

## Sonoma County Juvenile Justice Commission Group Home Inspection Report

Facility Name:	Greenacre Homes (Hurlbut Group Home) 2015
Address:	On file
Phone	707 953-0835 (c)
Contact Person	Timothy Dimick, Program Director

J.J.C. Inspector(s)	James Weathers and Richard Miller,
Date of Inspection	October 1, 2015
Date of Last Inspection	September 24, 2014
C.C.L. Contact	Pauline Muntzer
Date of Last C.C.L. Inspection	March 23, 2015

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

INSPECTED	O	S	N.I.	Comments
Grounds		x		Facility is located in a wooded area surrounded by redwoods lending a rustic parklike atmosphere to the home. It is adjacent to the Joyce House, another Greenacre group home.
Building Exterior		x		The building is an older one-story building. No immediate exterior repairs or painting were apparent.
Living Room		x		Living room was spacious with two new sofas, a fish tank, a large screen TV and a computer terminal. All furniture was comfortable and in good repair.

Kitchen		X	<p>There was an adequate supply of plates, glasses, cups and flatware for the residents and staff. The dining table was of sufficient size for all house residents and staff. Sharps and other controlled food/spices were locked. After school snacks are provided to all residents and a variety of fresh fruit was on the kitchen counter.</p> <p>Most staples used by all five Greenacre Homes are delivered to the Eddie Street facility and sent from there to the other houses twice a week. Weekly menus posted and are in compliance with ADA and State nutritional guidelines. The refrigerator was adequately stocked and no out dated left overs were noted.</p>
Bedrooms		x	<p>There are six bedrooms at the Hurlbut House and each resident has his own room. Each bedroom has a desk or table, chair or chairs, bed and chest of drawers or cabinet for the residents' clothes. Because of the ages of the residents (6 to 12) the small tables rather than desks seem to work out quite well.</p> <p>The primary lighting in the bedrooms comes from one ceiling fixture augmented by desk lamps if appropriate. In the past individual desk lamps have proven to be problematic due to repeated breakage. Since our last visit, staff has replaced the glass coverings on the ceiling providing for much more light in the rooms and desk lamps provided for some residents.</p> <p>One bedroom had a temporary 3ft by 3 ft. plywood patch secured to one wall to cover holes recently made by the resident. Staff has already arranged for a more permanent repair as soon as possible.</p>
Bathrooms		x	Bathrooms were clean and in good repair.
Fire Safety --Extinguishers		x	There were two fully charged fire extinguishers bearing current inspection dates readily accessible to staff at the facility.
Fire Safety --Smoke Alarms		x	In addition to the two fully charged fire extinguishers mentioned above there were also smoke alarms and carbon dioxide detectors mounted on the ceilings at strategic locations in the facility.

Fire Safety --Evacuation Plan		x		<p>The house evacuation plan was posted. However, it was in an area not readily seen by the residents. This was mentioned to staff at the time of the inspection and corrected by October 8th. Exits are clearly marked and easily accessible.</p> <p>There are regularly scheduled fire drills each month.</p>
Food		x		<p>The food service for the five Greenacre Homes is handled differently than most other group homes. Each of the five homes has their own kitchen however most meals are prepared in the commercial kitchen at Eddie Lane.</p> <p>The kitchen at Eddie Lane prepares bag lunches, which are delivered to the residents' houses. Pre-made dinners are heated in the individual houses (lasagna, salad, bread). Breakfast is prepared at the individual houses.</p> <p>Weekly menus are posted in each house and are in compliance with ADA and State guidelines.</p>
Emergency Supplies		x		<p>Emergency supplies such as first aid kits, additional food and water etc. were stored in a locked pantry. Toxic chemicals and cleaning material are also stored under lock and key when not being used by staff.</p> <p>Additional supplies are also kept at the Eddie St House and can be distributed to the other Greenacre Homes should the need arise.</p>
Health Services		x		<p>As with the other facilities maintained by Greenacre Homes, children are routinely scheduled for yearly medical exams with additional visits as necessary. Dental exams are scheduled semiannually with follow up treatment as indicated. 50% of the children at Hurlbut are receiving psychotropic medication under the direction of a licensed psychiatrist. However, house staff is actively working with the psychiatrist to reduce the use of these drugs where appropriate.</p>
Medications		x		<p>Medicines are in a locked drawer in the staff office, which is also locked. Prescribed medications are distributed by staff and charted in a log kept in the locked desk with the medications.</p>

