



**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 #4

Address: 8200 King Road
Loomis, CA 95650

Phone Number: 916-624-2636

Executive Director: Bill Ryland

Staff Interviewed: Justin LaCasse

Date of Inspection: May 10, 2013

Juvenile Justice Commission Inspection Team:

John Richardson (Lead)

Sandena Bader

Supervising Juvenile Court Judge: Hon. Colleen Nichols

Staffing Ratio: 6 juveniles/2 staff awake
 6 juveniles/1 staff asleep

Number of suicides: 0

Number of assaults: 0

Number of runaways: 7

GENERAL

Does the facility house juveniles under 601 of the W&I Code?	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input 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?	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Are males kept separate from females?	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?	YES []	NO [x]

PROGRAMS

Is 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?	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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
Were any issues raised during the minor interview?	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Commissioners Narrative:

This group home was found in very neat and clean condition, as well as a home like environment. The outside grounds were well maintained with plenty of space for outdoor activities. The Koinonia organization has created a positive environment that facilitates the rehabilitation of the youths placed here.

With regard to the questions above, there are the following qualifications: Meals are served family style, and dinner provides a relaxed atmosphere to discuss issues informally with staff. Mail is screened by the Group Home Supervisor or a therapist, but not by staff. Staff is present at visits, but do not directly supervise the visit.

We were able to interview two youths before the inspection of this house. Both have been in residence 10 months. Both expressed very positive feelings about their experience at the home. One of the house rules that resonated was that there is a consequence for all if one person violates a house rule. It is dependent on the youth leader of the house to gain group support and compliance. The result is that they work together most of the time to prevent such violations. It is notable that one of the youths interviewed has been chosen as the house leader by staff, and he is the youngest of the group. This was his first opportunity in his life to demonstrate leadership, and it has given him a more mature and broader perspective of his situation, and he has gained valuable self-confidence. This is his second time in a group home environment. He compared this home very favorably over the other. He was very positive about the programs and activities provided. The second youth is in group home placement for the first time. He was also positive about the program, and how it has helped him see that he had to change to avoid going down the road he was headed. He has learned to play guitar while at the house, and is proud of the achievement. Both youths were well groomed, and in clean clothing. Neither reported having any negative interactions with staff at the house.

We were also able to interview the facility supervisor, Justin. He has worked at Koinonia for ten years, and seems very enthusiastic and caring for the youths in his charge. He is totally committed to the program, and thinks of himself as a "House Dad." He expressed that his qualities were keeping a calm demeanor and having a heart for people. He embraces constant change, and has seen the Koinonia program grow and develop through his tenure. His only negative comment was that the staff is sometimes stretched too thin, but that is caused by all the activities they do.

The youths attend chemical dependency classes at school each week. Each youth has a scheduled laundry day. On inspection, all beds were made, and the rooms neat and clean with the exception of the one that was stripped

for laundry day. They can also launder clothes and bedding on the weekend if necessary. The youths are provided a savings account and also have the opportunity earn money. They are allowed to have no more than \$10 on their person when they go out as a group and a maximum of \$20 when they go home for a weekend visit. Home visits are granted depending on their behavior in residence. The savings accounts go with the youths when they complete the program, and are instrumental in teaching life skills.

Each youth is appointed a cook of the month, and under supervision, cook from recipes. This is a new skill for most boys, and both stated that it was hard to learn. They have also started vocational classes in gardening, and seem to enjoy this activity.

Again, depending on the behavior of the group as a whole, off site activities are scheduled. They go to movies, have gone snowboarding, and skateboarding. They also go out for an occasional meal. They also have the opportunity to attend church together. They are given generous opportunity to be outside for recreation and relaxation. The group home has a gym membership with the ability to utilize twice a week dependent on behavior. They also have structured tasks inside, and have a study night on Thursday evenings to prepare for Friday school tests.

The program at Koinonia is designed to change behavior, and our observation was they are being successful, and as the youths move through the phases of the program, are better prepared to either return home, go to college, or pursue a vocation. The youth stay at Koinonia through a tenure that allows them to complete the program to deal appropriately with their drug or alcohol issues, and emerge with the skills to remain healthy and become productive citizens.

This group home has meet all the regulatory requirements, with the appropriate postings, and items such as chemicals and cleaning agents under lock and key.

In summary, Koinonia House 4 is operated well with a dedicated staff. The youths in residence have only positive comments on how the program is helping them, and we found no negative comments or issues.

The Juvenile Justice/Delinquency Prevention Commission of Placer County finds that Koinonia House 4 is in compliance with California State Licensing Regulations.

Inspection Report completed by Commissioner: John K Richardson

On this date: May 10, 2013

John K Richardson

Signed
