



Placer County Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention Commission Annual Inspection Report

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 House #4

Date of Inspection:

Juvenile Justice Commission Inspection Team:

Baljit Atwal

Supervising Juvenile Court Judge: Hon. Colleen Nichols

Staffing Ratio: 6 juveniles/ 2 staff awake
 6 juveniles/ 2 staff asleep

Number of suicides: 0

Number of assaults: 1

Number of runaways: 6

GENERAL

Does the facility house juveniles under 601 of the W&I Code? YES NO

Does the facility house juveniles under 602 of the W&I Code? YES NO

Are 601's and 602's separated? YES NO

Are males kept separate from females? YES NO

INTERIOR

Are sleeping rooms adequate and clean? YES NO

Is the interior of the house clean? YES NO

Were walls, paint, drains, plumbing, vents, windows, etc... in good working condition? YES NO

Are cleaning fluids and chemicals labeled and safely stored? YES NO

Are recreational equipment and sporting equipment in good order? YES NO

Are the hallways kept clear and uncluttered? YES NO

Are personal possessions allowed in sleeping rooms? YES NO

Is there any graffiti present? YES NO

Is a study area available for residence? YES NO

Is there adequate lighting in the facility? YES NO

Does the facility maintain an adequate temperature during seasons? YES NO

EXTERIOR

Are outdoor common areas well maintained? YES NO

Are any outdoor areas in disrepair? YES NO

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?	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?	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Are accommodations made for visitation?	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
Does staff supervise visits?	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Commissioners Observations:

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

Commissioners Narrative:

The Juvenile Justice Commission’s inspection of Koinonia Group Home #4 found that the house was well maintained and complied with all licensure requirements. In addition to being neat and organized, the facility managed to adopt a welcoming and homely atmosphere rather than a clinical one. The home is primarily focused on treating those who suffer from substance abuse, and typically houses 6 boys. As the minors go through the program they shift their paradigm from addiction to sobriety. Residents are expected to take on peer leadership roles as they progress through the program. This house appears to have a stable treatment team and a quality program, which appears to be effective.

There was one incident where three minors assaulted one staff member and all ran away. In response, Koinonia has increased staff levels to two at all times, increased staff training, and installed internal security cameras. These changes were made system wide at all Koinonia locations.

Two minors were interviewed. Minor A had extensive experience in the program and was a peer leader to new residents. Minor B was new to the program and had only been there for a few months. Both minors indicated that they could go to staff to address conflicts, solve problems, and make decisions. For example, one of the minors had considered running away, but did not after a conversation with staff. Both complained about how minor infractions resulted in disproportionately severe consequences. Both also wanted more input into menu planning. In general, the commission would urge the program to increase autonomy for the minors for issues where safety and treatment are not a concern.

The commission was impressed with the staff, particularly the facility administrator, and their commitment to the program and the minors, as well as the low rate of staff turnover. Koinonia appears to have effective policies for recruiting and retaining quality staffing.

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

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