

Sonoma County Juvenile Justice Commission Facility Inspection Report

Facility Name:	Crossroads-Sierra Girls Center -- Level 12
Address:	On file.
Phone	On file.
Contact Person	Jackie Hardman

J.J.C. Inspector(s)	Jody Edwards and Gayle Ballinger
Date of Inspection	10/16/13
Date of Last Inspection	N/A New Facility
C.C.L. Contact	Pauline Muntzer
Date of Last C.C.L. Inspection	August 19, 2013

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

INSPECTED	S	N.I.	Comments
Grounds	X		The properties are in a rural setting surrounded by forests and trees but just down the road from the Juvenile Hall. They were natural looking but not groomed.
Building Exterior	X		All in good condition
Living Room	X		There is a living room which they stated is not used much but the much more homey and comfortable room is the recreation room with large comfortable chairs, couches a TV, places for games, art supplies, a washer/dryer and an extra refrigerator. The walls were decorated with the phases of the program, information for the girls and their art work/contracts they make weekly.
Kitchen	X		Clean and orderly, supplied well. Knives are locked away.
Bedrooms	X		Two students per room - all very clean and orderly. Girls can decorate a wall and all the girls living there have done that.
Bathrooms	X		Clean, all towels and washcloths are washed daily by the awake night staff.
Fire Safety -Extinguishers -Smoke Alarms -Evac. Plan ?			
Food	X		House has stock of good healthy food and girls liked the food.
Health Services	X		Therapy is provided, dental care is provided through Western Dental and general medical examinations are provided upon intake and as needed.
Medications	X		Binder of medications for each girl was detailed, current and very organized. Secure and locked medicine cabinets.
Recreation (on site)	X		We were told about the schedule which includes some recreation each day. It could be hikes up the road or garden work. The day we were there they were headed off to the garden for some work there.

Outings (off site)	X		They had just been on an offsite visit to Armstrong Woods earlier in the week and we were told they had outings every Saturday and Sunday from 1:00-5:00. This might include a trip to the mall, a picnic at the beach, a hike around Spring Lake or something similar.
Education/ Classrooms	X		There is a classroom on site which we did not have a chance to visit. SCOE provides a teacher only if there is five or more students. Currently they have only 4 students so there is much independent study and little homework. This seems like a problem area.
Mail/Phone	X		All the girls have the right to phone calls based on a "Can Call" list provided by their probation officer. There was an allegation of not being allowed to make a phone call made to CCL on 7/3/13 which was found to be substantiated. We asked about it and the director told us she has filed an appeal because that phone call was to someone not on the "Can Call" list and resulted in the girl calling her pimp to come and get her which did happen and then resulted in an AWOL. The director told us there is also a statute about coming from the perspective of a "Prudent Parent" where noting is to impede you from following the judgment of a prudent parent if it impacts the safety of the child.
INSPECTED	S	N.I.	Comments
Family Contact	X		Visits arranged both at facility and/or at home when they have earned it and when the home situation is safe.
Discipline	X		Discipline fits the circumstances, it's about natural consequences. They require 'recommitment projects' that fit the violation when the girls blow it.
Library			

ADDITIONAL NOTES

The Sierra Girls Center is a Level 12 residential treatment program serving girls on probation aged 12 to 18. It is owned by Crossroads Treatment Centers, Inc. out of Sacramento. It has been operational since March 2013, before that it was the Sierra Youth Center and had been inactive for 2 and ½ years. It provides on-site school and treatment in a family style setting. They are currently licensed for 12 girls but have only 4 residents today of which only one is from Sonoma County. There is another home on the site such that with licensing approval, they could serve up to 18 girls. It is not a locked facility, the girls can walk out if they want to but that would be a violation of their probation.

The program is phase based and designed to turn girls around rather than simply house them. It is an evidence based program, it is structured, it is tangible and results in girls who can be successful in society. They place a strong emphasis on behavior modification using a color coded system. The colors represent a resident's current level of behavior, responsibility and privileges. It is designed to enhance self-esteem, responsibility and motivate residents to move to a different color status offering increase privileges and autonomy. Girls stay an average of 9-12 months before graduation but the minimum is 6 months and the maximum is 18 months. They interview girls in Juvenile hall to determine if they are a match for the program however since March they have discharged 10 girls because they were not ready to work the program.

Youth Interviews

TOPICS	S	N.I.	Comments
Evaluation of Program	X		Both the girls said the program was ok and the staff were ok except for one particular one. They also said they felt safe here.
Counseling/ Therapy			
Physical Education			
Health Services			
School	X		They mentioned the school schedule and had no comments pro or con about it.

Food	X		They liked the food and felt like there was plenty of it. They also liked the cooking they got to do. The day we were there they were all going to be making pesto in the big kitchen at the administrative office and they were looking forward to that.
Snacks			
Library			
Chores			
Money			
Mail / Phone			
Levels (privileges)	X		They felt the yellow phase which said they could have home visits was unclear and confusing because when one of the girls got to yellow, her therapist said she could not have a home visit.
Laundry			
Grievances	X		There were a few things they mentioned that they didn't like. They both mentioned how sometimes (during their menstrual period) they would like to take two showers a day and are not allowed to do that. One of the girls mentioned that you are supposed to be told when you have a minus on the daily expectation sheets and they weren't told. Additionally they would like to make sure that when staff come into their rooms, that they knock before coming in.
Activities & Entertainment			
Program Length Understood	X		The program seemed clear to the girls and the staff seem to be consistent about it.
Staff evaluation	X		They said they staff were ok, but some were new and didn't seem well trained. For example one of them said the staff didn't know if they could use the computer.
Discipline			
Allowance			
Clothes			
Medications			
Drugs/Alcohol			
Probation officer	X		All the girls said they had probation officers. We met one named Marsha McDaniel who described some of the career mentoring work she was trying to do with the girls. This included things like getting them internships with WOW (Worth our Weight), creating job shadowing opportunities, connecting them with Chops and Voices. One of the girls told us Marsha was getting her an opportunity to shadow a cosmetologist because that is what interested her.

ADDITIONAL NOTES & SUGGESTIONS BY YOUTH

of Youth Interviewed: 2

Ages of youth interviewed: N/A

Length of time at this facility: 1) 1 mo. 2) 2 mos.

The interviewees

Inspection Summary

This program has just gotten off the ground within the past 8 months. They have had some turnover and the director professed to be having a steep learning curve even though she has had decades of experience in this area. They are adapting the Crossroads program in a way that makes sense for the facility. When we asked about the issues the girls mentioned the responses from the director and the therapist seemed to make sense and for the one about the confusing colors and the implied automatic home visits, she took a note suggesting she would change the verbiage so it didn't seem so concrete. For several reasons we suggest that the next inspection be some months less than a year. This is because the program is fairly new, we didn't have time to view the education facility, many of the staff are new and we only got to talk to two girls.

_____/S/_____
Jody Edwards, Commissioner

Next Inspection Recommended: _____ or X **Annual Inspection**

_____/S/_____
Hank Mattimore, Chairperson, JJC 10-16-2013
Date

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