Recreation (on site)	x			In addition to the large screen TV there was a variety of video and computer games and a small library in the living room. There is a small basketball court behind the facility and several of the children were shooting baskets with house staff at the time of our visit.
Outings (off site)	x			Activities include A's games, bike rides, hiking, trips to San Francisco. They go to the movies once a week, have been ice-skating, and on other field trips.
Education & Classrooms		x		All residents at Hurlbut are schooled in house.
Mail/Phone		x		Each resident has unrestricted access to the phone and computer unless usage is restricted for disciplinary reasons. Mail is sent and received without screening.
Discipline		x		<p>There is an "opportunity room" for residents to use voluntarily (can also be placed there by staff if it is felt to be in the child's best interest) for de-escalation or reflection during stressful incidents. While the door is not locked, staff is always in attendance. In most instances the resident is removed from the room after a five-minute period.</p> <p>In most instances discipline is accomplished by the restriction of privileges.</p> <p>Points are earned by residents that can be used to volunteer at hospice, the humane society, and the organic food pantry.</p>
Library		x		Age appropriate reading material is located in the living rooms.
<b>ADDITIONAL NOTES</b>				
Unlike most group homes in Sonoma County Greenacres accepts residents who are both developmentally delayed and emotionally challenged ages 8-18 (with exceptions some residents are older)				
They take up to level 14 and level 12 kids and accept regional center referrals.				

Very low staff turnover. They hire from within often from their internship program which they feel helps to build good relationships with residents. From our observations it appears this approach is working well. The children and staff seem to have very positive relationships.

Staff input is encouraged in decision-making and program development.

Internship program requires interns to work a minimum of 20 hours a week and agree to 1 year commitment. This is a paid internship and requires intern to stay past his or her own academic school year. Paid internships are rare so this is an incentive.

Community involvement of residents is encouraged where appropriate.

Staff is knowledgeable about residents with both developmental issues and emotional concerns.

Currently 20% of all Greenacre residents are from Sonoma County.

## Youth Interviews

TOPICS	O	S	N.I.	Comments
Evaluation of Program		x		Residents interviewed understood and seemed to like the program and staff in this house.
Program Understood		x		All residents are given an orientation presentation upon arrival along with a handbook containing the house rules and regulations. Residents interviewed seemed to understand the program and mentioned that the one on one with staff was a help in learning what was acceptable and what was not.
Levels (Privileges)		x		Residents understood how the “privilege and consequence” program works and that it was applied fairly.
Grievances		x		One resident interviewed was not aware of the formal grievance procedure or of the availability of the JJC to assist in resolving problems. This was explained to him and he was shown where the procedural material was posted.
Discipline		x		Residents felt discipline was fairly administered by the staff.
Staff Evaluation		x		As was the case at Joyce House residents here were positive in their comments about staff. “No problems approaching any of them but some easier to talk to than others”.
Health Services		x		Residents felt they received services as needed. One resident did object to the twice a year dental check-ups and cleanings.

Counseling/Therapy		x	Both on-site and off-site counselling and therapy is provided on a regular basis.
Chores & Allowance		x	Residents looked on chores as a way to earn extra privileges and increased allowance.
Laundry		x	Residents help with laundry chores as in keeping with their age and ability under the supervision of a staff member. Laundry materials are always handled by staff.
Clothes		x	Residents' clothes were clean and there was additional clothing in the bedrooms.
Food		x	Residents were complimentary about both the quality and quantity of the meals provided.
Snacks		x	In addition to the prepared snacks available at specific times the residents liked being able to get snacks (fresh fruit) whenever they wanted from the kitchen counter.
School		x	On site schooling.
Library		x	In addition to a number of age appropriate books and magazines there was a wide variety of video movies and games.
Activities & Entertainment		x	Weekly movies which the kids help select. Computer games. Basketball. "Jungle Jim" apparatus.
Money		x	Can earn funds based on age and chore.

<b>ADDITIONAL NOTES &amp; SUGGESTIONS BY YOUTH</b>			

## Inspection Summary

**In our opinion this facility provides a safe, healthy and nurturing environment for its residents.**

**Commissioners:**  
**James Weathers** \_\_\_\_\_ **Richard Miller** \_\_\_\_\_

**Next Inspection recommended:** \_\_\_\_\_ **or** \_\_\_\_\_ **Annual Inspection**

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**Mary Cone, 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