

Sonoma County Juvenile Justice Commission Group Home Inspection Report

Facility Name:	TLC Coast House
Address:	On File
Phone	On File
Contact Person	Andrew Day

J.J.C. Inspector(s)	Jane Person and Michael Charpiot
Date of Inspection	July 21, 2017
Date of Last Inspection	August 3, 2016
C.C.L. Contact	Pauline Muntzer
Date of Last C.C.L. Inspection	January, 2017

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

Action

INSPECTION	O	S	N.I.	Comments (required if "N.I." is checked)
Grounds	X			<p>Coast House boasts a pleasant rural setting.</p> <p>At the rear of the house is a small vegetable garden. Currently staff is constructing a sturdier gate to this garden. The girls may help if they wish but a staff member must be present to protect against injuries. Brush on the property is cut back to prevent fire.</p> <p>Work will be done in near future on the drive leading into the property. Staff would like to have a fence across the front of the property but not the entry. This fence would discourage "lost" drivers from using the driveway for turning around. Certain girls are upset because they think someone is coming for them when cars turn in the drive.</p> <p>Also in the back of the house there is a basketball court that the girls are enjoying this summer.</p> <p>Further out back is a barn that is used for storing emergency supplies and for some meetings. We did not see the inside and might be something to inspect in the future. The property appears to reasonably maintained.</p>
Building Exterior		X		<p>A nice part of the building exterior off the living room is a large wooden deck. A nice view exists from the deck. Chairs and table are available. The table shows paints from crafts that the girls enjoy.</p>
Living Room		X		<p>We visited fairly early in the morning the girls were up and waiting for a breakfast of pancakes and fruit. The girls were all seated comfortably, talking and seeming to be enjoying the space and each other. One of the girls had an early breakfast due to medication needs.</p> <p>There is a treadmill in the room that needs some minor repair. Books were seen on bookshelves in the space. Furniture appears comfortable and in good repair.</p>

Kitchen		X		<p>Staff was preparing breakfast in the large, clean kitchen. There are two refrigerators—both appeared clean and well stocked. There was a basket of appetizing-looking fruit on a counter.</p> <p>We inspected the pantry. Although there was an accumulation of equipment on the floor of the pantry in preparation for a camping trip, it was neatly placed without blocking access. The shelves were stocked with supplies including canned food. The residents also have a BBQ every other week.</p>
Bedrooms		X		<p>The home is licensed for 10 residents. There are five bedrooms on the first floor and five on the second. Two girls volunteered to show us their bedrooms. It was 10 AM and the rooms were neat, beds made, nothing on the floor. In each room there is a bed with bedspread along with other furniture. The rooms are cheerful with good sunlight. One girl commented that her closet was big enough. There are no doors on the closets which is probably by plan. Each girl may decorate her bedroom to her own tastes. One girl had many family pictures on a wall. One girl had medals from sports events. Both bedrooms were in need of painting (looks like tape from pictures may have pulled off some of the paint). This painting is scheduled. There is need for some touch up painting in the other rooms.</p>
Bathrooms		X		<p>One bathroom was inspected. It was clean. However because the house is on well water there is significant staining of the toilet—which is unfortunate but certainly not a result of lack of care.</p>
Fire Safety --Extinguishers		X		<p>Fire department inspection was completed September 2016. One extinguisher in the pantry appeared to be past its inspection date and we would ask that that extinguisher be checked.</p>
Fire Safety --Smoke Alarms		X		<p>Smoke alarms were visible in the hallways and kitchen. The smoke alarms were hard wired. There were also sprinklers present in the facility.</p>
Fire Safety --Evacuation Plan		X		<p>Evacuation plans were in all common areas. An improvement would be to place them in the bedroom hallways as well.</p> <p>A method for exiting the second story if access to the stairway was blocked was not observed. Further attention needs to be given to exit from the second floor if a fire or other emergency.</p>
Food		X		
Emergency Supplies		X		<p>Located in the barn at the back of the property. We were informed that there was a thirty-day supply. This was in addition to the 7 days of “regular” canned food that are located in the pantry. Plenty of water was observed.</p>
Health Services		X		<p>Each resident has a physical within the first month of placement and yearly thereafter. Dr. Oklan sees most residents taking psychotropic medications. Dental care is available.</p>
Medications			X	<p>Medications are kept in a locked office inside a locked cabinet. Additionally a safe secures high-risk medications within the locked cabinet. While the medications are securely locked, the cabinet drawer is in need of repair. It closes with great difficulty and staff has to “man-handle” it in order to close it. Medications were being dispensed while we were there. The procedure was clear to the residents.</p>
Recreation (on site)		X		<p>Crafts are popular with the girls once they get started doing them. The</p>

