

## Sonoma County Juvenile Justice Commission Facility Inspection Report

Facility Name:	Plumfield Ranch
Address:	On File
Phone	On File
Contact Person	Darcee Drakulich

J.J.C. Inspector(s)	Susan Moreno, Mary Cone
Date of Inspection	10/10/2013
Date of Last Inspection	3/2/2012
C.C.L. Contact	Pauline Muntzer
Date of Last C.C.L. Inspection	10/23/2013

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

INSPECTED	S	N.I.	Comments
Grounds	x		Rural setting, vegetable garden in back.
Building Exterior	x		In good condition. Structure appears to be well maintained.
Living Room	x		Comfortable with lots of windows and views of surrounding hills, orchards and vineyards. Comfortable furniture, TV, computer desk. Warm and inviting.
Kitchen	x		Clean! Good direct sunlight from windows in the kitchen and dining area. Trash bins were covered and plastic bag liners were used.
Bedrooms	x		Bedrooms are well kept. Plenty of drawers for clothes and ample closet space. Beds were made, by residents, bedding seemed fresh and cozy.
Bathrooms			
Fire Safety -Extinguishers -Smoke Alarms -Evac. Plan ?	x		Fire extinguishers were up-to-date, several located throughout, all inspected in November 2012. Laminated evacuation plan was posted in the laundry room. Smoke detectors were strategically located.
Food	x		Amazing assortment of dried herbs, cook books, healthy breads. Plenty of milk and juice in fridge and freezer. Fresh fruit out and available to residents when they wish.
Health Services	x		Are taken to doctor or dentist as needed.
Medications	x		Medications were in a locked cabinet. The medication log was well organized and up-to-date.
Recreation (on site)	x		A basketball court is on-site along with a rustic structure used for large gatherings and events/celebrations.

Outings (off site)	x		Outings occur on most weekends. Some are to shop, others to a game or fun activity.
Education/ Classrooms	x		Plumfield Academy is the school for all residents here. It is not on-site.
Mail/Phone	x		Residents receive and send mail. None are opened or screened by staff. Phone use is determined by the courts and use is appropriate to each resident.
<b>INSPECTED</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>N.I.</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Family Contact	x		The courts determine what level of family contact is to be available for each resident. Plumfield staff adheres to those guidelines.
Discipline	x		Residents understand the rules and the discipline protocol. When occasions arise where discipline is required, the residents interviewed stated they were given the opportunity to explain what happened and received feedback on how best to handle that particular type of situation in the future. They felt the disciplinary process was fair.
Library	x		Ample reading materials are available to all residents. Two of the residents interviewed were avid readers and had access to the types of books and reading materials they preferred. They also have the ability to purchase books with their earned money when outings take them to a bookstore.

**ADDITIONAL NOTES**

Plumfield seems to be the ideal group home environment where the residents seem to be respected. All have chores they perform on a daily and weekly basis. Additional chores are done as well. Money is a great motivator and the residents interviewed felt that being paid for their work allowed them to have some level of independence.

When a resident has felt an issue hasn't been satisfactorily addressed by the immediate staff, one resident felt comfortable in escalating issues up to the next level, and if need be, to the Director. This resident felt that discipline was fairly handled. Learning from one's mistakes is a wonderful tool that helps everyone become a better person. This seems to be the philosophy at Plumfield.

One resident who had been in the system for a number of years, and in a number of different facility environments, felt that Plumfield was by far the best facility in terms of resident comfort and fairness.

## Youth Interviews

TOPICS	S	N.I.	Comments
Evaluation of Program	x		Three residents were interviewed. All were highly complementary of the program and its goals.
Counseling/ Therapy	x		Residents were complementary of the on-site counselors and the way in which they interacted with them. When disciplinary action was taken, they felt it was handled fairly and that they received feedback on behavior modification for a better result the next time.
Physical Education	x		The Plumfield Olympics seems to be a very important part of the resident's activities. All had medals they had won hung on their walls. Residents also play catch, use the basketball court in back, and work in the garden. They discovered that planting three artichoke plants close together wasn't a good idea.
Health Services	x		Health services are available when needed. The process of how a resident is observed and handled when not feeling well was described. If a doctor or dentist is required, they are taken to be seen.
School	x		All residents interviewed attended Plumfield Academy. All felt it was a great school and applauded the way in which mistakes in school work were worked on with a teacher or aide.
Food	x		Residents prepare lunch and dinner. They are assisted by staff to help them learn about purchasing the most cost-effective products to use. All raved about the food that the other residents prepared.
Snacks	x		Snacks were available when wanted.
Library	x		Excellent assortment of books and newspapers for reading. Residents also can purchase additional books specific to their liking with their allowance or monies earned.
Chores	x		Residents perform daily and weekly chores including laundry and cooking dinner at least one night a week. Residents are also responsible for kitchen clean-up.
Money	x		Residents earn money for the chores that they are expected to do and additional monies when they do the less-frequently performed chores like dusting baseboards.
Mail / Phone	x		Phone use is determined by the courts and is specific to each resident.
Levels (privileges)	x		Explained by staff and understood by the residents.
Laundry	x		Residents change their bed linens weekly. All residents, in this home, do their own laundry
Grievances	x		The process is understood and residents felt the system was a fair one.
Activities & Entertainment	x		One resident said that they were out doing something each weekend. Residents who are approaching the age when they will be out of the "system" were taken out using the city bus system. This was an educational tool to aide them in reading bus schedules, choosing the correct bus to take to wherever it was they wanted to go.

Program Length Understood	x		Yes.
Staff evaluation	x		High praise for the staff and the way in which they interact with each resident.
Discipline	x		The procedure is explained and understood.
Allowance	x		Residents receive an allowance for chores done at home and jobs at school.
Clothes	x		Clothes are hung in the closet or folded in dresser drawers. Residents wear street clothes. No evidence of gang attire was observed.
Medications	x		Medications and a medication log are housed in a locked cabinet. Meds are administered at regular intervals throughout the day.
Drugs/Alcohol			N/A
Probation officer			N/A

**ADDITIONAL NOTES & SUGGESTIONS BY YOUTH**

# of Youth Interviewed:   3  

Ages of youth interviewed:

Length of time at this facility: 1) \_\_\_\_\_ 2) \_\_\_\_\_ 3) \_\_\_\_\_ 4) \_\_\_\_\_

Almost all the young men in this home, at one time or another, have commented on how fortunate they are to be at Plumfield. Some have been to other group homes or placements and feel lucky to be back.

The young men seem to have formed a family atmosphere, where the older boys help the younger and do it in a very productive and constructive way. It is evident by the pride in their accomplishments with respect to the Plumfield Olympics, which are held every year. They, each, cheer all the others on and encourage the younger ones to do their best.

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## Inspection Summary

This is a stellar group home. At least two social workers have commented the same sentiment. One social worker wishes all the group homes could be of this caliber.

\_\_\_\_ **Susan Moreno/Mary Cone** \_\_\_\_  
Inspection Commissioners

**Next Inspection Recommended:** \_\_\_\_\_ **or**  **X**  **Annual Inspection**  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Hank Mattimore, Chairman  
Juvenile Justice Commission

cc: Honorable Judge of the Sonoma County Superior Court  
Commissioner of the Juvenile Court  
Probation Department, Chief of Probation  
Department of Social Services  
State of California, Community Care Licensing  
Juvenile Probation Director  
Facility Inspected