

Sonoma County Juvenile Justice Commission Group Home Inspection Report

Facility Name:	Victor Treatment Center – Juniper House
Address:	On File
Phone	On File
Contact Person	Kristine Aphuph

J.J.C. Inspector(s)	Gayle Ballinger
Date of Inspection	12/19/17
Date of Last Inspection	11/16/16
C.C.L. Contact	Pauline Muntzer
Date of Last C.C.L. Inspection	July 2016

**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		The property is in a very rural setting. The front of the house has a lawn, parking and a huge basketball area with a freshly painted 4 square game outlined. There is a huge field in the back yard where the boys were running around on when I arrived.
Building Exterior		x		The exterior is clean.
Living Room		x		The living room has a couple of couches and a Christmas tree.
Kitchen		x		Kitchen is clean.
Bedrooms		x		The bedrooms are all clean. Beds are made.
Bathrooms		x		Basic and clean.
Fire Safety --Extinguishers		x		Extinguisher was checked by fire department May 2017.
Fire Safety --Smoke Alarms		x		There are many smoke detectors. Also, carbon monoxide detector installed.
Fire Safety --Evacuation Plan		x		Evacuation plan posted.
Food		x		Refrigerator, freezer and pantry full.
Emergency Supplies		x		Emergency food and other items stored in garage in containers.
Health Services		x		Doctor and dental exams are current.
Medications		x		Medications are locked and logged.
Recreation (on site)		x		30 minutes of recreation are expected each day. There are skateboards, bikes and balls available. Weight lifting equipment and punching bag also

			available. Pablo (Residential Services Supervisor) mentioned that this is not a group of boys that like to exercise. They prefer gaming.
Outings (off site)		x	They have gone camping, hiking and bike riding.
Education & Classrooms		x	The boys attend North Valley
Mail/Phone		x	They are able to send and receive private calls, mail.
Discipline		x	There are around 3 restraints a month at this house.
Library		x	At the school.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Of all the houses at VTC this house seems to take the most abuse. This year the windows were all intact, holes fixed in the sheetrock. There is still one bedroom that needs to have the need for a handyman fairly often. The interior of the house could use a coat of paint, especially the trim. When asked where all of the Christmas decorations were one boy said, "We are going for the minimalist approach." There had been more decorations but they keep ripping them down. Although the cleaning is done routinely, vacuuming and dusting was being done while I was there, the house is not as fresh smelling as the others. The house has a definite man cave feeling to it. The boys seem unaffected by that. Three were interacting on the computer playing a game. Two were outside playing basketball.

YOUTH INTERVIEWS

TOPICS			
Evaluation of Program			The boy I met with said he like the program at VTC.
Program Understood			The boy I met with said he understood his plan.
Levels (Privileges)			Privileges can be taken away. Allowances can be withheld because of bad behavior.
Grievances			He did know the process of how to complain but said he feels comfortable just talking to the staff.
Discipline			He understands the types of punishments.
Staff Evaluation			His favorite thing at Juniper is the staff.
Health Services			He is up to date on his health appointments.
Counseling/Therapy			He gets therapy once a week.
Chores & Allowance			The chores aren't that bad and he gets paid.
Laundry			He washes his laundry once a week.
Clothes			He has plenty of clothes
Food			The food is great. No... there isn't enough (as he pats his stomach) but as you can see I will always want more.
Snacks			There are healthy snacks and fruit available.

School				He goes to North Valley
Library				At school.
Activities & Entertainment				Movies, bike rides, hikes.
Money				I get enough. Not as much as those who have jobs though.

ADDITIONAL NOTES & SUGGESTIONS BY YOUTH

of Youth Interviewed: 1

The young man I spoke to was very energetic. He loves the staff. The food is good. The party after Christmas caroling was the best... so much food.

He asked if I wanted to know why he had a red spot on his forehead. I told him if he was comfortable telling me. He said it was from banging his head against the wall. I asked why he did that and he said he gets annoyed and the only way he can get it out of his system is to bang his head. I asked if he gets restrained when he does that. He said he doesn't because the staff figures that now that he has gone to this extreme he will calm down now for a while. We talked about football players who get hit in the head a lot and that it can have long-term consequences. He agreed and said it would be better if he could bang his head into a pillow.

Inspection Summary

The boys and the staff seem to interact playfully and appropriately. Pablo said the biggest change for their house is more training and more CFT meetings with the boys. The focus on each boy's personal plan is paid attention to more closely.

Gayle Ballinger _____
Annual Inspection
 Inspection Commissioner

Next Inspection Recommended: _____ **or** _____

 Inspection Commissioner

 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