

Sonoma County Juvenile Justice Commission Group Home Inspection Report

Facility Name:	R-House Rincon/Winding Creek
Address:	On File
Phone	On File
Contact Person	Sylvie Bertanale

J.J.C. Inspector(s)	Michael Charpiot
Date of Inspection	November 21, 2016
Date of Last Inspection	November 24, 2016
C.C.L. Contact	Pauline Muntzer
Date of Last C.C.L. Inspection	12-3-2014

**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			Grounds are spacious. A new walking path has been installed. Recent rains ensure everything was green.
Building Exterior	X			Both buildings are clean and well maintained. They will need to be repainted in the next few years.
Living Room		X		Living rooms are simple yet cozy. M Rincon is the more warm of the two. New couches were present at Winding Creek. The HVAC intake needs to be cleaned at M Rincon. It is possible the filters need to be changed as well.
Kitchen		X		A drawer front at Winding Creek shows some signs of disrepair. Christmas decorations were evident at M Rincon. Both kitchens were clean and knives and other sharps were securely stored. M Rincon only provides breakfast to the residents.
Bedrooms		X		Clean and well kept. Residents had decorated their rooms. Furniture was adequate for the personal needs of the residents. Some minor carpet stains were observed.
Bathrooms		X		Clean and in good repair. The downstairs bathroom at Winding Creek is being renovated.
Fire Safety --Extinguishers	X			All extinguishers have been recently tested and inspected.
Fire Safety --Smoke Alarms	X			Battery operated smoke alarms are amply located in both houses.
Fire Safety --Evacuation Plan		X		Evacuation plans were observed at both facilities. Another copy could be placed by the door at M Rincon. Fire escape ladders were accessible to the second floor residents of both houses.
Food		X		Santa Rosa City Schools provides meals for the residents. Students were out of school for Thanksgiving holiday. Staff was making lunches during

				this time. Apples and Oranges were available to snack on at both houses.
Emergency Supplies		X		Emergency supplies are located in the garage of M Rincon.
Health Services	X			Dependent on the insurance status of residents.
Medications	X			Medications are dispensed at Winding Creek. A strict protocol is in place. Medications are triple locked.
Recreation (on site)		X		Volleyball, BBQs, Basketball, TV, Games, Puzzles, Games, and Movies. Movies must be approved and are delivered via Netflix. Winding Creek also has a Foosball table. There is also a popcorn machine for special events.
Outings (off site)		X		Shopping, Ice Skating, Getting pumpkins, Movies, and Hikes were recent outings.
Education & Classrooms		X		Residents are served by the ABRAXIS Charter School, which is located at the M Rincon facility.
Mail/Phone		X		Phone calls are initiated and monitored by staff. There is regular mail service.
Discipline		X		Discipline procedures are posted throughout the facility. Residents are aware of the policies and procedures.
Library	X			The Winding Creek library is much better than the one available at M Rincon. It has dramatically improved since the last inspection.
Money		X		Residents receive an average of 14 dollars a week. It is provided in the form of a gift card.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

YOUTH INTERVIEWS

TOPICS				
Evaluation of Program		X		Both residents felt that you got out of the program what you put into it. There was some concern expressed that some of the girls were not trying very hard. They felt that sometimes the program seemed unorganized. Staff turnover could be a contributing factor.
Program Understood		X		Both residents understood the nature of the program.
Levels (Privileges)	X			Residents are given contracts at each level. One resident expressed "it really helps if you look at it". Contracts and contract levels are posted in the residence.
Grievances		X		One resident complained about running out of grievance forms. There seems to be a number of forms. One interviewee apparently has filed a number of grievances.
Discipline		X		One resident felt that the "BICS" (Behavior Intervention Contracts) were fair. Another had been penalized for violating her BIC. She was

			not pleased to lose her home pass.
Staff Evaluation		X	Both residents preferred the “backside staff” to the “front side”. They felt that there was more mutual respect between the two groups.
Health Services		X	One resident had her ankle in a wrap and/or brace. She had gone to Sutter's E.R. She was concerned about the amount of time between when she reported her injury and when she received treatment. It was a day or two.
Counseling/Therapy		X	There is a new Psych. on staff. Residents are getting used to the new person. One resident expressed the desire to see them more often than once a week. Groups have been canceled due to staffing issues. Both residents expressed concern that not everyone participates in group sessions.
Chores & Allowance		X	There are daily chores for residents to do which is how they earn their 14 dollar a week allowance.
Laundry		X	Staff does the resident's laundry every other day.
Clothes		X	Adaquate.
Food		X	One resident is lactose intolerant and the diet that she receives contains more dairy than she would prefers. The other would like staff to wear gloves and hairnets when preparing food.
Snacks	X		Fruit is always available. There is an AM and PM snack time. Residents also get crackers and Top Ramen. Sometimes they even get cookies.
School		X	One student felt that the school was not challenging enough. Another identified that there appeared to be gaps between a traditional education environment and the continuing education environment. There is one teacher for 17 students.
Library		X	As noted above.
Activities & Entertainment		X	The residents would like to go on outings more often.
Money		X	As noted above.

ADDITIONAL NOTES & SUGGESTIONS BY YOUTH

Of Youth Interviewed: 2

The residents seemed generally satisfied with the program. A suggestion from them would be to try and gain better alignment between the school that they go to now and the one that they will return to. One resident also expressed the desire to attend church, there seemed to be some difficulties with this but it was a bit difficult to interpret. They would also like the program to be more “organized”.

Inspection Summary

The R House girls facility continues to provide a safe place for their residents and a good program for them. Staff turnover though, as in many group homes, is an issue. The management has taken proactive steps to reduce staff turnover and the rate has been dropping. This is an issue that will have to be monitored in the future so that it does not affect the quality of services that the residents receive.

Inspection Commissioner Michael Charpiot

Next Inspection Recommended: _____ or X Annual Inspection

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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