



**PLACER COUNTY JUVENILE JUSTICE
DELINQUENCY PREVENTION COMMISSION
ANNUAL INSPECTION REPORT**

2013

Welfare & Institutions Code Section 229.5

(a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a juvenile justice commission may inquire into the operation of any group home that serves wards or dependent children of the juvenile court and is located in the county or region the commission serves. The commission may review the safety and well-being of wards or dependent children placed in the group home and the program and services provided in relation to the home's published program statement.

(b) In conducting its review, the commission shall respect the confidentiality of minors' records and other information protected under other provisions of law. It may review court or case records of a child provided it keeps the identities of minors named in those records confidential, and may review the financial records of a group home. However, the commission may not review the personnel records of employees or the records of donors to the group home.

(c) The commission shall give the group home manager at least 24 hours' advance notice of a visit to a group home. If the commission believes that there is a serious violation of applicable licensing laws or regulations or that residents of a group home are in danger of physical or mental abuse, abandonment or other substantial threat to their health and safety, the commission shall notify the Community Care Licensing Division of the State Department of Social Services for appropriate action, shall consult with the presiding judge of the juvenile court and chief probation officer as to whether or not a visit is appropriate, and shall notify other juvenile justice commissions of its actions, as appropriate.

(d) Upon the completion of a visit, if the commission finds any condition in the group home that poses a danger to its residents or otherwise violates any applicable law, ordinance, or regulation, the commission shall verbally advise the group home manager of its findings, unless it determines that the advisement could be detrimental to the children placed there, and shall send written confirmation of its findings to the group home manager within 14 days. The commission may also report its findings to the presiding judge of the juvenile court, chief probation officer, State Department of Social Services, or other juvenile justice commissions as appropriate. A group home manager may meet with the juvenile justice commission, chief probation officer, county welfare director, juvenile court, or the State Department of Social Services to resolve any problem or to submit a plan of correction.

Facility: Koinonia Group Home #1

Address: 3880 Oak Tree Lane, Loomis, CA

Phone Number: (916) 652-6557

Department Chief: Bill Ryland

Staff Interviewed: Bill Hamilton

Date of Inspection: May 7, 2013

Juvenile Justice Commission Inspection Team:

Paul Comiskey, Lead
Diane Shinstock

Supervising Juvenile Court Judge: Hon. Colleen Nichols

Staffing Ratio: awake 3/1
 asleep 6/1

Number of suicides: 0

Number of assaults: 0

Number of runaways: 2 (one from home; one from school)

GENERAL

Does the facility house juveniles under 601 of the W&I Code?	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Does the facility house juveniles under 602 of the W&I Code?	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
Are 601's and 602's separated? N/A	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
Are males kept separate from females? (separate houses)	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>

INTERIOR

Are sleeping rooms adequate and clean?	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
Is the interior of the house clean?	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
Were walls, paint, drains, plumbing, vents, windows, etc... in good working condition?	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
Are cleaning fluids and chemicals labeled and safely stored?	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
Are recreational equipment and sporting equipment in good order?	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
Are the hallways kept clear and uncluttered?	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
Are personal possessions allowed in sleeping rooms?	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
Is there any graffiti present?	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Is a study area available for residence?	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
Is there adequate lighting in the facility?	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
Does the facility maintain an adequate temperature during seasons?	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>

EXTERIOR

Are outdoor common areas well maintained?	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
Are any outdoor areas in disrepair?	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

MEALS/NUTRITION

Is the kitchen clean?	YES [x]	NO []
Is staff present and supervising during meals?	YES [x]	NO []
Is a weekly menu prepared and posted?	YES [x]	NO []
Are the meals served cafeteria style? (Family Style)	YES []	NO [x]

PROGRAMS

Are minors allowed ample time for recreation of any kind?	YES [x]	NO []
Do all minors exercise daily?	YES [x]	NO []
Do minors have access to religious services?	YES [x]	NO []
Are Medical/Mental Health Services available to minors?	YES [x]	NO []
Is there counseling available to the minors?	YES [x]	NO []
Is there a family reunification plan in place for minors?	YES [x]	NO []
Is there substance Abuse counseling available for minors?	YES [x]	NO []
Are there parenting classes available?	YES [x]	NO []
Are there any vocational classes available?	YES [x]	NO []

GRIEVANCE POLICY

Are all minors oriented to the rules and procedures?	YES [x]	NO []
Are rules and grievance procedures posted and visible to minors?	YES [x]	NO []
Is there a consistent and fair discipline plan in place?	YES [x]	NO []

COMMUNICATION

Do minors have access to phones?	YES [x]	NO []
Are minors given free postage for their correspondence?	YES [x]	NO []
Is incoming and outgoing mail read by staff? (Scanned for drugs)	YES []	NO [x]
Are accommodations made for visitation?	YES [x]	NO []
Does staff supervise visits?	YES [x]	NO []

Commissioners Observations:

Are the minors in a good state of appearance?	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
Do they appear to shower regularly and in proper hygiene?	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
Is clothing appropriate and in good condition?	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
Did the minors interviewed feel they had an opportunity to express their concerns or issues with the staff?	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
Was a minor interviewed prior to or before the inspection?	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Were any issues raised during the minor interview?	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Commissioners Narrative:

Koinonia Group Home #1 is set among large granite boulders and oak trees at the end of a lane in rural Loomis, California. The house has been there for thirty years and the six male residents (ages 13-17) enjoy the wildlife and the domestic animals of nearby neighbors. The ratio of staff to minors is 3 to 1 during waking hours with one staff in the home during the graveyard shift. The home has been recently remodeled with a professional kitchen installed. The minors are able to sit in front of a large cooking island to take lessons in food preparation. There are weekly cooking classes with academic credit for attendance. There is a very large family room that accommodates meetings when all the male minors from the Koinonia homes in the area meet for speakers, etc.

Koinonia Homes are the only ones in California that are licensed to provide drug and alcohol treatment for minors. The program is one of total immersion with seamless transitions between home, school and the rehabilitation programs. The minors have a program that depends largely on self-governance with strong supervision from staff. Koinonia Homes have been very successful at creating the best possible combination of living in a group home with addiction treatment with a family environment. There are many enjoyable outings, birthday dinners in nearby restaurants, and opportunities to volunteer or work outside the home that create a family atmosphere. In recent years the population of the homes has shifted from being mostly local youth to minors from all the counties of California. The distances create additional challenges to Koinonia Homes to have effective family involvement in the program. Having minors from a number of counties also makes it more difficult for the program to monitor the success of the minors when they transition back to their communities. Koinonia Homes have built a very strong reputation in the Placer community for their integrity and compassion for the youth they serve and have enjoyed strong support from the community. We are very fortunate to have them in the community. The Commission would enjoy some research done on how well the youth transition when they return home and some evaluation of what works best in the program and what would be worthy of improvement.

The Juvenile Justice/Delinquency Prevention Commission of Placer County finds that Koinonia Group Home #1 is in compliance with California State Licensing Regulations.

Inspection Report completed by Commissioner: Diane Shinstock

On this date: May 30, 2013



Signed
