



**PLACER COUNTY JUVENILE JUSTICE
DELINQUENCY PREVENTION COMMISSION
ANNUAL INSPECTION REPORT**

2012

Welfare & Institutions Code Section 229.5

(a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a juvenile justice commission may inquire into the operation of any group home that serves wards or dependent children of the juvenile court and is located in the county or region the commission serves. The commission may review the safety and well-being of wards or dependent children placed in the group home and the program and services provided in relation to the home's published program statement.

(b) In conducting its review, the commission shall respect the confidentiality of minors' records and other information protected under other provisions of law. It may review court or case records of a child provided it keeps the identities of minors named in those records confidential, and may review the financial records of a group home. However, the commission may not review the personnel records of employees or the records of donors to the group home.

(c) The commission shall give the group home manager at least 24 hours' advance notice of a visit to a group home. If the commission believes that there is a serious violation of applicable licensing laws or regulations or that residents of a group home are in danger of physical or mental abuse, abandonment or other substantial threat to their health and safety, the commission shall notify the Community Care Licensing Division of the State Department of Social Services for appropriate action, shall consult with the presiding judge of the juvenile court and chief probation officer as to whether or not a visit is appropriate, and shall notify other juvenile justice commissions of its actions, as appropriate.

(d) Upon the completion of a visit, if the commission finds any condition in the group home that poses a danger to its residents or otherwise violates any applicable law, ordinance, or regulation, the commission shall verbally advise the group home manager of its findings, unless it determines that the advisement could be detrimental to the children placed there, and shall send written confirmation of its findings to the group home manager within 14 days. The commission may also report its findings to the presiding judge of the juvenile court, chief probation officer, State Department of Social Services, or other juvenile justice commissions as appropriate. A group home manager may meet with the juvenile justice commission, chief probation officer, county welfare director, juvenile court, or the State Department of Social Services to resolve any problem or to submit a plan of correction.

Facility: Koinonia Group Home #4

Address: 8200 King Road, Loomis, CA

Phone Number: (916) 652-0516

Department Chief: Bill Ryland

Staff Interviewed: Justin La Casse

Date of Inspection: 06/08/2012

Juvenile Justice Commission Inspection Team:

Monique Molina, Lead
Diane Shinstock

Supervising Juvenile Court Judge: Hon. Colleen Nichols

Staffing Ratio: **juveniles/****staff awake 6/2+
 juveniles/** staff asleep 6/1

Number of suicides: 0

Number of assaults: 0

Number of runaways: 2 (one from home; one from school)

GENERAL

Does the facility house juveniles under 601 of the W&I Code?	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Does the facility house juveniles under 602 of the W&I Code?	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
Are 601's and 602's separated? N/A	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
Are males kept separate from females? (separate houses)	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>

INTERIOR

Are sleeping rooms adequate and clean?	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
Is the interior of the house clean?	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
Were walls, paint, drains, plumbing, vents, windows, etc... in good working condition?	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
Are cleaning fluids and chemicals labeled and safely stored?	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
Are recreational equipment and sporting equipment in good order?	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
Are the hallways kept clear and uncluttered?	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
Are personal possessions allowed in sleeping rooms?	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
Is there any graffiti present?	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Is a study area available for residence?	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
Is there adequate lighting in the facility?	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
Does the facility maintain an adequate temperature during seasons?	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>

EXTERIOR

Are outdoor common areas well maintained?	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
Are any outdoor areas in disrepair?	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

MEALS/NUTRITION

Is the kitchen clean?	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
Is staff present and supervising during meals?	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
Is a weekly menu prepared and posted?	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
Are the meals served cafeteria style? (Family Style)	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

PROGRAMS

Are minors allowed ample time for recreation of any kind?	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
Do all minors exercise daily?	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
Do minors have access to religious services?	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
Are Medical/Mental Health Services available to minors?	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
Is there counseling available to the minors?	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
Is there a family reunification plan in place for minors?	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
Is there substance Abuse counseling available for minors?	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
Are there parenting classes available?	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
Are there any vocational classes available?	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>

GRIEVANCE POLICY

Are all minors oriented to the rules and procedures?	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
Are rules and grievance procedures posted and visible to minors?	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
Is there a consistent and fair discipline plan in place?	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>

