

Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Commission San Mateo County, California

Group Home Inspection

Please respond to sections that apply to the facility you are inspecting.

Type or print clearly.

Facility Name: Your House South Date of this Inspection: 8/28/13
Address: 394 Sequoia, Avenue, Redwood City Date of Last Inspection: 7/16/12
Contact Person: Devin Aceret Facility Capacity: 6
Phone Number: (650) 367-9687 Current Population: 2
Presiding Juvenile Court Judge: Susan Etezadi Annual Population: 2-6
Commission Inspection Team: Marianna Klebanov, Pat Bresee

Major Concerns, Observations, and Recommendations

Facility is run by StarVista. Co-ed. Staff comes across as positive with good attitude about helping the kids. There is a strong therapeutic focus to the program and a recognition that many problems are related to the parents of the youth. The therapist believes in family therapy and often brings parents into sessions. Youth cook dinner together with staff every night and participate in meal planning and shopping. Good facility. Recommend new furniture and effects for Rec Room.

Fire Inspection Report: Yes No Date: 5/31/13

Health Department Report: Yes No Date: 7/12/13

Miscellaneous: The above dated 7/12/13 is an HSA Facility Evaluation Report

Areas Reviewed

Quality of Life:

- Physical Plants
- Meals/Nutrition
- Mental Health
- Physical/Dental Health
- Religious Services
- Volunteer Involvement
- Visiting
- Other: _____

Programs:

- Education
- Vocational/Employability
- Community Service
- Individual/Group Counseling
- Substance Abuse
- Other: _____

Persons Interviewed:

- Minors
- Director
- Youth Supervisor/Staff
- Food Services Staff
- Other: Operations direc

General Information

Stated purpose of facility: Therapeutic goal with respect to youth who come from difficult home environments, runaway youth, youth who are potentially homeless.

Type of operating license: Children's group home

License number: 410508685

Most recent licensing inspection: 2 months prior

Rating level: 9

Target population of juveniles: troubled youth

Age range of juveniles: 10-17

Juveniles' home countries: United States, youth of multiple ethnicities

Pre-Plan for Emergencies: Yes No Date of Last Drill: 8/26/13

Comments: disaster drills held once per month

Staffing

Describe staff specialties: Full time on site therapist for youth and parents (MFT), residential counselors, program coordinator, program manager, operations director

Describe staff including numbers, background, ethnicity, language: 8 full time staff and 7 relief staff. Several staff are bilingual including the counselor.

Educational requirements for Staff: Bachelor's in Social Sciences or 2 years related experience

Training provided for staff: Training through Star Vista and 40 hours continuing training

Staff to minor ratio: Awake 1 to 6 min Sleeping 1 to 6 min

How is staff backup handled during grave-yard shift?: on call

Describe staff turnover, including frequency and reason: Core group of permanent staff has been there for 4 to 5 years; more turnover in the relief group

Describe general staff and minor interactions: No observation possible due to low occupancy when we were there; staff report being respectful and caring with minors

Comments: When we visited, the occupancy of youth was only 2. There are generally 4 staff present during the day.

Conditions of Grounds and Building Exterior

Residential building in a nice residential
Give a general description of the property: _____
area, generally good condition and clean, except the rec room, which seemed

unpleasantly run down. nice front and back yards.

Give a general description of the main facility including housekeeping and sanitation:
The house seemed in relatively clean condition overall; the kids have chores;
_____ there are laundry machines in the rec room. chores and organizational notes are
_____ posted throughout the house, especially in the kitchen.

Lawns: Acceptable Unacceptable: _____

Playing Fields: Acceptable Unacceptable: _____ acceptable though small

Blacktop: Acceptable Unacceptable: _____

Paint: Acceptable Unacceptable: _____

Roof: Acceptable Unacceptable: _____ trying to get a grant to replace

Drains and Gutters: Acceptable Unacceptable: _____

General Appearance: Acceptable Unacceptable: _____

Condition of Interior of Building

Walls: Acceptable Unacceptable: _____

Paint: Acceptable Unacceptable: _____

Floors: Acceptable Unacceptable: _____

Ceilings: Acceptable Unacceptable: _____

Drains: Acceptable Unacceptable: _____

Plumbing Fixtures: Acceptable Unacceptable: _____ just changed

Air Vents/Heating/Windows: Acceptable Unacceptable: _____

Smoke Alarms: Acceptable Unacceptable: _____ checked once per month

Storage of Cleaning Fluids/Chemicals: Acceptable Unacceptable: _____ locked up

Recreation/Sports Equipment: Acceptable Unacceptable: _____

Hallways Clear/Doors Propped Open: Acceptable Unacceptable: _____

Sleeping Rooms: Acceptable Unacceptable: _____

Beds: Acceptable Unacceptable: _____

Art, Books, Personal Items Allowed in Rooms: Acceptable Unacceptable: _____
painted over if occurs

Graffiti Present: Acceptable Unacceptable: _____

Ample Blankets: Acceptable Unacceptable: _____
double blankets

Study Area: Acceptable Unacceptable: _____
desks in rooms and tables

Adequate Lighting: Acceptable Unacceptable: _____

Temperature: Acceptable Unacceptable: _____
68-85; A/C available

Orientation of Minors

What is in intake process for the facility? Explanation of house rules, rule book,
youth sign off on understanding rules; turn in electronics including cell phones

Are minors oriented to the house rules and procedures?: Yes No Explain: rules
explained; rule book available in front area

Are house rules and grievance procedures posted?: Yes No Explain: _____

What is in place to ensure that these rules and procedures are understood by minors?: read to
them, posted, and rule book available

Are clothing and possessions inventoried on arrival and departure?: Yes No

How are juvenile's clothing and possessions protected or stored?: 2 drawers and hanging
space in room; cell phones, laptops, video games locked up with some use in evening

Interviewed Minors: Yes No Details: Occupancy was 2. One youth was in school; one
was sleeping in because her school had not started yet.

