

Sonoma County Juvenile Justice Commission Group Home Inspection Report

Facility Name:	R House Dorm 2 (boys) -- Speers
Address:	On File
Phone	On File
Contact Person	Sabrina Coyle-Johnson

J.J.C. Inspector(s)	Michael Charpiot, Dennis Ruggiero, Richard Miller
Date of Inspection	02/27/2015
Date of Last Inspection	07/18/2013
C.C.L. Contact	Pauline Muntzer
Date of Last C.C.L. Inspection	

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

Action

INSPECTED	O	S	N.I.	Comments
Grounds			X	The grounds were in decent shape. Some regular trimming, mowing, and maintenance would be an improvement. Several trenches were observed where it appeared that some kind of plumbing repair was being undertaken.
Building Exterior		X		The exterior of the buildings were reasonably well kept.
Living Room		X		The residents seemed to both use and enjoy the living rooms. Furniture was sparse and dated. There was a TV in each living room. Video games of a violent nature were being played in each living room inspected.
Kitchen			X	Stove appeared old. Hood was new. Some fixtures were in need of repair. There was no log on the refrigerator that indicated it was being checked for temperature and functionality. An air conditioning unit appeared to be in need of repair. Knives are kept locked. There was sufficient dinnerware for the number of clients in each dorm. There were a few fresh fruits in bowls on the counter in each kitchen area. Clients stated if they want snacks they could ask. In the main kitchen the dining table was sticky, floor could use cleaning and there was an area near the back door that was being repaired. Spices and sharps were locked and secured. Food was stored in locked closets.

Bedrooms			X	Graffiti was observed in bedroom 3 in dorm two. In dormitory one there were numerous patches made to the sheet rock in the hallway to the bedrooms. Future repairs should include paint over the patches.
Bathrooms			X	Bathrooms in both dormitories are in need of repairs. The commissioners were informed that they are undergoing a remodel. Commissioner Charpiot will return to ensure that these improvements are completed in a timely and satisfactory manner. While repairs are being made, inadequate shower accommodations are present. Bathrooms were in need of cleaning.
Fire Safety --Extinguishers		X		All observed extinguishers were up to date.
Fire Safety --Smoke Alarms			X	Both hard wired and battery operated smoke detectors were observed. Some of the hard wired alarms were missing their protective cages.
Fire Safety --Evacuation Plan			X	Dormitory 1 had lighted exit signs and an evacuation plan. Dormitory 2 had neither of these things. Staff were informed of need for evacuation plan.
Food			X	Santa Rosa City Schools provides breakfast and lunch for the residents. Snacks are available. Peanut butter and jelly sandwiches and fruit are the most common snacks.
Emergency Supplies		X		Earthquake food is stored in the administration building located on Middle Rincon Road.
Health Services		X		Kaiser and Medi-cal provide services to the residents.
Medications		X		Resident medications are kept triple locked. The refrigerator for medicine also has a lock.
Recreation (on site)		X		Basketball, volleyball, and video games are all on site. A resident was observed playing basketball. Several were observed playing video games very enthusiastically.
Outings (off site)		X		Residents attended Sonoma State Basketball games. There was also a planned trip to driven raceway. Local hikes are also an outing.
Education & Classrooms		X		Abraxis charter school is located on the property. Classrooms appeared clean and functional. It operates as a "small necessary school".
Mail/Phone		X		The phone is locked and residents are monitored when they are using the phone.
Discipline		X		Behavior intervention contracts are used. Residents are also involved in the discipline policy.
Library			X	Did not observe. Books in all rooms. Some new books would most likely be appreciated by the residents. It appeared that some rooms had required reading consistent with programming.

--	--	--	--	--

ADDITIONAL NOTES

On the day of the inspection a resident had gone “AWOL”. A residents shoes in dormitory 1 were observed to have red shoelaces. This can sometimes be an indicator of gang affiliation or activity. A Juvenile Justice Commission contact sign was not observed in both dorms. This facility is undergoing a transition to a new owner. The grounds while large and spacious are in need of great repair. Walls are damaged and require painting. Holes exist in walls. Smoke alarms need cages, bathrooms need repair, storage is sparse and areas used for medication are also used for storage of personal and program equipment. Outside bathroom window are piped/barred preventing widows from opening fully and posing a risk for self injury. Staff were made aware of this.

--

Youth Interviews

TOPICS	O	S	N.I.	Comments
Evaluation of Program		X		The residents had no complaints about the program structure. Resident 1 was in a 6 month program and resident #2 was in a 9 month program.
Program Understood		X		They have been there for more than six months and are comfortable with and understand procedures.
Levels (Privileges)		X		
Grievances		X		The residents are aware of the grievance procedures. They can call their probation officer at any time.
Discipline		X		There is a hands off policy. The police are called if there is resistance.
Staff Evaluation		X		The consensus is that the staff respects and cares for the residents. Both residents called the staff “cool”.
Health Services		X		Residents felt their health needs were being met.
Counseling/Therapy		X		They see a counselor once a week. Topics are anger management, accountability and social skills. They also attend group sessions daily after school and are involved in drug and alcohol suppression programs.
Chores & Allowance		X		
Laundry		X		There is a schedule. They have a choice of doing their own with supervision or leaving it outside at night for the counselors to wash and dry for them. Each resident uses different procedures. Both seemed satisfied with the results.
Clothes		X		Residents were well dressed. There also seemed to be room for them to express themselves with their clothing

Food		X	Residents are very satisfied with the weekend food prepared by the staff. The food provided at lunch by the school district during the week was not as plentiful or tasty. One resident stated, “there is too much or not enough”. The district provided meals do meet all dietary requirements.
Snacks		X	If they ask for snacks it is provided. There is always something available.
School	X		The residents were very positive about the school. One mentioned that other schools had a difficult time getting his records making it difficult to prescribe the instruction necessary to complete the proper course work. This is not the case here. The other resident expressed his excitement about making up a significant number missed credits from high school. He hopes to graduate with his class at his original school. The residents felt that there were ample opportunities for students who want to learn. Abraxis School hours are 8 to 3.
Library		X	The residents made no comments about the library either positive or negative.
Activities & Entertainment		X	From the residents’ perspective, there is not enough free time. They did enjoy the off campus activities after school and on weekends. The residents have visitations on Sunday and supervised phone privileges on Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday. Hikes at Annadale seem to be appreciated. The residents would like to see more variety in the outings that they take.
Money		X	The material needs of the students appear to be met

ADDITIONAL NOTES & SUGGESTIONS BY YOUTH

of Youth Interviewed: ___2___

There are two main residential buildings. The buildings are very different in atmosphere and maintenance. One of the residents was moved to the less desirable building to be a “positive role model” for younger residents. He felt he was being penalized for his good behavior. Both residents expressed that sometimes their schedule can be overwhelming. One would like to see more trust placed in the residents. Both residents expressed that they are looking forward to returning to their families. They have a positive vision for their future.

Inspection Summary

Currently R-House is undergoing a merger, which could be the source of some of the areas in need of improvement noted by the commissioners. There are certainly areas that need improvement. These areas will be inspected again in the near future. But overall R-house seems to care for its residents with dignity and respect. Staff and residents were observed to be respectful of each other.

Michael Charpiot

Next Inspection Recommended: July 2015 or

 Annual Inspection
Inspection Commissioner

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