

Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Commission San Mateo County, California

Group Home Inspection

Please respond to sections that apply to the facility you are inspecting.
Type or print clearly.

Facility Name: MAC GROUP HOME

Date of this Inspection: 9/6/13

Address: 135 FLOURNOY, DALY CITY

Date of Last Inspection: 8/21/12

Contact Person: MARYANNE CARPENTER, IDRIES PEARSON

Facility Capacity: 8 male youth

Phone Number: 270-5186

Current Population: 7

Presiding Juvenile Court Judge: HON. SUSAN ETEZADI

Annual Population: 60-80

Commission Inspection Team: PATRICIA BRESEE, BRAULIO GONZALEZ

Major Concerns, Observations, and Recommendations

Facility has been repainted and is in good condition. There are still no on-site recreation facilities other than a basketball hoop in the small backyard and a weight lifting apparatus in the garage. Gym memberships have been made available but not all the youth are using them. We would urge that there be more opportunities for exercise and significant efforts to get the youth to participate.

Morale of the 4 youth with whom we spoke seems good and two of the youth were very enthusiastic about this placement.

Fire Inspection Report: Yes No Date: 7/17/12

Health Department Report: Yes No Date: Attached.

Miscellaneous: _____

Areas Reviewed

Quality of Life:

- Physical Plants
- Meals/Nutrition
- Mental Health
- Physical/Dental Health
- Religious Services
- Volunteer Involvement
- Visiting
- Other: _____

Programs:

- Education
- Vocational/Employability
- Community Service
- Individual/Group Counseling
- Substance Abuse
- Other: Sex Education

Persons Interviewed:

- Minors
- Director
- Youth Supervisor/Staff
- Food Services Staff
- Other: _____

General Information

Stated purpose of facility: Provide quality care and supervision to young people and to implement and further the case plan presented by the social worker or probation officer.

Type of operating license: Group Residential Home

License number: 410508779

Most recent licensing inspection: _____

Rating level: 9

Target population of juveniles: 8

Age range of juveniles: 13-19

Juveniles' home counties: San Mateo, San Francisco

Pre-Plan for Emergencies: Yes No Date of Last Drill: 8/26/13

Comments: _____

Staffing

Describe staff specialties: Program management, counseling, education

Describe staff including numbers, background, ethnicity, language: 9 full time staff.

Ethnicities are African American, Hispanic, Philippino, Caucasian

Hispanic staff member is bi-lingual

Educational requirements for Staff: BA or 2 years experience; 4 years preferred

Training provided for staff: 26 hours initially; on-going training at least 4 hours @month. Upon employment, the staff member shadows a current employee for "hands-on" training and supervision.

Staff to minor ratio: Awake: 2 or 3 to 7 Sleeping: 1 to 7

How is staff backup handled during grave-yard shift?: 1 on site, program director is on call and lives nearby.

Describe staff turnover, including frequency and reason: Current staff is stable and 2 social workers have been hired recently. One is on site every day, the other is there 2 to 3 times a week

Describe general staff and minor interactions: From what we observed, the relationships are mutually respectful with staff providing leadership.

Comments: _____

Conditions of Grounds and Building Exterior

Give a general description of the property: This is a 4 bedroom, three bath home with a comfortable common area upstairs that includes the kitchen and dining areas. Downstairs is the staff office, another common room, and one 2 bedroom and bath. The adjacent garage has the weight machine and laundry facilities.

The property is small in area with no lawn, on a residential street with single family homes much like the facility.

Give a general description of the main facility including housekeeping and sanitation:

Although the facility may have been "scrubbed down" for our visit, we found it to be very clean and in general good condition. The bathrooms and kitchen were immaculate and no offensive odors were detected. The youth are responsible for most cleaning chores but staff steps in as necessary.

