

## Sonoma County Juvenile Justice Commission Group Home Inspection Report

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

J.J.C. Inspector(s)	Dennis Ruggiero
Date of Inspection	March 18, 2015
Date of Last Inspection	December 9, 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 well-maintained and ornamented facility is inviting and pleasing to the eye. Fountains, foliage and open space greet the visitor upon arrival. The several acre facility includes sports courts, gardens and places for residents to interact and relax.
Building Exterior	X			The complex is well maintained. A great attention is paid to cleanliness, appearance and detail. The buildings are clean and appear freshly painted.
Living Room		X		The “common” space is clean, well organized and furnished. Entertainment games and interactive materials are available.
Kitchen		X		Kitchen/dining area is clean and orderly. Staff is on site to plan and cook meals.
Bedrooms		X		Bedrooms are of considerable size and comfortably furnished with windows in all rooms. Furniture is adequate and in good condition.
Bathrooms		X		Two residents from adjacent rooms share the clean modern bathrooms. Cleaning is assigned to residents.
Fire Safety --Extinguishers		X		Fire extinguishers in Orchard House are due for yearly inspection in April, 2015.
Fire Safety --Evacuation Plan		X		The building is not large and currently houses seven residents. There are evacuation plans near the exit. They do not have direction on where to go upon exit.
Food				There is plenty of food and residents have free access. The refrigerators are

	X		clean and full. The residents willingly participate in food prep, cooking and cleaning. Breakfast and lunch are pick-up style based on resident's schedules. Dinner is buffet style as a group.
Emergency Supplies		X	Emergency supplies are reviewed and updated annually. Storage is in a separate building for the entire complex.
Health Services		X	Residents have access to medical care through the Occidental health clinic as well as other local hospitals including Sutter, Kaiser and Memorial. Each resident has a physical within one month of intake and annually thereafter. Dental visits are scheduled every 6 months.
Medications		X	The group home staff administer the medications after completing the training and demonstrating their knowledge. An RN performs quality assurance in the form of bi-monthly audits as well as a review of any med errors. While it varies, approximately 60% of the residents are receiving some form of medication. Medications are triple locked and a two-person count is conducted each night. There is a medical coordinator for the house.
Recreation (on site)		X	In door recreation includes pool table, foosball, board games, puzzles, electronic games and books. Basketball, volleyball, bikes are available for outdoor activities.
Outings (off site)	X		Each house has its own van or car, and when appropriate school busses and public transportation are also utilized. With permission, residents are allowed to venture out on their own. There are many field trips provided.
Education & Classrooms		X	Classrooms are well staffed and equipped. Students appear joyful, motivated and engaged working toward a Diploma, GED or the Proficiency Exam. Students have access to vocational training, tutoring, sex education, substance abuse education and smoking cessation.
Mail/Phone		X	Mail and phone use is openly available, but monitored. Some residents have their own cell phones. Restrictions are placed on students who lose the privilege. There is a residential youth line available at all times. Help lines are posted on the general information bulletin board.
Discipline		X	The discipline procedure is progressively based on a hierarchy of interventions beginning with the least intrusive, such as giving a child a non-verbal cue to a verbal cue to a time-out etc. The policy is to avoid punishment. The supervisors attempt to present logical, short-term consequences for unacceptable behavior. There is an emergency behavioral interventions program that has been certified by the State. It is called TLC-IT (TLC Intervention Techniques) and focuses on many ways to intervene with an escalated child without needing to go hands on.
Library		X	There are three bookcases in the common areas. Residents have books in their rooms. Most have library cards.
<b>ADDITIONAL NOTES</b>			

There is a detailed “Orchard House Handbook” for the residents. It clearly outlines policy and procedures.

There is a distinct feeling that the administration and field staff truly care and design a program to meet the needs of each resident in their care.

The physical space and maintenance of the facility is conducive to and supportive of encouraging the residents to maintain a sense of self-respect and dignity.

Orchard House is a facility for older youth. There is more “earned” independence and the focus is on independent living skills. Previous residents have participated in community sports teams and other extra-curricular activities including (but certainly not limited to) karate, dance classes, yoga, horseback riding, singing and/or guitar lessons, as well as signing up for local gym memberships.

## Youth Interviews

TOPICS	O	S	N.I.	Youth Comments
Evaluation of Program		X		The program works if you work with the program. More flexible than other places. The program is very supportive. Teachers and counselors care about the residents. Some of the staff is more therapeutic than the therapists.
Program Understood		X		(#1)Knows how the program works, but does not follow the rules. (#2) It is a “broad based” program and sometimes feels hopeless, but is learning how to be good to myself.
Levels (Privileges)		X		(#2)Earning privileges is rewarding, but it is more difficult going to public school. (#1)It is difficult to earn privileges.
Grievances		X		(#1)Knows how to file a grievance; never does. (#2) Did not know about the process.
Discipline		X		Some get away with a lot. Rules are helpful.
Staff Evaluation	X			Some of the staff provides better counseling than the therapists. They feel the staff is caring and supportive.
Health Services		X		Provided with care by Occidental Clinic and dentist. (#2)Was in the hospital once with a more serious illness.
Counseling/Therapy		X		Individual (weekly) and family (bimonthly) groups are provided. There is also a personality disorder therapist for #1. #2 attends three groups weekly and an art therapy session and enjoys expressing self. Site staff is very helpful.
Chores & Allowance		X		#2 was not aware of the allowance and has an off site employment.
Laundry		X		Expressed no concerns
Clothes		X		When there is a need, residents can ask for clothes. Occasionally staff will review the closet to see if it is a valid need. Residents feel the program is generous with requests. Haircuts are available upon request.
Food		X		The food is good. #1 is very appreciative of the other residents who enjoy cooking for their peers. The meals are tasty and creative.

Snacks		X	Always available
School		X	School on site is respectful and cooperative. #1 is released from after school group meetings to further studies and goal of a diploma. Knows that the school is supportive.
Library		X	#2 loves to read. Has own library and library card.
Activities & Entertainment	X		Beach, shopping, grocery outings. Both were pleased with the quality and quantity of activities provided.
Money		X	#2 not aware of the money earning program.

**ADDITIONAL NOTES & SUGGESTIONS BY YOUTH**

# of Youth Interviewed:          2    

**Inspection Summary**

Well functioning staff and facility.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Inspection**  
Inspection Commissioner

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
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