



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

**2014**

**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

Address: Loomis, CA

Phone Number: (916) 652-6557

Department Chief: Bill Ryland

Staff Interviewed: Ron Hamilton, Esmeralda Macias

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Date of Inspection: May 27, 2014

Juvenile Justice Commission Inspection Team:

John Richardson, Lead

Grady Pennington

Supervising Juvenile Court Judge: Hon. Colleen Nichols

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Staffing Ratio:       awake 3:1  
                           asleep 6:1  
 Number of suicides:  0  
 Number of assaults:  0  
 Number of runaways: 3

**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	
Are males kept separate from females?	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?       (Limited)	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 [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 []	NO [x]

**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 [x]	NO []
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 minors interview?	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

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**Commissioners Narrative:**

Koinonia Group Home #1 is set among large granite boulders and oak trees at the end of a lane in rural Loomis, California. This house is 30 years old. There are six male residents (age 14-17). The staff to minor ratio is 3:1 during waking hours and 6:1 during sleeping hours. The kitchen has been remodeled into a professional setting, with double ovens and a large range top. The minors are provided lessons in food preparation, and one is designated as the cook of the month on a rotation. The family room is very spacious and accommodating with leather sofas that have been donated by Costco. The house physically was very neat and orderly. It is clear that everyone takes pride in this house. All licensing requirements were met.

Koinonia Homes are the only ones in the state that are licensed to provide drug & alcohol counseling for minors. The home utilizes a total immersion program from detention and/or rehabilitation to the group home. The Positive Peer Experience program brings the youths together with the feeling of family. This peer program of self-governance with strict staff supervision creates a positive environment that was echoed throughout our interviews. Three of the six boys in house were interviewed. We heard repeatedly about the positive elements of the program, being accountable, and act to be accepted. They are learning to manage their anger through their words rather than resorting to violence. The positive attitudes are reinforced by the Home keeping them very busy. They celebrate birthdays vigorously, and are afforded trips to events such as Kings games & river rafting. Once they reach a certain level they are able to work outside the home on a three month rotation. Church services are voluntary but all the boys say they look forward to it, and incorporate it into their positive outlook.

As this home receives residents from far away counties, every effort is made to assist in family communication and reunification if appropriate. Besides home visits, Skype is utilized for those parents who cannot physically visit the home. The only comment that was made for something to be done better was longer phone calls to home. Judges and probation staff from resident counties have visited the home in the past year. One was unannounced, and the Chief Administrator commented that it was welcome any time. He added that visits like this have increased in the past year, and the boys are able to interact directly with their probation officer.

The Group Home Chief, House One Manager, and a Child Care Counselor were interviewed in addition to the three boys. All of their comments were in alignment on the positive aspects of the program, and how rewarding it is to see them grow and mature through it. There were comments about graduates of the program finishing school, continuing to college, and gaining employment.

Koinonia homes have built a very strong reputation in Placer County and beyond for their integrity and the compassion for the youth they serve, and enjoy very strong support from the community. We are fortunate to have them here in Placer County.

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The Juvenile Justice/Delinquency Prevention Commission of Placer County finds that Koinonia Group Home #1 is in compliance with California State Licensing Regulations.

Inspection Report completed by Commissioner: John Richardson

On this date: May 27, 2014

*John Richardson*

*Signed*

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