Lawns: Acceptable Unacceptable: N/A

Playing Fields: Acceptable Unacceptable: N/A

Blacktop: Acceptable Unacceptable: _____

Paint: Acceptable Unacceptable: _____

Roof: Acceptable Unacceptable: _____

Drains and Gutters: Acceptable Unacceptable: _____

General Appearance: Acceptable Unacceptable: _____

Condition of Interior of Building

Walls: Acceptable Unacceptable: _____

Paint: Acceptable Unacceptable: _____

Floors: Acceptable Unacceptable: _____

Ceilings: Acceptable Unacceptable: _____

Drains: Acceptable Unacceptable: _____

Plumbing Fixtures: Acceptable Unacceptable: _____

Air Vents/Heating/Windows: Acceptable Unacceptable: _____

Smoke Alarms: Acceptable Unacceptable: _____

Storage of Cleaning Fluids/Chemicals: Acceptable Unacceptable: _____

Recreation/Sports Equipment: Acceptable Unacceptable: Limited

Hallways Clear/Doors Propped Open: Acceptable Unacceptable: _____

Sleeping Rooms: Acceptable Unacceptable: _____

Beds: Acceptable Unacceptable: _____

Art, Books, Personal Items Allowed in Rooms: Acceptable Unacceptable: _____

Graffiti Present: Acceptable Unacceptable: NONE OBSERVED

Ample Blankets: Acceptable Unacceptable: _____

Study Area: Acceptable Unacceptable: _____

Adequate Lighting: Acceptable Unacceptable: _____

Temperature: Acceptable Unacceptable: _____

Orientation of Minors

What is in intake process for the facility?: Prior to acceptance, multi-disciplinary team meets with the youth to discuss his circumstances and needs. If the program staff conclude that they can meet the needs and conform to the case plan, he is accepted. Upon arrival, he is greeted, meets the other staff and residents and is oriented to the house rules and expectations.

Are minors oriented to the house rules and procedures?: Yes No Explain:

Are house rules and grievance procedures posted?: Yes No Explain: _____

What is in place to ensure that these rules and procedures are understood by minors?: Meetings and one on one counseling.

Are clothing and possessions inventoried on arrival and departure?: Yes No But because the youth will sometimes purchase additional items, not all possessions are inventoried.

How are juvenile's clothing and possessions protected or stored?: Personal items are in closets in the room. Special items such as laptops or x-boxes are locked in a closet on the upper floor.

Interviewed Minors: Yes No Details: We met separately with two of the youth and then met with two together. One of the youth spoke limited English so he was interviewed by Commissioner Gonzalez who interpreted questions from Commissioner Bresee.

Meals/Nutrition

Kitchen: Acceptable Unacceptable: _____

Do the youth share in preparation of meals?: Yes No Details: _____

Are meals served family style?: Yes No Details: Sometimes, but differing schedules of school and activities make regular family style dinners difficult.

Are minors permitted to converse during meals?: Yes No Details: _____

Are staff present and supervising during meals?: Yes No Details: _____

Are weekly menus posted?: Yes No Details: _____

Are servings ample, nutritious, appetizing?: Yes No Details: By observations and report.

Weaker minors protected from having food taken from them?: Yes No Details: Program manager stated that not only were such youth protected, there is such ample food available with access to the refrigerator, food cupboards and freezer, there is no problem.

Are snacks and beverages available?: Yes No Details: See above.

How do you meet special nutritional needs?: As presented.

Length of time allowed to eat?: Ample.

Mealtimes (no more than 4 hours between meals, breakfast to dinner, without a snack)

Breakfast: As early as 5:30 a.m. **Lunch:** Noon, but most of the youth eat at school. They can make and take their lunches, but most are provided with lunch money.

Dinner: 6:00 p.m. or adjusted around individual schedules.

Comments: Three of the youths praised the food and the availability of snacks. The Spanish speaking youth expressed a desire for more meals consistent with his cultural preferences. The program director stated that they make every effort to provide culturally oriented offerings and when the youth are taken out to restaurants or for take-out, preferences are honored as much as possible.

Personal Appearance of Minors

Appearance: Acceptable Unacceptable: _____

Showers (frequency, privacy, supervised): Acceptable Unacceptable: _____

Condition of clothing (clean, fit, etc.): Acceptable Unacceptable: _____

Clothing appropriate to current weather: Acceptable Unacceptable: _____

Comments: Upon arrival, each youth is provided with a kit containing items for hygiene, e.g. deodorant, soap, toothpaste, etc.

Programs

Recreation (type, amount, etc.): Acceptable Unacceptable: See above. Video games are often used. There is a recent affiliation with the CATS program so more tickets for events are being provided.

