

Sonoma County Juvenile Justice Commission Group Home Inspection Report

Facility Name:	Plumfield Ranch
Address:	On File
Phone	On File
Contact Person	Darcee Drakulich

J.J.C. Inspector(s)	Mary Cone, Eve Goldberg
Date of Inspection	December 6, 2016
Date of Last Inspection	October 27, 2015
C.C.L. Contact	Pauline Muntzer
Date of Last C.C.L. Inspection	July 7, 2015

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

Action

INSPECTION	O	S	N.I.	Comments (required if "N.I." is checked)
Grounds	X			This home is located in the countryside, surrounded by beautiful open fields. The decks and area around the home are well maintained and attractive. There is a vegetable garden in back. The stairs leading down to garden and fields are in excellent shape.
Building Exterior	X			The exterior of the home has had a recent paint job. The windows and siding are in good repair.
Living Room	X			The living room is clean, neat, and has a large picture window overlooking the countryside. There are two leather couches in good condition, a coffee table, TV, books, DVDs, and a fireplace. The environment is very homey and comfortable.
Kitchen	X			The kitchen is clean and well organized. Drawers and cabinets have full compliment of pots and pans, as well as cooking and eating utensils. Cupboards are also stocked with cookbooks and cooking spices. Knives and other sharp objects are locked up. Also locked up is the vanilla and nutmeg.
Bedrooms	X			There are four bedrooms. Three of the bedrooms are singles and two boys share one. All the bedrooms are clean and in good order. There are posters and other artwork on the walls. Each boy has a desk and lamp, chest of drawers, and a closet.
Bathrooms		X		The bathroom is clean and in good repair. The sink and cupboards below are new as is the toilet.
Fire Safety --Extinguishers		X		There are two fire extinguishers – one in the kitchen and one in the hallway. Both are easily accessible and have a current inspection date. Staff inspects and dates each fire extinguisher monthly to be sure it is fully charged. This inspection is noted on the rear of the tag every month.

Fire Safety --Smoke Alarms		X		There are smoke alarms in the common area and in each bedroom. Smoke alarms are in working order. There is a CO2 alarm in the hallway.
Fire Safety --Evacuation Plan		X		An emergency evacuation plan is posted and there is a fire drill every month.
Food	X			The cupboards and refrigerator are well stocked with healthy, nutritious food. The large freezer is full. There is fruit available for snacks – a wire basket near the kitchen was full of oranges. Menus are posted. The boys participate in the planning and cooking of meals.
Emergency Supplies		X		There is emergency food in the cabinet and in the freezer. There is a supply of emergency water and a first aid kit.
Health Services		X		The boys have an annual medical exam and a dental check-up every six months. A staff therapist provides counseling.
Medications		X		Medications are locked up and the medication logbook is up to date. Medications are prescribed by a psychiatrist and administered by the staff.
Recreation (on site)	X			There is lots of outdoor space around the home where the boys can play sports, games, or walk. There is also a basketball court. There are bicycles and sporting equipment available for the boys. There is a barn on the property where holiday parties are held and recreational events. There are many board games. When we arrived one of the boys was playing a card game with Scott (a staff member who has been with Plumfield for over 20 years).
Outings (off site)		X		Outings include bowling, roller-skating, going to the movies, hiking, going to the beach, fishing, Giant games, and activities such as miniature golf at Scandia Family Fun Center.
Education & Classrooms	X			Most of the boys go to Plumfield Academy. The day we visited the school, the students were involved in constructing sets and making decorations for a holiday variety show. Administrative, residential, and educational staff have regular, frequent meetings to coordinate the care and education of the boys.
Mail/Phone		X		The boys have access to mail and phone on an individualized basis. They have privacy to make their phone calls.
Discipline		X		Discipline is based on a detailed program of levels, points, and behavior reinforcement. All staff are well-trained in the discipline procedure. Discipline begins with verbal prompts for inappropriate behaviors. If behavior continues, discipline ramps up to brief time outs, structured room time, and OOPS. OOPS includes house restriction and restrictions from outings, TV, and other electronics.
Library	X			There are well-stocked bookshelves in the entry hall and in the living room. Reading material runs the gamut from science fiction/fantasy to literary classics such as <i>Catch-22</i> .

