

Sonoma County Juvenile Justice Commission Facility Inspection Report

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| Facility Name: | Hanna Boys Center |
| Address: | On File |
| Phone | On File |
| Contact Person | Louis H Young Jr. Coordinator of Residences |

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| J.J.C. Inspector(s) | Jody Edwards, Bob Faux and Michael Fried |
| Date of Inspection | November 3, 2016 |
| Date of Last Inspection | October 21, 2015 |
| C.C.L. Contact | Pauline Muntzer |
| Date of Last C.C.L. Inspection | July 21, 2016 |

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

| INSPECTED | S | N.I. | Comments |
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| Grounds | X | | Hanna Boys Center is on a 160 acre campus with multiple buildings. There is an Administrative building, a Chapel, a School with vocational buildings and gardens, a Dining room, a Health Center, an Alumni Center, an Auditorium, and various athletic fields. There are 9 residential living buildings, 3 of which are group homes and 6 of which are cottages. The cottages are where the boys live when they first enter Hanna and they earn the right to live at the group homes. The grounds are well kept. The maintenance is subcontracted but the boys can apply for jobs with maintenance for up to 8 hours a day during the summer. |
| Building Exterior | X | | All the buildings we saw appeared to be in good condition. Halloween was just three days prior to our visit and we observed 12 pumpkins in the front porch area of the house. Louis told us that the agriculture program had provided all the pumpkins and had also held a Halloween Fair open to the public the previous Sunday where they had a Jumpee house and sold pumpkins they had grown. The boys worked the fair. |
| Living Room | X | | We only toured one home on this inspection as we had seen all the homes last year and wanted to focus on education and health on this visit. All the houses are similarly built. The living room area has chairs for 15 and a fireplace. (12 boys live in each home along with rooms for 4 staff members of which 2 staff members are always on duty). It looks warm and inviting. They conduct business groups here where they plan meals and such and they do circle meetings. Off to the side of the living room is a game room and to the other side is a study room/library/computer room where the kids do homework. |
| Kitchen | X | | In the St. Anne group home, the kitchen looked clean with refrigerator well stocked and pantry well stocked. We did note that there was no light in the refrigerator. On Sundays they have business groups where they talk about what will happen for the week, including the menu for the week. Each room has a day to cook. The staff cook with the kids but the kids are responsible for planning the menus, purchasing the food and preparing the meals. The staff and boys shop together. There is a dining table large enough to accommodate all 12 boys and |

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| | | | <p>two staff members. Fruit is available at all times.</p> <p>In the cottages there is a kitchenette that is available for the boys use and snacking at certain times of the day. There is no kitchen as they eat at the cafeteria.</p> |
| Bedrooms | X | | <p>In the bedrooms Hanna provides all the bedding. They have to have both a fitted and flat sheet on the bed and everything is supposed to be cleaned up, beds made and clothes put away before they leave for school.</p> <p>There are 6 bedrooms in each group home and cottage. The boys are housed two to a bedroom and the walls can be decorated with the boys personalized things. We viewed two bedrooms, one where there was almost nothing on the walls and one where they walls were almost completely covered with the boy's posters. The one without wall décor was messy with clothing not put away.</p> |
| Bathrooms | X | | <p>In both the cottages and group homes there is one huge bathroom for all 12 boys, it has 3 showers, 5 toilets, 3 with doors and 5 sinks. They are ADA compliant. The boys take showers at different times, some at night, and some in the morning. The bathrooms were picked up and smelled like they had just been cleaned. Cleaning bathrooms is part of their chores and rotates monthly. In the group homes there is also a guest bathroom near the living room.</p> |
| Fire Safety | X | | <p>I observed fire extinguishers in all the appropriate places. I also observed clear evacuation plans in the buildings we toured.</p> |
| Food | X | | <p>We were provided lunch at the same dining hall where the boys eat. It was tasty and there was a salad bar which had lots of choices. This salad bar is always available. At lunch all the boys eat at the cafeteria and they can eat inside or outside. For breakfast and dinner the boys in cottages eat in separate rooms by cottage. The boys in the group homes eat in their homes.</p> <p>The food is created by contract Chefs from a company called Epicurean. The food is all fresh and homemade. They do food surveys of the students and try to meet the kid's desires. As far as nutrition goes, the kids can choose the food and it is up to the staff to encourage better choices if necessary.</p> |
| Health Services | X | | <p>We toured the Health Center. It includes dental offices and an infirmary with lots of rooms with two beds to a room. We noted that the facility was modern and clean, also that there is a medical evaluation upon entry. This is where kids come if they stay home from school. Right now there is not a nurse employed by Hanna, instead they are getting their services though Sonoma Valley Clinics and there are two LPN's on site all day. A Nurse Practitioner comes two times a week.</p> <p>The dental rooms are very modern and well-equipped. Dental services include evaluation, regular cleaning, orthodontist and other dental procedures as needed. The kids are supposed to come in with a dental evaluation completed but not all do. They start with 6 month cleaning unless a kid comes with braces, then, every 4 months. Some kids have poor oral care at home so they may provide teeth cleaning more often. They are doing digital x-rays now. The JC students in their second year of the Dental Hygiene program come in here once a week and do cleanings. Today they took 12 boys to the JC 's program to get sealants.</p> <p>The biggest problem is decay. They have some volunteer dentists who come on site on a rotating basis. They also have some dentists who accept 1 or 2 boys a year to come to their offices and the dental assistant who we talked to saves the hardest cases for them.</p> <p>They have 5 orthodontists who will take one boy. For all kids if they need it they get their wisdom teeth taken out before they graduate because there will</p> |

