



**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 #2

Address: House location: 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: Mark Wesselman, Facility Supervisor

Victoria & Priscilla (line staff)

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Date of Inspection: April 22, 2015

Juvenile Justice Commission Inspection Team:

Diane Shinstock, Lead

Mary Ann Ellis-Jammal

Supervising Juvenile Court Judge: Hon. Colleen Nichols

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**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? Computer Programming, Culinary	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>

**GRIEVANCE POLICY**

Are all minors oriented to the rules and procedures? Day 1	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? (Incoming scanned for drugs)	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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>

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**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? (During)	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"/>

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**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 semi-rural Loomis. It is a six bed, girls-only home that provides treatment for teenage girls who are struggling with substance abuse. Although not a requirement, all girls were on formal probation and placed by various county probation departments. Koinonia is the only treatment provider that has dual licensing in the State of California – Community Care (foster care) and AOD (substance abuse). Basic foster care laws are too broad to address the unique needs of this population.

The inspection team found this home in good repair. Administration shared photos and drawings for a major home remodel in the very near future. A major source of funding has been generously provided by the Biletnikoff Foundation, and additional funding has been received from various private and public donor throughout the area. Two girls share each of the three resident bedrooms. The largest bedroom is occupied by the resident leader; one girl who has achieved a higher status through proper behavior. The newest resident to the home will share this larger room with the resident leader in order to allow for a “buddy-system” of assisting the newest resident acclimate to the environment with a good role model. A chore list is posted and the chores of the household are rotated weekly for each resident to include cooking, menu planning, and cleaning. The agency receives numerous donations from local businesses including furniture from Costco, food funding from Herbalife and In & Out Burger, work projects from Keller Williams and a generous balloon bouquet is delivered for each resident on her birthday from a local retailer. There was an abundance of food stored in multiple locations throughout the home.

The home also has a husband and wife volunteer mentor team who have been fingerprinted and have passed a background check who spends quality family-like time with the girls. The agency offers a teaching culinary kitchen, various workshops, art programs, equine-therapy and has much support from various community agencies. All youth are prepared to meet their moms and dads, even if they are returning to foster care. During the Christmas holidays, each girl receives 10-12 major gifts from the community.

On this visit, inspectors were able to interview two staff members who both appeared to genuinely enjoy working at the home. The thing they liked least was not being able to reach each of the residents. According to Administration, staff should be paid more for the very important work they do but are restricted due to state funding restrictions.

The program is structured in a three-level system and typically takes a minimum of 10 months to complete, although most residents typically take approximately 12 months. Koinonia contracts with a psychiatrist if necessary.

Commissioners interviewed two of the six residents. This is A's first time in a group home setting and B's 3rd. Both felt the structured nature of the program met their needs of staying clean and experiencing a family setting. A did have a short relapse when she became depressed about how hard it is to stay sober. She ran away for a short time and returned voluntarily (sort of voluntarily: she was picked up and spent the night in Juvenile Hall. When given the choice of returning to the group home or staying in Juvenile Hall she came back.). B has run from both other group homes but is at home here.

Both found the rules fair with appropriate consequences for misbehavior (usually a certain number of community service hours) and rewards for doing things right. Each girl gets an allowance as well as opportunity to get money rewards.. There is a nightly session during which the girls share what they have done wrong and planned improvement. There is an opportunity to respectfully confront one another here. Also there is a "One on One" during which a person can list a grievance directly to another then that person gets to respond in a controlled setting with staff present.

Both feel the food is great and if any changes were to be made they request more Mexican food. House temperature is good, they wash their own bedding weekly, take a 10-minute shower daily, and mattresses are new and comfortable. There was some confusion about how often fire drills are conducted but both agree that they happen.

Each has a laundry day and Sunday is free day. Each does her own laundry.

Residents get spending money by weekly allowance (\$7 for a "green" week, \$5 for a "yellow" week, and \$3 for a "red" week). There are also rewards.

Each resident must spend 12 hours weekly on programs along with their school-work. They can attend church youth group but are not required to do so. There are other options. The school includes residents at Koinonia's other group homes and here they can interact with boys in a group setting. There are not opportunities for one on one interaction. Interestingly, they did not seem too upset by this rule. B reported "I'm here for me." Both were very grateful to be residents in this home and their only regret was not being able to see their families more often.

Inspection Report completed by Commissioner: Diane Shinstock

On this date: May 25, 2015



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*Signed*