Meals/Nutrition

Kitchen: Acceptable Unacceptable: _____

cook together

Do the youth share in preparation of meals?: Yes No Details: _____

Are meals served family style?: Yes No Details: _____

Are minors permitted to converse during meals?: Yes No Details: _____

Are staff present and supervising during meals?: Yes No Details: _____

including ingredients for cooking

Are weekly menus posted?: Yes No Details: _____

per staff report

Are servings ample, nutritious, appetizing?: Yes No Details: _____

not an issue

Weaker minors protected from having food taken from them?: Yes No Details: _____

per staff since staff is always there

Are snacks and beverages available?: Yes No Details: _____

program director selects balanced meals/food

How do you meet special nutritional needs?: _____

no limit

Length of time allowed to eat?: _____

Mealtimes (no more than 4 hours between meals, breakfast to dinner, without a snack)

Breakfast: not set Lunch: not set Dinner: 5 to 6:45

Comments: The youth fix their own breakfast and lunch using the food in the refrigerator

and cabinets. Dinner is scheduled and includes cooking together, eating together, and

talking about their day.

Personal Appearance of Minors

Appearance: Acceptable Unacceptable: _____

per staff report

Showers (frequency, privacy, supervised): Acceptable Unacceptable: _____

Condition of clothing (clean, fit, etc.): Acceptable Unacceptable: _____

Clothing appropriate to current weather: Acceptable Unacceptable: _____

Due to occupancy and school issues, we did not observe the minors

Comments: _____

directly and are reporting based on staff responses

Programs

- Recreation (type, amount, etc.): Acceptable Unacceptable: basketball, soccer, events
- Exercise (daily schedule, amount, etc.): Acceptable Unacceptable: gym, YMCA
- Access to Religious Services: Acceptable Unacceptable: youth can go
- Access to Medical Services: Acceptable Unacceptable: liase with med staff and parents
- Access to Mental Health Services: Acceptable Unacceptable: MFT on site; therapy for all
- Individual Counseling: Acceptable Unacceptable: all get therapy
- Group Counseling: Acceptable Unacceptable: psychoeducation groups on various topics
- Substance Abuse Counseling: Acceptable Unacceptable:
- Victim Awareness Classes: Acceptable Unacceptable:
- Gang Awareness Classes: Yes No Details: not for youth
- Sexual Harassment Classes: Yes No Details:
- Parenting Classes: Yes No Details:
- Vocational Classes: Yes No Details: referrals
- Work Program: Yes No Details: youth can work; program encourages resume building

Other: The youth appear to have ample opportunities for effective programming with a strong focus on therapy. They play basketball and soccer on site, get gym passes and go to YMCA, and engage in psychoeducation classes which cover many social and relational topics.

Discipline of Minors

Describe the discipline process of minors: There is a 6 level system. Based on positive and negative behaviors, such as doing chores, attitude, etc., the youth can gain and lose points. Higher level means more privileges. Extra point opportunities available.

Comments: The system seems fair and positive, and the staff attitude toward the youth seems focused on therapeutic needs and not at all punitive (based on our conversations with staff).

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Grievances

Grievance Process: Acceptable Unacceptable: There are grievance forms; youth can speak to staff. If unsatisfied, they can speak to program manager. Focus is generally on talking things out and mediation.

Number of grievances this year: 1-2

Trends and/or Comments:

Correspondence / Telephone

Access US Mail?: Yes No Details: stamps available
Postage Free?: Yes No Details: not screened
Incoming/Outgoing Mail (Screened? Confidential?): Yes No Details: parent/PO/SW anytime; others based on level
Access to Telephone?: Yes No Details:

Visiting

Visiting Schedule: Weekdays 3-5pm Weekends lenient Special Events
Do all minors have access to visitation?: Yes No Details: parents and others, including friends can visit
Under what circumstances would visitation be restricted?: Court order, therapeutic or legal issues; general reasonableness.

Are visitation logs kept?: Yes No Details:
Adequate Space: Acceptable Unacceptable:
Staff Supervision: Acceptable Unacceptable: to a degree if appropriate
Privacy Provided: Yes No Details:
Games or Activities Provided: Yes No Details:

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School

List the schools your residents attend: Sequoia, Woodside, San Mateo High - mostly

How is transportation to school provided?: Seek rides from parents or other relatives;
otherwise, public transportation; no staff transport available

Are students able to participate in school-based extra curricular activities?: yes. limits only when
they are far too time consuming or interfering with therapeutic goals of program

Is tutoring available?: through staff and county ILP for long-term clients

Adequate Supplies, Books, Paper, Computer?: yes

Access to Computers/Internet?: Yes No How is this managed?: sites restricted

Describe the relationship between school and staff: Staff member liases with school staff

Comments: _____
