

Sonoma County Juvenile Justice Commission Group Home Inspection Report

Facility Name:	Greenacre Homes (Joyce Dr. Facility) 2015
Address:	On File
Phone	On File
Contact Person	Timothy Dimick

J.J.C. Inspector(s)	James Weathers, 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	June 12, 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 park like atmosphere.
Building Exterior		x		The Joyce House is an older two story structure. Currently the downstairs area is locked and used only for storage. No immediate painting or repair needs were noted. A new wooden deck has been installed at the front of the house in the last year.
Living Room		x		The living area was spacious and comfortably furnished with couches, chairs, TV, books and video games. The entire interior of the house has undergone extensive remodeling within the last two years.
Kitchen		x		The kitchen and eating area was clean and well maintained and contained table and chairs adequate to seat the residents and staff. Sharps are locked in another room. Most meals used by all five Greenacre Homes are prepared at the Eddie Street facility and sent from there to the other houses. Staples such as milk, bread, fruit etc. are delivered from the Eddie House twice a week and kept in the individual houses. Weekly menus are posted and meals appear to be in compliance with ADA and State nutritional guidelines. The refrigerator and kitchen cabinets were adequately stocked and no out dated left overs were noted.

Bedrooms		x		There are six bedrooms at the Joyce House one of which is furnished with two beds however the usual occupancy is only six with each child having a room to himself. At the time of this visit there were six boys in residence. The bedrooms are adequately furnished with bed (or in one case two beds) desks, chair(s), dressers and with closets.
Bathrooms		x		There were two bathrooms with showers available for residents. The bathrooms were clean and in good repair with no broken porcelain or tiles.
Fire Safety --Extinguishers		x		There were two charged fire extinguishers bearing current inspection dates in the facility; one on the first floor and one on the lower level.
Fire Safety --Smoke Alarms		x		There were smoke alarms in each of the bedrooms and dining area
Fire Safety --Evacuation Plan		x		Posters containing the house evacuation plan were posted. However in some cases they were not posted to the best advantage e.g. at the exit rather than in a place so that the residents could see how to get to the exits. However, exits are clearly marked and easily accessible. Policy requires fire drills two times per month and the children spoken with confirm that routine fire drills occur regularly.
Food		x		Refrigerator and cabinets appeared to be adequately stocked. Snacks are provided in the morning and afternoon. A supply of fresh fruits is available in the kitchen for the residents. Potentially dangerous spices such as nutmeg and flavorings such as vanilla with a high alcohol content are kept in a locked cabinet.
Emergency Supplies		x		Emergency supplies such as first aid kits, additional food and water etc. as well as some laundry and cleaning supplies were stored in the lower level. Access is behind a locked door. Additional supplies are also kept at the Eddie St House and can be distributed to the other Greenacre Homes should the need arise. Unfortunately, in the event of a power outage negotiating the stairway to access the lower level could prove dangerous even with a flash light. The stairs are steep and it was suggested that staff install a battery powered light in the stair well. Additionally the light switch at the top of the stairs was difficult to locate.
Health Services		x		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.
Medications		x		Medicines are in a locked drawer in the staff office which is also locked. Other toxic chemicals and cleaning materials are also stored under lock and key when not being used by staff. Prescribed medications are distributed by staff and charted in a log kept in the locked desk with the medications.

Recreation (on site)		x		On site recreation consists of TV, video games, some board games and reading. There was a small library in the living room and many of the residents had books in their rooms. There were a variety of balls and other recreational material stored in the lower level closets.
Outings (off site)		x		Outside activities include: visits to baseball games, bike rides, hiking, movies, and visits to San Francisco on occasion. Several of the kids from this house are scheduled to participate in the upcoming Gran Fondo Ride.
Education & Classrooms		x		Most of the residents attend the school operated by Greenacre staff due to behavioral issues, however, at least one is attending public school at the time of this visit.
Mail/Phone		x		Each of the residents has access to the home's telephone and computers. Incoming and outgoing mail and e-mail is unrestricted unless there are special circumstances involved.
Discipline		x		Discipline is two pronged consisting of rewards for "good" behavior and defined penalties for unacceptable behavior. Rewards consist of a possible increase in the allowance each child receives, increased outings etc. Penalties include restriction of outside activities and in some cases restriction to the resident's room. Restrictions are usually limited to one day. Restrictions of more than one day require the approval of a Supervisor.
Library		x		There was a small library in living room and several residents had books in their rooms. In addition to the reading material there were a variety of video games and movies.

ADDITIONAL NOTES

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). The children are placed in a house appropriate to their needs and abilities.

Greenacre homes accept regional center clients

Very low staff turnover. Whenever possible Greenacre hires from the pool of interns the facility employs. Facility management believes this promotes consistency with residents and facilitates relationship building.

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

Internship program requires interns to work 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.

Most of the staff in the houses have at least some college and several have degrees and most have had previous experience in group home settings.

Currently 20% of the total residents from the five houses are from Sonoma County.

Youth Interviews

TOPICS	O	S	N.I.	Comments
Evaluation of Program		x		Residents were very complimentary about program.
Program Understood				Residents given in-depth orientation upon arrival along with a handbook containing the house rules and regulations.
Levels (Privileges)				Residents understood how the "privilege and consequence" program worked.
Grievances		x		Although the grievance procedures as well as the JJC Contact information bulletin were posted in the staff area behind a counter in the dining area at least one of the residents interviewed seemed not to be aware of these avenues to address problems. The placement of these bulletins was discussed with staff. In addition to reinforcing the grievance procedures with residents on a regular basis the information concerning these procedures should be placed in a more easily accessed area.
Discipline		x		Residents seemed to understand and accept the disciplinary policies in place.
Staff Evaluation		x		The relationship between residents and staff in both the Joyce and Hurlbut Houses seem to be very positive. Both houses have a warm family-like atmosphere. Several of the staff have been with Greenacre for over 20 years.

Health Services		x	Residents confirmed that the policy regarding regular medical and dental exams was being followed and that additional appointments were made when necessary.
Counseling/Therapy			On-site and off-site counselling and therapy is provided as necessary.
Chores & Allowance			Each child has assigned chores based on age and ability which are posted weekly. Everyone receives a basic allowance which may be augmented based on additional duties and satisfactory behavior.
Laundry		x	Residents help with the laundry of their own clothes under the supervision of facility staff. Laundry supplies are controlled by staff.
Clothes		x	Residents' clothes were clean and there was additional clothing in the bedroom closets.
Food		x	Residents were complimentary about both the quality and quantity of the food they received.
Snacks		x	Fruit is available on the kitchen counter though out the day but other snacks are monitored by staff since some of the residents have eating disorders.
School		x	The residents appear to feel more at home with the facility's educational program rather than at public school.
Library		x	Residents make good use of the available books, video games and movies.
Activities & Entertainment		x	Residents interviewed stated they enjoyed going to the movies and on the field trips. Several volunteer at various non-profits in the area such as the food bank or Ceres. In some cases these are paid jobs in others the pay off is in experience.
Money		x	Residents like the idea of having their own money to spend.

ADDITIONAL NOTES & SUGGESTIONS BY YOUTH

of Youth Interviewed: 3 _

Inspection Summary

As with the other Greenacre facilities, we believe this house provides a safe, healthy and nurturing environment for the children in residence.

Commissioners

James Weathers _____ **Richard Miller** _____,

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

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