

Sonoma County Juvenile Justice Commission Group Home Inspection Report

Facility Name:	Greenacre – Eddie Lane House and Administration Offices
Address:	On File
Phone	On File
Contact Person	Timothy Dimick

J.J.C. Inspector(s)	Cathy Brooks, Jody Edwards, Eve Goldberg
Date of Inspection	11/10/16
Date of Last Inspection	10/1/15
C.C.L. Contact	Pauline Muntzer
Date of Last C.C.L. Inspection	7/11/16

**O = Outstanding *S= Satisfactory or exceeds *N.I. = Needs Improvement/corrective*

Action

INSPECTED	O	S	N.I.	Comments
Grounds		X		The grounds were well kept and inviting.
Building Exterior		X		The office is at the front of the building. Residents enter from side doors.
Living Room		X		There are 2 living rooms, each with comfortable furniture and games. The boys enjoy playing video games. They can play for an hour before turning the controls over to another boy if someone else is waiting to play.
Kitchen		X		Meals are prepared on site. Youth here are 15-20 years old and are expected to help in the meal prep and cleaning of the house. Knives are kept locked up.
Bedrooms		X		There are 9 bedrooms, although there are currently only 7 residents. Most boys have a private room. Greenacre is careful to accept only youth they believe will benefit from the program and who will fit in with the current population.
Bathrooms		X		One has been modified to accommodate a boy with physical limitations.
Fire Safety --Extinguishers		X		Fire extinguishers were mounted on the walls.
Fire Safety --Smoke Alarms		X		Smoke alarms in place.
Fire Safety --Evacuation Plan		X		There are monthly fire drills.
Food		X		Plenty of fresh fruit and vegetables are available. Food is cooked from scratch.
Emergency Supplies		X		

Health Services		X		Annual physicals exam plus as needed. Dentist visits every 6 months.
Medications		X		Medications are kept labeled and locked in a drawer in a locked room. Two staff double check the correct dosages.
Recreation (on site)		X		The boys have access to bikes. They can garden.
Outings (off site)		X		One of the favorite activities is a multi-day trip to the mountains in February. They boys stay in a vacation home.
Education & Classrooms	X			Two boys attend public school. The others attend the Greenacre school. There is an emphasis on vocational education. Currently that includes drum making, bike repair, barista, and gardening. Many of the boys are working toward a High School Certificate of Completion rather than a diploma.
Mail/Phone	X			Most of the boys have cell phones. They can use the wi-fi from 2:00 p.m. until bedtime. Some turn in their phones at night. All boys know their phones' history can be checked at anytime for inappropriate use. The consequence of poor choices would result in confiscation of the phone.
Discipline	X			Greenacre's emphasis is on reintegration and safety. Typical discipline would include staying in the bedroom for several hours, coming out for snack, dinner, chores, etc. If they are confined on a Saturday or Sunday, a "full day" is considered complete by 2:00 if the youth has behaved. There is effort made to discipline using Trauma Informed Care. The staff celebrates successes both at home and at school.
Library		X		There were some books available in the front room.

Youth Interviews

TOPICS				
Evaluation of Program	X			The youth interviewed liked living at Greenacre.
Program Understood		X		They understood the program.
Levels (Privileges)		X		The levels are named after the game of Monopoly: Baltic, Illinois, Marvin Gardens and Boardwalk.
Grievances		X		See below
Discipline		X		One youth interviewed was upset with the consequences of his recent behavior. However, in talking with Timothy Dimick afterward, the consequences seemed appropriate to this team of commissioners.
Staff Evaluation	X			The teens all seemed comfortable with and liked the staff.
Health Services		X		Annual checks and as needed.
Counseling/Therapy		X		All the boys have 2 therapists: the house social worker and a clinician

Inspection Summary

Timothy Dimick, the Deputy Director who hosted our visit, has been working at Greenacre for 23 years. He is very knowledgeable in his understanding of the youths' issues, changing laws and how they affect one another. He said that Greenacre was working on their administrative changes in support of AB403 and they expect to be licensed as a STRTP by January 1, 2017 and accredited by May 2017. He expressed concern that despite the good intentions of the legislature in passing AB403 there may be bad outcomes for the youth. He said sometimes three to six months of care is enough for the child to then be successful in a less restrictive environment. But sometimes living in a community (not congregate care) can be a good thing based on the needs of the child.

Greenacre is a specialized program for boys aged 7 to 20. With the current rating system they are a level 10, but frequently get kids who require the services of a level 12 to 14. They take those kids only if they feel they will be successful at Greenacre. They have a total capacity for all their homes of 33 youth; today they have 26. To support these youth they have 82 staff members including direct care staff, clinical staff, awake staff and kitchen staff. The youth are housed in 5 different homes, each as homogenous as possible placed by age and capability. Today only five of their youth are from Sonoma County, and this is the highest number they've ever had. They are experiencing more requests from other counties; Mendocino County has requested that Greenacre dedicate one home completely to youth from Mendocino County.

Timothy described staffing as a big challenge for Greenacre. They have lost staff to Valley of the Moon Children's Home and to the county; Greenacre cannot compete with the compensation packages of the public sector. This year has seen more turnover than ever before. Still, every home has at least one direct care staff with at least 10 years experience at Greenacre. They try to hire from their internship program.

Greenacre is an outstanding program modeled on safety and reintegration. Rather than having a rigid discipline system of rewards and consequences, the focus is on treating each boy as an individual with unique abilities and interests. There are still clear rules with accompanying consequences, but the emphasis is on helping the boy regain his equilibrium safely, quickly and in a supportive environment. The staff at every house engaged with the children in a positive way and almost all seemed to enjoy being there.

Commissioner Cathy Brooks

Next Inspection Recommended: _____ or X Annual Inspection

Commissioner Eve Goldberg

Commissioner Jody Edwards

Dennis Ruggiero, Chairperson

cc: Honorable Judge of the Sonoma County Superior Court
Commissioner of the Juvenile Court
Probation Department, Chief of Probation
Sonoma County Family Youth & Children's Services
State of California, Community Care Licensing
Facility Inspected

Revised 7/10/2016