girls complained that it is hard to move to higher levels. However, they also didn't like having rules. |
| Library | | x | | There were many books, but girls say they don't read at all. All the books might not be appropriate for their age level. |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |

ADDITIONAL NOTES

The staff still seems to be in flux. I first spoke to a young man, one of the two that are substitute day staff. He was replaced during the visit by two young women who are also substituting for a woman about to give birth. It appears that there are many people being utilized, but not always a regular routine of staff rotation.

When interviewed, the director feels that she has been more diligent about monitoring staff this year. The staff is replaced when they are not as professional as she would like them to be. The director said that there is ample training for the staff in the discipline styles and goals of the program.

Youth Interviews

| TOPICS | O | S | N.I. | Comments |
|-----------------------|---|---|------|--|
| Evaluation of Program | | x | | One girl (8 months) likes the program, but two girls (both there for shorter periods) want to return to juvenile hall. They said that they liked more attention. When questioned, it appears that the two also have trouble with having more choices to make that allow for misbehavior. They then complained about punishments. Because these girls have been recently disciplined, and constantly asked about their rights, I was hesitant to accept all their comments. |
| Program Understood | | x | | See above. They did understand how the program worked, but didn't like it. |

| | | | | |
|----------------------------|---|---|--|---|
| Levels (Privileges) | | x | | Two of them complained that it was hard to move up to a higher level and get more privileges. One girl admitted she had failed a drug test, but didn't think it was enough to make her stay in a more restricted setting. |
| Grievances | | x | | Two girls constantly asked to whom they could direct their complaints. I told them that they could tell their therapist, the director, their probation officer, or if it was an emergency, 911. The other girl was fine with the program as is. When I asked what the complaints were, they just wanted their "rights." I asked to see a list of those rights, and when they looked for the posted sheet, they could not find the sheet. I told the director about this, as well as the fact that there was only one grievance sheet in a pile of papers. |
| Discipline | | x | | |
| Staff Evaluation | | x | | Some staff seem very popular, others not as much. One was let go because she was mean, the girls said. |
| Health Services | | x | | |
| Counseling/Therapy | x | | | Even though two girls complained that they didn't have enough access to a counselor, they admitted they went every day. They wanted to be able to go if they were upset at any time. They really liked the counselor. The girls said they have daily community meetings. |
| Chores & Allowance | | x | | |
| Laundry | | x | | |
| Clothes | | x | | |
| Food | | x | | |
| Snacks | | x | | |
| School | | x | | |
| Library | | x | | All the girls said they didn't read. They said that they did read when they were in juvenile hall. I asked them why, but they didn't know. |
| Activities & Entertainment | | x | | They seemed satisfied. |
| Money | | x | | |

ADDITIONAL NOTES & SUGGESTIONS BY YOUTH

of Youth Interviewed: _____ 3_

See above comments.

| | |
|--|--|
| | |
| | |
| | |

Inspection Summary

After one year and the changes to laws affecting group living, the girls coming into Sierra have more extensive and recalcitrant behavior. There appears to be more onsite help for the director. She appears to have a very collaborative relationship with the counselor. The counselor seems very well suited for this position. She is actively recruiting family therapy, and works hard to help the girls learn a more effective way to navigate their lives. Even when a girl leaves/runs away, she feels that some work has been done to help the child to remember in the future.

The counselor said however she couldn't begin to address the underlying problems with short stays, because if the trauma is introduced without adequate time to resolve, it will cause the child to be re-traumatized. This is also the advice given to all therapists working with people in trauma.

Gina Crozier _____
Inspection Commissioner

Next Inspection Recommended: December 2016

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

Revised 7/31/14