

Sonoma County Juvenile Justice Commission Group Home Inspection Report

Facility Name:	TLC – Orchard House
Address:	On file
Phone	On file
Contact Person	Andy Day

J.J.C. Inspector(s)	Dennis Ruggiero Jane Person
Date of Inspection	March 16, 2016
Date of Last Inspection	March 18, 2015
C.C.L. Contact	Pauline Muntzer
Date of Last C.C.L. Inspection	6/2/2014

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

Action

INSPECTED	O	S	N.I.	Comments
Grounds	X			The several acre well-maintained facility includes two group homes, Journey High School, multipurpose room, counseling offices, administrative building, recreation areas with ample storage for supplies and equipment. Planter boxes being readied for planting.
Building Exterior		X		Well-kept. Maintenance on exterior appears adequate.
Living Room		X		Comfortable, clean, with enough seating for all. TV in living room. There an adjacent “game room” with a smaller TV for videogames, pool table, lifting weights and a closet filled with board games and puzzles.
Kitchen		X		Airy, bright, clean, large. Lots of counter space. Residents help prep food on a rotating schedule. Refrigerator locked due to resident with eating disorder. Lots of fruit available for residents on counter at all times
Bedrooms	X			The building contains 8 bedrooms. Usually each resident has own room with bed and comfortable furnishings. A few residents bring their own linens. Rooms on a whole are neat. A couple were messy but the occupants were having privileges held (privilege freeze) until room cleaned.
Bathrooms		X		Two observed. Neat and clean. Lots of light. Note bathrooms were locked due to a resident having an eating disorder. Staff easily available to unlock door when needed.
Fire Safety --Extinguishers		X		Noticed one in hallway and service is up to date
Fire Safety --Smoke Alarms		X		Smoke alarms were visible on ceilings of all rooms and hallways.

Fire Safety --Evacuation Plan		X	One evacuation plan was seen near an exit. Suggest that an evacuation plan be placed inside door of each resident and in kitchen and living room.
Food		X	Ample food. Refrigerator clean. Each resident has a snack bin which is accessible during the weekend. The residents are able to buy snacks with money they receive either on the basis of the level which they are on or through chores. Residents help in deciding menus.
Emergency Supplies		X	Emergency supplies are reviewed and updated annually. Storage is in a separate building for the entire complex.
Health Services		X	Physical exam provided within one month of placement. Dental exams every 6 months. Designated health staff present—not a nurse but trained—level of training to be determined at next TLC assessment. Therapy and therapeutic groups are available. Each resident sees a therapist at least weekly on an individual basis. A psychiatrist is available and is responsible for medication. There are house meetings. Each evening before dinner there are 10-15 minutes of quiet talking among the residents—a selected topic or recognition of a positive behavior of a resident.
Medications		X	Medications locked with certain drugs (those that could be sold on the street) under double lock. Medications distributed by staff to minor. Minor swallows meds with full glass of water under supervision of staff. It was noticed that the keys for the prescription meds are stored in close proximity to lock box.
Recreation (on site)		X	TV, and additional designated TV for video games, computer (time restrictions), piano, pool table, other games. Gardening. Clubs developed within setting, ie. cooking.
Outings (off site)		X	Most popular outing currently is a three time per week Zumba class. A staff person drives and participates. Trips to mall, movies. Camping trips—one a week long trip for 8 TLC residents (all houses) and other 2 and three day outdoor trips. No resident has off site community employment at this time. Some are working toward community employment at this time.
Education & Classrooms		X	Journey High School on site. Currently there are 12-15 day students (non residential). 23 out of the 30 children in residential care at TLC attend Journey. All of the Journey Students have IEPs. On staff are 5 special ed teachers, 4 instructional aides, 1 counselor. Also the non educational staff includes a clinical team of 5-6. School begins at 8 and is over about 2. School is year round with vacation breaks. Next week is Spring Break. Quality of educational program was not explored.
Mail/Phone		X	There are two phones in the house, one for staff and one for residents. Residents on level 2 may have the opportunity to purchase a personal cell phone for use during scheduled cell phone times or when providing personal transportation.

Discipline		X		Handled in large part by clarity of rules and expectations. Residents receive a handbook at intake. Discipline seems to one in which reward is given for positive behavior. Level Privileges are used with increased privileges based on behavior. "Prop Drops" are used to reward residents. Respectful communication staff to resident and resident to staff when issues need to be discussed for resolution
Library		X		Books on shelves in common living areas.

ADDITIONAL NOTES

Interview of staff: This staff member would like more out-of-doors activities for residents. She also would like to change the names of Level 1, Level 2, and Level 3 to something meaningful but lighter and more cheerful.

Homey and family-like even though residential facility.

There is a pride on the part of staff in this residential program.

Youth Interviews

TOPICS	O	S	N.I.	Comments
Evaluation of Program		x		Female age 15 has been in program 3 months and has reached level 2. She feels safe but wishes she could go for a home visit. Her mother has not responded to staff—only visiting twice in three months. She says she talks to family on the phone.
Program Understood				
Levels (Privileges)				Reached Level 2 today.
Grievances				
Discipline				
Staff Evaluation				Staff generally nice. She thinks there is one staff who writes everything up but says she does it to all the residents.
Health Services				
Counseling/Therapy				Talks to someone weekly. Learning how to talk out problems.
Chores & Allowance				
Laundry				
Clothes				
Food				
Snacks		X		Walked across the street this afternoon with a staff person to get a celebratory donut for reaching Level 2.
School		X		Attends Journey. She guesses she likes it ok.

Library				
Activities & Entertainment		X		Went to the movies and mall. Would like to go off and do stuff by herself.
Money				

ADDITIONAL NOTES & SUGGESTIONS BY YOUTH

Hard to interview 15 year old. Very closed off.

of Youth Interviewed: 2

The 15 year old presented herself as 17 with birthday in February. Wants to graduate from high school. Maybe would like to be a cosmetologist.

The second youth interviewed was a 16 year old female residing at Orchard House for 20 days. She admits to being very stressed out and would like to work on her personal issues and not attend school. She had no issues with her living situation, but would like to return home and be placed on independent study.

Inspection Summary

Excellent program with committed Staff.

Suggestions:

Repair a loose heating vent in the hall ceiling.

Suggest posting evacuation routes at strategic locations—not just near an exit door.

Next Inspection Recommended: _____ or X 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

Revised 7/31/14