

Sonoma County Juvenile Justice Commission Group Home Inspection Report

Facility Name:	Juniper House
Address:	520 Oasis Dr. Santa Rosa, CA 95407
Phone	707-360-1500
Contact Person	Bethany Bilyeu

J.J.C. Inspector(s)	Gayle Ballinger
Date of Inspection	10/29/14
Date of Last Inspection	9/4/13
C.C.L. Contact	Pauline Muntzer
Date of Last C.C.L. Inspection	

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

Action

INSPECTED	O	S	N.I.	Comments
Grounds		x		Clean. Plain.
Building Exterior		x		Clean. Sterile.
Living Room		x		Clean. Basic.
Kitchen		x		Clean.
Bedrooms		x		Clean. Sparse. Beds disheveled.
Bathrooms		x		Clean. Worn.
Fire Safety --Extinguishers		x		Up to date.
Fire Safety --Smoke Alarms		x		Working.
Fire Safety --Evacuation Plan		x		Posted.
Food		x		Adequate amount in refrigerator and pantry.
Emergency Supplies		x		Garage.
Health Services		x		Logged.
Medications		x		Locked. Logged.
Recreation (on site)		x		Basketball hoops. In the summer football and baseball played in huge backfield.

Outings (off site)		x		There are opportunities available.
Education & Classrooms		x		North Valley.
Mail/Phone		x		Available to all.
Discipline		x		Clearly understood.
Library		x		At school

ADDITIONAL NOTES

This is the second attempt to visit Juniper House. Previously this commissioner arrived at appointed time and waited 45 minutes however the staff and youth did not arrive and this commissioner needed to leave.

Rescheduled with the understanding this would be a good time, medication could be administered after I left if needed.

Overall this house is clean, sterile and a little rugged. The cat that is usually hanging around was absent but is still part of the family.

Youth Interviews

TOPICS	O	S	N.I.	Comments
Evaluation of Program			x	Two boys independently reported they were not happy with program.
Program Understood		x		Both understand the program and their individual goals.
Levels (Privileges)		x		Do not feel "levels" are used at VTC
Grievances			x	One has filed a grievance and is waiting for the outcome. Will be filing another grievance. Does not believe he is being heard.
Discipline		x		Understand the process.
Staff Evaluation			x	There are mixed feelings about this staff. Both stated there were some staff who seem to care and other staff members who seem cold.

Health Services		x		Available.
Counseling/Therapy		x		On site.
Chores & Allowance		x		Clean 2-3 times a day.
Laundry		x		They know when they can do their laundry.
Clothes		x		Parents get them what they need.
Food			x	Both boys complained about the quality of the food. Undercooked chicken. One peanut butter sandwich is offered in place of dinner if they do not want to eat what is served.
Snacks		x		Neither were happy with the snacks. Admitted they could be picky eaters.
School			x	Neither were happy with quality of their education. One mentioned he would be behind when he returns home soon.
Library		x		School. Some books around. One is an avid reader.
Activities & Entertainment		x		Computer is available. Boys gathered around to see what shoes they wanted to order. The shoes were \$200-\$250 range. They spoke about how dangerous it would be to wear out in public.
Money		x		One believes they are not paid enough. Not even minimum wage. For as many chores as they are expected to do per day \$1 per day is not fair.

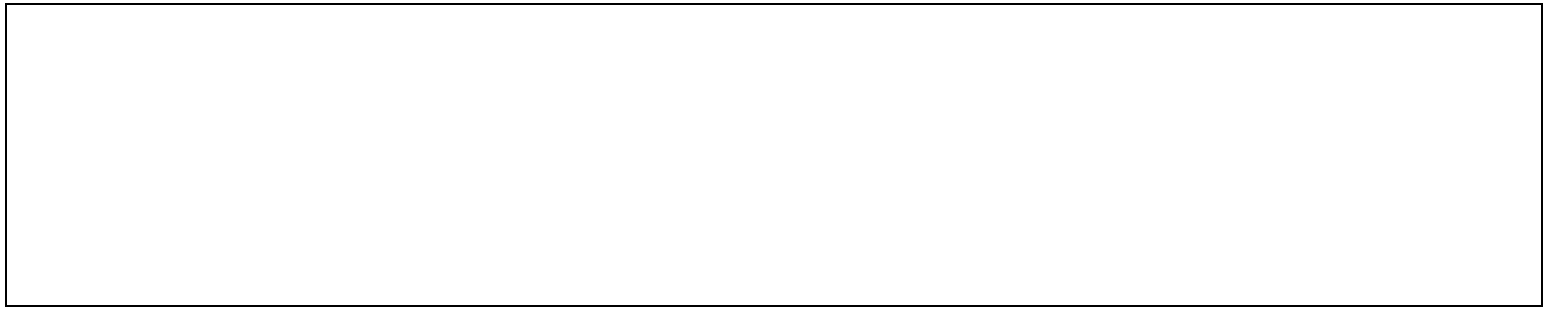
ADDITIONAL NOTES & SUGGESTIONS BY YOUTH

of Youth Interviewed: 2

One of the youth spoke of a rule where the youth is supposed to step away from the bedroom doorway if a staff wants to enter or pass. He was told to move back. His version is that he felt he was out of the way but when the staff entered he put his hands on the youth's chest as if to move him back. The youth states he has complained about this event with no result. We discussed what he could do about the situation. He said he would speak with the woman in charge of this house. When this commissioner left the youth was asking her if they could talk and her response was positive. I reminded him of the pink laminated JJC sheets by the phone. Advised if he needed help with this issue he could call the JJC.

We spoke of the raw chicken and he said he was going to mention that when meeting with her. They were discussing this issue when I was leaving. The conversation appeared to be open and responsive on both parts.

Inspection Summary



Gayle Ballinger
Inspection Commissioner

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

Revised 7/31/14