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| | | | <p>not be resources in most cases after they leave here.</p> <p>A consulting psychiatrist comes to campus once a month to see kids and do medical reviews. Dr. Evans is very conservative; he will prescribe fish oil pills before real drugs in most cases.</p> |
| Medications | X | | <p>Meds are double locked. They are locked in a cabinet and kept in a locked office. 25% of the boys are on psychotropic drugs. The most common drug here is a stimulant for ADHD. Very few kids are on cocktails of medications, usually only 1 or 2 meds.</p> |
| Recreation (on site) | X | | <p>There are recreation opportunities at each house in addition to all the intermural and regular activities through the rec department. Each cottage and group home has a room with weights and tread mills. At St. Anne home we saw a punching bag hanging in in the carport of the group home. There are newly surfaced tennis courts onsite.</p> <p>Intramural sports are available and lots of boys choose this route. There are some sports that are competitive High School sports such as baseball, soccer and basketball. Hanna plays other small schools such as Summerfield Waldorf, Pescadero and Anderson Valley school.</p> <p>Every day the boys have two possibilities for recreation, immediately after school and during the hour of free time after dinner. Recreation on the weekends is scheduled from 11-2 for the younger boys and 2:30-5:30 for the older boys. Our host told us that Hanna just bought 11 Knocker balls which is a relatively new game like soccer but played on ball fields outside with inflatable spheres with inner handles and adjustable shoulder straps.</p> |
| Outings (off site) | X | | <p>There is money in the budget for a year end day trip for each home. That is typically to a place like 6 Flags. If the house makes money during the year from bake sales or other ways they can save up and take special trips. Some of these have been trips to Santa Cruz to the boardwalk where they stayed at the Santa Cruz KOA for 2 nights and then went to the aquarium. This is by house and it's about how much they do to fund raise. That is above and beyond the year end day trip. Other places they have gone is paint balling and one year they went to Driven. The staff will plan for this and assess all the potential problems.</p> <p>There is recreation including day hikes though school on a monthly basis but also the cottages set up hikes by house. One house has a staff member who likes to fish so he will take a group of kids to Spring Lake and go fishing.</p> <p>Through the Hanna recreation department there is a 3-day hiking trip to Tahoe and other places like that which occur during the summer.</p> |
| Education/ Classrooms | X | | <p>Hanna has an accredited high school called Archbishop Hanna High School for grades 8 through 12. There are 20 teachers are on staff and class sizes average at 4.5 students to one teacher. The maximum size is 12 to 1 but that rarely happens. The school has a regular academic year and they usually keep their academic calendar on par with Sonoma Valley High School. Classes go from 8:00 to 2:05. They have all the regular curriculum plus music and art and after school they have study hall and extra-curricular classes and athletics. School students are required to wear collared shirts and grey, black or tan pants or shorts with a belt.</p> <p>We observed an 8th grade social studies class. The classroom was full of books, walls posted with world leaders' names and what they are known for, there is a sink, a large desk for the teacher, tables and chairs enough for 12 kids, a couch, AV equipment, a microwave. This classroom had 4 students. There is lots of individualized attention.</p> |

