



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

2015

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: Loomis, CA

Koinonia Administrative Offices:

P.O. Box 1403

5980 Webb Street

Loomis, CA 95650

Phone Number: (916) 652-0171

Department Chief: Bill Ryland

Staff Interviewed: Justin LaCasse, Facility Supervisor

Date of Inspection: April 23, 2015

Juvenile Justice Commission Inspection Team:

Grady Pennington, Lead

Olivia Buller

Supervising Juvenile Court Judge: Hon. Colleen Nichols

MEALS/NUTRITION

Is the kitchen clean?	YES [X]	NO []
Is staff present and supervising during meals?	YES [X]	NO []
Is a weekly menu prepared and posted?	YES [X]	NO []
Are the meals served cafeteria style?	YES [X]	NO []

PROGRAMS

Are minors allowed ample time for recreation of any kind?	YES [X]	NO [
Do all minors exercise daily?	YES [X]	NO []
Do minors have access to religious services?	YES [X]	NO []
Are Medical/Mental Health Services available to minors?	YES [X]	NO []
Is there counseling available to the minors?	YES [X]	NO []
Is there a family reunification plan in place for minors?	YES [X]	NO []
Is there substance Abuse counseling available for minors?	YES [X]	NO []
Are there parenting classes available?	YES [X]	NO []
Are there any vocational classes available?	YES [X]	NO []

GRIEVANCE POLICY

Are all minors oriented to the rules and procedures?	YES [X]	NO []
Are rules and grievance procedures posted and visible to minors?	YES [X]	NO []
Is there a consistent and fair discipline plan in place?	YES [X]	NO []

COMMUNICATION

Do minors have access to phones?	YES [X]	NO []
Are minors given free postage for their correspondence?	YES [X]	NO []
Is incoming and outgoing mail read by staff?	YES []	NO [X]
Are accommodations made for visitation?	YES [X]	NO []
Does staff supervise visits?	YES [X]	NO []

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 type="checkbox"/>	NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Commissioners Narrative:

The Juvenile Justice/Delinquency Prevention Commission of Placer County finds that Koinonia Group Home #4 is in compliance with California State Licensing Regulations. Home #4 is set in rural Loomis. The inspection team found this home in good repair. There is ample space for clients to feel safe and comfortable including significant acreage around the home. It is a six bed, boys-only home that provides substance abuse treatment for teenage boys. Two boys share each of the three resident bedrooms that were clean and tidy. There was an abundance of food stored in multiple locations throughout the home.

There is a clearly defined phase system that gives the residents opportunities to earn greater privileges and responsibilities through 1) Acceptance 2) Self-Control and 3) Giving Back to others. There is a tiered grievance procedure that is clearly defined and known to the residents. The agency receives significant participation and donations from community members and charities. The United Way, the Biletnikoff Foundation, Placer County Agencies and Medicare's Drug Medical Clinic services provide broad support towards successful client treatment. The agency offers a teaching culinary kitchen, various workshops, art programs, equine therapy and has much support from various community agencies.

The Inspectors determined through the interview of two minor residents that dinner provides a relaxed atmosphere to discuss issues informally with staff. Staff are present at visits, but do not directly supervise the visit. Both youth expressed very positive feelings about their experience at the home. The Minor's Interview revealed an accepted phase system that provides structure

and a sense of fairness in the home's community. Both youths interviewed were very positive about the programs and activities provided. Both youths were well groomed, and in clean clothing. Neither reported having any negative interactions with staff at the house.

We were also able to interview the Facility Supervisor, Justin LaCasse. He has worked at Koinonia for fourteen years and continues to be enthusiastic and caring for the youths in his charge. He is committed to the program and expressed that his qualities of flexibility, sensitivity, yet clearly defining his role as the Facilities Supervisor makes him an effective counselor. Within the phase system structure are abundant opportunities for activities throughout the day including school, drug treatment classes, and many recreational opportunities at home and in the community. This group home has meet all the regulatory requirements, including the Fire Inspection with the appropriate postings, and items such as chemicals and cleaning agents under lock and key.

In summary, Koinonia House #4 is operated well with a dedicated staff. The youths in residence continue to have positive comments on how the program is helping them. There were no negative comments or issues found during the house inspection of April 23, 2015.

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

Inspection Report completed by Commissioner: **Grady Pennington**

On this date: **4/23/2015**

G. L. Pennington

Signed
