



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 Group Home 1

Executive Director: Bill Ryland

Staff Interviewed: Andy Palmer

Date of Inspection: 6/8/18

Juvenile Justice Commission Inspection Team: Baljit Atwal and Carina Lim

Supervising Juvenile Court Judge: Hon. Colleen Nichols

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

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 NO
 Is staff present and supervising during meals? YES NO
 Is a weekly menu prepared and posted? YES NO
 Are the meals served cafeteria style? YES 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 []	NO [x]
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 []	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 []	NO []
Is incoming and outgoing mail read by staff?	YES []	NO []
Are accommodations made for visitation?	YES []	NO []
Does staff supervise visits?	YES []	NO []

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 [] NO [x]

Commissioners Narrative:

The Juvenile Justice Commission’s inspection of Koinonia Group Home #1 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 while also keeping the minors’ safety in mind. 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.

Two minors were interviewed and they both seemed somewhat pleased with the program. One minor was less invested and more focused on leaving the program but he complied to the rules; the same minor expressed dissatisfaction with group discipline. Both minors mentioned an incident of a staff member listening in on a phone call. The organization, Koinonia, took steps to handle the situation and since then there have been no further incidents. The interviewees spoke highly of the staff as well as the food and recreational opportunities. Maintenance was dealt with in a timely fashion.

The commission was impressed with the staff 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 Koinonia House 1 is in compliance with California State Licensing Regulations.

Inspection Report completed by Commissioner: Carina Lim and Baljit Atwal

On this date: 7/17/18