Exercise (daily schedule, amount, etc.): Acceptable Unacceptable: As described above, on-site exercise is limited.

Access to Religious Services: Acceptable Unacceptable: _____

Access to Medical Services: Acceptable Unacceptable: Staff drive the youth to appointments as needed.

Access to Mental Health Services: Acceptable Unacceptable: On-site with social worker and at school.

Individual Counseling: Acceptable Unacceptable: On site and at school.

Group Counseling: Acceptable Unacceptable: Not provided formally.

Substance Abuse Counseling: Acceptable Unacceptable:

Victim Awareness Classes: Acceptable Unacceptable:

Gang Awareness Classes: Yes No Details:

Sexual Harassment Classes: Yes No Details:

Parenting Classes: Yes No Details: As needed.

Vocational Classes: Yes No Details: Not on-site but through ILS programs.

Work Program: Yes No Details: Assistance to youth in finding and applying for programs and employment.

Other: Tutoring by staff on-site. This was confirmed by one of the youth.

Discipline of Minors

Describe the discipline process of minors: Staff discuss issues with the youth. There is a system of points and levels that determine privileges. The youth are entitled to a minimum allowance and can earn additional funds by performance and taking on additional chores. Visitation and off-site privileges are awarded or limited based on performance. Access to cell phones and/or x-boxes is often limited as a consequence.

Grievances

Grievance Process: Acceptable Unacceptable: _____

Depends on the grievance; e.g. between youth or involving staff. The Program Director deals with each grievance and if not resolved it will go to Ms. Carpenter for final resolution.

Number of grievances this year: Minor to serious. 6 to 8 @ month. _____

Trends and/or Comments: The vast majority have involved youth to youth disagreements. Fighting is not tolerated and police are called if there is violence, which is not tolerated.

Correspondence / Telephone

Access US Mail?: Yes No Details: _____

Postage Free?: Yes No Details: _____

Incoming/Outgoing Mail (Screened? Confidential?): Yes No Details: If there is concern, the item remains confidential but a staff member observes it being opened to be sure there is no contraband.

Access to Telephone?: Yes No Details: All the youth have cell phones.

Visiting

Visiting Schedule: Weekdays _____ Weekends _____ Special Events _____

Do all minors have access to visitation?: Yes No Details: Visits to the home are by appointment only and with the specific approval of the social worker/probation officer or my order of the court. Most visits are off-site and staff assist with transportation if necessary.

Under what circumstances would visitation be restricted?: There is concern about what might be brought into the home by visitors, so there is the required approval described above.

Are visitation logs kept?: Yes No Details: But reported to the social worker/probation officer.

Adequate Space: Acceptable Unacceptable: _____

Staff Supervision: Acceptable Unacceptable: _____

Privacy Provided: Yes No Details: _____

Games or Activities Provided: Yes No Details: _____

School

List the schools your residents attend: Terra Nova, Thornton, Adult School, Balboa, Wallenberg, Oceana, RISE and Lincoln.

How is transportation to school provided?: Staff drive to Terra Nova. Public transportation for most. Special schools provide transportation.

Are students able to participate in school-based extra-curricular activities?: Yes

Is tutoring available?: Yes

Adequate Supplies, Books, Paper, Computer?: Yes

Access to Computers/Internet?: Yes No How is this managed?: Computer in office; some have own laptops..

Describe the relationship between school and staff: By report, staff is involved.

Comments

General comments or concerns that should be noted that have not already been address?: The condition of the house was excellent and much improved from last year. The concerns about recreation and exercise remain. The conversations with the youth were candid and helpful. One youth said he "loves it here." Another said it is the best placement he has ever had and explained that at the MAC home, there was mutual respect between the kids and the staff and he enjoyed the flexibility and trust he was given. It should be noted that Idries Pearson is the Interim Program Director at the home, and it is clear that the changes he has made in the brief time he has been there have been significant. It is hoped that his successor will be equally effective.

Signature of Commissioner(s) preparing this report:

_____/s/ Patricia Bresee_____
Date: 09/06/13

_____/s/ Braulio Gonzalez_____
Date: 09/06/13

Date: _____