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| | | | <p>Then we went to the woodshop class. This teacher was a teacher at St. Helena High School for 37 years when they closed their woodshop class because they decided it wasn't safe. He has been a teacher at Hanna for 3 years. He teaches safety first.</p> <p>He provides real world skills so when the kids leave here they can get jobs or go to the JC completely prepared to get certifications. With a welding certificate the boys can earn \$25. an hour. They learn construction, everything but pouring concrete; they learn the kinds of wood, wood management, equipment, but the main goal is safety. These machines and skill saws can take off a finger in a second and he is always pushing safety first. They build a building (storage shed) and do everything from making the material list to completion. Their goal is to build storage sheds for each of the 9 cottages and group homes. In a separate class they teach welding. He is just building up this program and the students are creating it with him. There are 8 stations for welding and he has helmets and leathers to wear for each student. They do the work of construction and welding both inside and outside the classroom since real construction happen outside. He also teaches blacksmithing. His typical class is 6 students.</p> <p>Vocational education is tangible and provides immediate gratification and learning. You can have success quickly. 40 of the 87 boys choose to take woodshop classes. He wants to add computer skills related to this kind of work such as Auto Cad, C&C Plasma Cutting and a program called Shopbot and is now applying for grants.</p> |
| Mail/Phone | X | | <p>The director described 'screen time' on digital devices as a huge problem. He said youth are now relating to their tablets and phones more than to people. They have more attachment problems. This is a shift he has seen in the last five years. We asked what they are doing to overcome this. This summer they did a program called 'Unplugged' where there was a regular barbeque at the Recreation Hall and cell phones were not allowed while they were playing pool, eating food, etc. We asked if they thought about just not allowing them and they responded that licensing told them kids have a right to a phone.</p> <p>Hanna's cell phone policy is 'time and place' related. The reality is that cell phones are not going anywhere so we have to live with it and help the kids navigate them more successfully. They used to collect them each morning before school but wasn't viewed successful by either staff or students so now they are simply not allowed to be seen during classes.</p> |
| Family Contact | X | | <p>Home visits are earned except on holidays. The case worker coordinates these visits.</p> <p>Family is encouraged to attend Sunday Mass and if they boy has earned it; they may take their son off campus Sunday afternoon until 4:30. Unfortunately for the boys, parent's lack of involvement is an issue. Parents don't show up on visiting day when they have told their child they will and that is terrible for a child.</p> <p>There is also individual family counseling, sometimes including the youth and sometimes not.</p> |
| Discipline | X | | <p>Bullying happens, sexual assault happens and other less troublesome issues happen. Runaways are rare. There is an Honor Committee who will talk to the kid that's bullying to find out why and do conflict resolution. If sexual assault happens they report it and it is investigated. If the boy stays here they do</p> |

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| | | <p>restorative work to ensure the community can feel safe. There are restorative circles where they bring together the parties to the conflict and work through the conflict.</p> <p>The program is designed to earn privileges rather than discipline. There are four levels of status, from level 4 which represents behavioral issues to level 1 which is the best. Level 4 implies a need for lots more attention and instruction from staff, verbally abusive behaviors and poor impulse control. A new youth to the home will start at an orientation status for thirty days. Status 3 implies the youth is doing ok but continues to have issues of being out of bounds, being disrespectful, and not getting their work done. Privileges come with each status. For example status 2 implies the youth can request to leave campus one weekend a month. Allowance is correlated with their status and goes from \$2.50 to \$10 per week. They can spend it when they go on outings. They might stop by a taco truck or to the Petaluma outlets. They are not allowed to go to the Santa Rosa 4th street mall because of all the gang activity there.</p> |
| Library | X | <p>There is a library building as a part of the school but we did not see it. We did see a library in the home that had both books and reference materials.</p> <p>We did visit the Follow-On department. The Follow-On department is superior to what most public high schools have. Hanna's Follow-on department begins their work with students when they arrive regardless of age. They create individualized programs to prepare the youth for work or school when they leave Hanna. The majority of the work is with juniors and seniors but they have special programs, for example this weekend they are having a speaker on undocumented workers and how to use the Dream Act to the student's benefit. Through the Follow-on department, they work to get the students into college, and get them scholarships and when they graduate from here they stay in contact with them. Also through the Follow-On department, they solicit several places to get the kids jobs. Last summer 23 kids had jobs, 8 kids do now. There are logistical issues with getting them to the jobs that Hanna figures out how to manage. From any job a student has, 50% of their earnings goes to savings and they can't touch it until they get out. They get them savings accounts and teach them about savings. The emphasis is that when they leave they have some money.</p> |

ADDITIONAL NOTES

Hanna Boys Center is a residential treatment center serving boys age from 8th grade through the completion of high school. The youngest child is 12 years old. Their mission is to change the lives of troubled, motivated youth through faith, education and caring, helping them to grow into productive members of society. The core values of the program are nurturing the mind, the body and the spirit, transforming the boys into productive healthy compassionate young men.