				large table on the deck shows where some of the crafts are done. One craft project involved creating “tie-dyes” There is a treadmill in the living room that is in need of repair. Also in the living room are the wii game setup, a computer, and bookshelves with books. The girls watch movies on the TV. The staff, to prevent bad memories and or trauma, regulates movie and TV choices. (No reality T.V., no news, etc) Outside, the basketball court is a current favorite. There are also bikes, scooters, and roller blades. A badminton set-up has been purchased but so far the girls have shown little interest.
Outings (off site)	X			Coast House has multiple off-site activities especially during summer. The house has pool passes for two swimming pools. There is rafting on the Russian River and swimming at Memorial Beach. Additionally there are trips to Bolinas, fairs, shopping, and Giants games. There is a camping trip for all three TLC homes later this summer.
Education & Classrooms		X		Most of the residents attend Journey School.
Mail/Phone		X		
Discipline				<p>Every resident receives a handbook upon admission. Discipline is applied with behavioral interventions from least intrusive---non verbal to verbal to time out. Punishment is avoided. When behavior is unacceptable there is an attempt to use short-term logical consequences.</p> <p>Runaways are not a major problem at Coast House because the house is located in the country. When considering potential placements, Coast House offers some safety due to its somewhat remote location for girls who have a history of running away.</p> <p>In each of the TLC houses there is a locked box into which both the residents and staff can anonymously place their concerns. The residential director is the only one who has access to this box.</p>
Library				There are two bookcases in the living room filled with books. The books are appropriate for the interests of the residents.
Current Population of Coast House	N/A	N/A	N/A	<p>There are currently 10 girls in placement. Of the ten, there are no Sonoma County Residents. Nine of the girls are from other SF Bay Counties. The tenth girl is from Los Angeles. 7 of the girls were present when we did the inspection. One of the residents was hospitalized and two were out on overnight passes. The residents are 16 to 18 years of age. Three of the ten are placed through W&I code 300. The majority are placed through the schools.</p> <p>Most of the girls currently at Coast House have been in placements before.</p>

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Average staff ratio is 1 to 3. There is one overnight awake staff. Rotating administrative staff are on call in case of emergency.

YOUTH INTERVIEWS

TOPICS			
Evaluation of Program			The girls interviewed were asked if they would change anything about Coast House's program. One girl thought points to be lame but then gave a justification of why they are helpful.
Program Understood			The residents understood the program and both mentioned that they felt "safe" at the facility.
Levels (Privileges)			Coast house will be undergoing a transition away from points. See below.
Grievances			
Discipline			
Staff Evaluation			
Health Services			
Counseling/Therapy			
Chores & Allowance			
Laundry			
Clothes			
Food			There were a variety of foods with flexibility in the menu. Each resident was able to eliminate their one "worst vegetable" from most menus and were allowed to substitute a different vegetable if the food appeared on a menu.
Snacks			
School			
Library			
Activities & Entertainment			
Money			Residents receive money to shop for clothes and shoes.

ADDITIONAL NOTES & SUGGESTIONS BY YOUTH

of Youth Interviewed: 2

Two girls were informally interview as they showed us their bedrooms. Both girls had volunteered to let us see their rooms. Each of the girls was a recently placed resident. They seemed to have comfortably settled into both their bedrooms and to the program.

One girl complained a little about the use of points as a behavioral tool. She thought it was "lame". But she followed up that comment by supporting the use of points as giving clarity to what is expected.

Inspection Summary

Coast house has a comfortable homey feel to it. There is some minor maintenance needing to be completed—i.e. painting, repair of treadmill and, of most concern, repair of file cabinet housing meds. However, at this time none of these maintenance issues endanger the girls.

It appears that AB 403 may already be changing the population at Coast House as well as its services. The population currently consists primarily of girls placed through Educationally Related Mental Health Services (ERMHS). TLC is also accepting children through AAP and is exploring accepting private referrals. It is of note that no Sonoma County minors are placed at Coast House at this time. It is not known at this time whether AAP is tied to AB 403. Further, TLC is looking at providing services and support to families who are taking on the task of caring for youth with significant emotional trauma and psychological challenges.

TLC was re-accredited through the Joint Commission on Accreditation in June 2016.

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

Jane Person, Inspection Commissioner

Michael Charpiot, Inspection Commissioner

Mary Cone, Chair/Report Review

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 12/2016