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

We spoke with the director, Darcee Drakulich and Jill Davidson, MSW. They explained their philosophy for impacting the children they serve. They believe that for youth with a history of struggle and failure, the key to effective intervention starts with identifying and building on a child's strengths. At Plumfield, they provide appropriate challenges and develop effective social skills in the youth. Then, there are consistent opportunities to practice these new behaviors. They have a Communication-Centered Behavioral Program that directs their youth toward goals specific to their individual needs, defines positive replacement behaviors, and develops and supports specific skills, thereby laying a pathway for successful interactions.

Plumfield is a residential treatment facility and school for severely emotionally disturbed boys. Ages are between 6 and 18. There are four homes; each can support 6 children. The school is equipped to educate 30 boys. Plumfield is a highly structured, behavior modification program. They use a language and positive communication based approach to learning and dealing with the problems and needs of the boys.

Darcee and Jill also took us on a tour of the school. The boys were preparing for a holiday show and were in the process of making sets and props. We met some of the teachers and the principal. The students seemed very engaged and excited to be a part of the project.

We also interviewed a teacher's aid at Plumfield Academy who lived at Plumfield from age 9-18, until joining the Navy. After two tours of duty, he is now returning to college and pursuing his dream of becoming a linguist. This young man credits his success in life to the long-term support he received at Plumfield.

Birthdays are very important at Plumfield. Each youth is recognized with a party, which includes inviting two guests from other homes, an activity, and a special menu.

YOUTH INTERVIEWS

TOPICS			
Evaluation of Program			They like the program especially the fairness of it and how it teaches them to get along with others. "Here is a paradise. In my last group home, my roommate stole my stuff. He stole my shoelaces and the bottoms of my shoes."
Program Understood			Both boys understood the program.
Levels (Privileges)			Both boys understood the system of levels and privileges.
Grievances			"If I have a problem, I try to solve it myself. I will say to the person, 'You make me feel uncomfortable or you make me feel irritated.'" If I can't solve it myself, I go to one of the staff or my counselor." "I use my coping skills." Boys also know they can speak with the Director, who is easily available to them, for any grievances they have.
Discipline			"It's fair and I understand why."
Staff Evaluation			The boys like Scott and Kelly and feel that they are all a family.
Health Services			"We go to the doctor for a check-up every six months. And we go to the dentist for a check-up every six months also."
Counseling/Therapy			"I like my therapist. Sometimes we also have family therapy."
Chores & Allowance			Each boy gets an allowance and earns extra money by doing chores. "My chores are to clean the living room, set the table, and clean the

			kitchen.”
Laundry			“We have a laundry day each week when we do our own laundry, our clothes plus our sheets and pillow case.”
Clothes			“I’ve got plenty of clothes. They buy it for us if we need something. And we always get new clothes each year when school starts.”
Food			“They cook amazing meals! We can help with meals. I like to make pecan pies.” “I like learning how to cook. Scott (one of the staff) shows me new recipes and teaches me new cooking vocabulary.”
Snacks			“We have fruit, smoothies, nuts, and cheese & crackers for snacks.”
School			Boy 1: “School is ok. But I have problems with some of the kids.” Boy 2: “School goes at a good pace. The kids there are nice. Bullying is forbidden.”
Library			“The library is good. I especially like Harry Potter and fantasy series and comics.”
Activities & Entertainment			“We do fun things like movies, going to the beach, and bowling.” “We go roller skating, and we went to Scandia, and we go on walks.”
Money			“We get an allowance, and we also earn money by doing chores. Plus, I have a vocational job at the school edging the sidewalks and doing other landscaping work.”

ADDITIONAL NOTES & SUGGESTIONS BY YOUTH

of Youth Interviewed: 2

Both of the boys we interviewed seemed to like and appreciate the Plumfield experience.

The home environment is structured to provide continual support and guidance with constant opportunities for positive social practice. What is so striking about the youth at Plumfield is their level of social awareness. They have obviously been educated in manners and socially acceptable behavior. They are polite and respectful when speaking to adults and other youth and look you in the eye when speaking. They rise to the higher expectations and then think well of themselves.

Inspection Summary

Plumfield appears to create an environment that helps to stabilize and bring out the best in these children. It is a time-intensive and staff-intensive program using preventative interventions to teach and reinforce. This strategy results in more positive behavior for the youth as well as a real feeling of safety.

Inspection Commissioner Eve Goldberg

Next Inspection Recommended: _____ **or** _____ **Annual Inspection**

Inspection Commissioner

Inspection Commissioner

Mary Cone, Commissioner/Report Review

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

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