We spoke to Brian Farraghar, the Executive Director of Hanna Boys Center as part of the inspection and the following is a compilation of what we learned from him.

Today there are 87 kids although they can take 108. The main reason for this is the challenge of staffing. He said they are having a tough time recruiting and retaining house staff. The economy is relatively good right now and the job is not high paying. The base salary is \$15 per hour and it is a tough job which is split shift and direct care can be challenging with lots of exposure to difficult kids. The turnover rate last year was high at 35%. New staff are typically fresh from college. They recruit at Sonoma State University and Chico state. They have several veteran staff in their 40s and 50s but more are younger. Brian said that the best direct care teams he has seen are balanced in age. Training is strong; they have weekly meetings for staff and training every Tuesday and Friday.

Brian told us he is the 4th director in 70 years and he is the first director who is not a priest. As a result he is

changing some processes. Brian's background is in childhood trauma and he is instituting a Trauma Induced Care Program. It is hard to make these changes and they are in a process that is unsettling and has put some people off balance but change is hard. One example of a change is they now use the ACE study as a part of the in-take process.

We asked if Hanna was getting more youth from the population that might go to a group home had recent legislation not affected them. He said that last year we did more tours than we had in the last ten years. This year is down a bit from last year but still higher than average. It hasn't drastically changed the number of referrals. He said not many kids come from the 'system'. If they came from juvenile hall and had a probation officer then they stay in touch with the probation officer and make reports to them. Those with social workers are very few and they stay in touch with them as well.

They are completely privately funded and part of why they don't take public money is because they are a religious institution and they can't impose that on the public dime. Most kids don't come with strong faith component to their lives. If they do they try to get kids to their own preference such as their own synagogue or mosque or church in lieu of mass on Sunday. 35% of kids come as Catholic. They don't proselytize.

They are licensed for younger students but the focus is 8th through 12th grade and the school covers those grades. Vocational programs are a part of this. 20 to 25 kids graduate each year. Each year 4 or 5 kids are 4 year college bound. They send lots of kids to community colleges but usually for trade jobs. They are beginning the next phase of capital fund raising in order to renovate the school.

We asked about the standard profile of a youth at Hanna. Brian's comments include:

- We do ok with kids in the autistic spectrum
- Most kids have some level of complex trauma – we use ACE scores. They have lots of adversity: they come from troubled communities with poverty and violence and domestic violence and parents who are addicted to drugs and alcohol. The kids come with significant challenges most of which were not their fault.
- As they are starting adolescence they are starting to have some challenges with the law. Kids who do better here are just starting down that path.
- Lately they are coming with substance abuse issues. We don't do particularly well with that here as it is a very open environment. There are no gates here. The community uses our ball field and kids have phones so they could arrange a drop off if they wanted to.
- Another reason kids come here is that their parents want to get them out of the social system at home. The youth still has to write a letter about why he wants to be here, but this reason is apparent.
- We do have kids who come from juvenile hall.
- Gangs are underground here but we can see it. Of the 87 kids, probably 5 or 6 of them show gang involvement.
- Student population is 50% Hispanic and 15% black. All the students speak English but language is sometimes a problem with the parents.

Youth Interviews

| TOPICS | S | N.I. | Comments |
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| Evaluation of Program | X | | When we asked how the kids get to provide feedback to the staff, we were told that there is a Student Council and an Honor Committee. These committees come up with suggestions and bring them to staff and they talk. In addition all the boys have contact with the direct staff at their homes. All the boys we interviewed are seniors and they made the following comments: |
| Counseling/ Therapy | | | |