COMMUNICATION

Do minors have access to phones?	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
Are minors given free postage for their correspondence?	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
Is incoming and outgoing mail read by staff? (Scanned for drugs)	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
Are accommodations made for visitation?	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
Does staff supervise visits?	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>

Commissioners Observations:

Are the minors in a good state of appearance?	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
Do they appear to shower regularly and in proper hygiene?	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
Is clothing appropriate and in good condition?	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
Did the minors interviewed feel they had an opportunity to express their concerns or issues with the staff?	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
Was a minor interviewed prior to or before the inspection?	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Were any issues raised during the minor interview?	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>

Commissioners Narrative:

During this inspection, two youth were interviewed. Youth A had never been in a group home previously, youth B had been in several. Youth A indicated that the rules were initially a shock, but he figured this was his last chance, and that he believes they are fair and consistent. Youth B has had issues with the rules and in fact, has received multiple consequences and thought the rules were unnecessary at times. Youth A appeared somewhat reserved in his responses offering little dialogue aside from a direct answer, yet was very close to graduating the program and returning home. Youth B spoke for quite a while about his struggles with the home and rules and appeared to be having trouble advancing in the levels. Both indicated the home was comfortable, bedding and food was more than reasonable, and both knew the grievance policies and procedures. Both youth were from counties other than Placer. Youth B had indicated he believed the consequences were often unfair and unjust citing examples of hours of yard work. He claimed he was unjustly punished for an incident he didn't see as a "very big deal". Since this raised some concerns for the inspection team, a second interview was scheduled with the House Supervisor and the Executive Director of the homes. Also present for this second interview was Sam Stodolski, Chairman of the Juvenile Justice Commission. Inquires were made into these allegations and after a thorough question and answer session, it was learned that the circumstances of the incident which resulted in consequences were much more serious than stated by the youth. No grievance or complaint by Youth B was ever filed.

Koinonia has developed some very creative methods in imposing consequences that are ultimately designed to shape behavior and teach. For example, there are typically several steps to a consequence, not just hours of manual labor. The consequence will depend upon the offense and may result in two hours of manual labor, a one-on-one counseling session with staff, and a two-page essay, for example. These numbers vary and the youth can also work to have the numbers reduced if their behavior improves. It was also learned that the peers of the youth in question also help craft the consequences.

Staff interviewed indicated satisfaction with employment citing the reputation of the company, watching the kids grow and the family dynamics of the home were the best part of the job. Although rarely reported, not enough staff coverage was the only drawback. Conflict resolution was reported as a more effective means of problem solving than formal grievances. Lastly, there is a great concern for the rules and consequences for breaking them. One youth reported that he had taken a couple of plain shirts to wear from a donation pile that Koinonia was getting ready to dispose of. When the staff found that out, they cited that as "theft" and asked the youth to do

excessive yard work for an entire day. With this, our concern is whether these punishments interfere with the youth's priorities in which he can graduate the program, such as getting a job or doing well in school, as well as addressing what are necessary forms of punishment, if any, for those kind of "offenses".

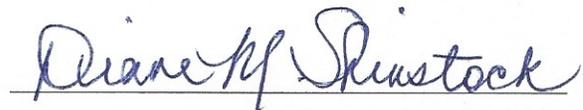
The home is currently partnering with the United Way who is establishing Individual Development Accounts for each youth. This program offers financial education on saving, budgeting and other financial topics and provides a generous saving account for each of the residents upon completion of the program. They recently remodeled the kitchen thanks to grant funding from HerbaLife. All bedrooms are "themed", there is a positive peer culture and the resident leader makes many of the decisions for all the youth in the house.

All in all, this appears to be a good program in assisting young people with significant substance abuse problems. There appeared to be a disproportionate number of youth from distant counties than youth from Placer County. Since family involvement is a vital part of recovery and ongoing sobriety after completion, it is recommended that Koinonia's programs be considered as a first choice for Placer County youth whenever possible.

The Juvenile Justice/Delinquency Prevention Commission of Placer County finds that Koinonia Group Home #4 is in compliance with California State Licensing Regulations.

Inspection Report completed by Commissioner: Diane Shinstock

On this date: October 5, 2012



Signed