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| Physical Education | | | Two of the three youth we spoke to said they were on interscholastic teams. |
| Health Services | X | | They are partnering with Sonoma health center and this has improved the care. It is better than the person they had before. They take care of us well here. |
| School | X | | The education is fine, the school curriculum is pretty good; there are physics and calculus classes. |
| Food | X | | As each boy we spoke to lives in a group home, he was just commenting about the lunch. They said: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The food is not terrible but needs more improvement • All agreed it wasn't great • There is less effort this year. Last year we had paninis and Reuben sandwiches, this year they haven't been making them because it takes time to make each one. • The salad bar is always the same, that is where I usually eat • There is too much pasta • The burritos and tacos are really good • Pork is a main dish and happens too often • In the group homes we can make our food at home and that is really good • I am ok with eating at the group homes, I like cooking for myself and learning to cook |
| Snacks | | | |
| Library | | | |
| Chores | X | | The chores that we have make sense. You need to keep your house clean, it is a life skill. They teach you how to do things that we need to know. |
| Money | | | |
| Mail / Phone | | | |
| Levels (privileges) | X | | I like it, the status system of 1 – 4. It makes sense but sometimes the staff look at us as just a number. |
| Laundry | | | Every home cottage or group home has a washer/dryer area and the kids do their own laundry. We ran out of time and did not ask the youth about it. |
| Grievances | | | |
| Activities & Entertainment | X | | There's a lot to do here, we stay very busy. |
| Program Length Understood | | | |
| Staff evaluation | X | | The staff treat me well, I respect them and they respect me. |
| Discipline | X | | There is discipline but it is more lenient than in the past. They should bring back consequences for boys rather than just reward them for good behavior. They should have to do 25 hours of community service and 60 days of not going offsite. There are not enough consequences for bad activity. We need to transition back to the old program. There are kids here that get 20 chances, for example they'll do a contract for 2 weeks for the kid to improve and then they'll give the kid one more week. It feels like a student doing good and a different one doing bad get to do the same stuff and that doesn't seem fair. |
| Allowance | | | |

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| Clothes | | | |
| Medications | | | |
| Drugs/Alcohol | X | | There was an issue this summer but it has calmed down. |
| Probation officer | | | |

ADDITIONAL NOTES & SUGGESTIONS BY YOUTH

of Youth Interviewed: 3

Do you feel safe here?

- All feel safe
- There was a recent situation of harassment of staff and boy, staff doesn't work here anymore but the boy had no consequences. He should have had some.
- I feel pretty safe; I'm not intimidated by anyone. I don't go home so this is my main home and I should feel safe at my home.
- My main concern is a kid who is getting bullied by 2 kids. I went and dealt with it and wasn't going to leave that office until the right thing was done. And then the right things happened.
- I see kids being bullied when no one is around
- The number 1 issue is bullying. The biggest guilty parties are the 13, 14, and 15 year olds.
- All here are equal and there shouldn't be bullying
- Here feels like safe zone, it is different from the outside.

What would you improve?

- We could change letting people go out more in the community – like go on trips. It makes kids feel good about themselves.
- The community needs to see Hanna students differently, for example a worker at the Sonoma Safeway recently accused us of stealing. This is frustrating that we are being held responsible for actions in the past. Outside of Hanna they think we are bad kids. Everybody has stuff to work on but we are not bad kids.
- When asked how do you think you might change that perception the youth responded: We have done open houses in the past in the spring and fall, we would like to have that back. We gave tours, we had boys playing instruments and people from the community came. We also work with the outside teen center and Ramekins and Canine Companions. I made a dog house for canine companions and got recognized for that.

Since they were seniors we asked how you feel about leaving here next spring.

- I'm pretty scared about leaving here, they baby you here, and you are going to have to pay for your own stuff.
- There is Follow-On to stay in contact with you once you leave.
- One youth we spoke to is planning on going to a 4 year college, one is going to SRJC and one is going to nursing school at the JC.
- Everybody is going to be nervous about leaving here.
- It's going to be hard at first.
- I'm overwhelmed, I'm hoping to get into a 4-year school and there is so much to do.

Inspection Summary

Hanna Boys Center is an example of a quality group living experience. While they are licensed by Community Care Licensing, they receive no government funding and take no placements from social services. As a result the legislation concerning group homes does not affect them. The boys can and do truly call this place their home as they can live here from whenever they come and complete their high school years.

All three boys expressed the concerns written above in the discipline section. One of our commissioners has quite a bit of experience with residential treatment and suggests that there is a link between the boys' comments and the changes that have been made to be more trauma based. He further suggests that to help allay these concerns there should be more communication with the staff in the "trauma based modality". Thus the boys will better understand procedures.

One of the staff members expressed a concern about a change in policy that could potentially allow the youth to wear clothes that signify gang related colors. Our encouragement is keeping your policy as is.

Jody Edwards, Robert Faux, Michael Fried

Next Inspection Recommended: __ or X Annual Inspection

Signature of Commissioner

Date: November 14, 2016

Chair, Juvenile Justice Commission

cc: Honorable Judge of the Sonoma County Superior Court
Commissioner of the Juvenile Court
Probation Department, Chief of Probation
Department of Social Services
State of California, Community Care Licensing
Juvenile Probation Director
Facility Inspected