

Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Commission San Mateo County, California

Group Home Inspection

Facility Name: Canyon Oaks Youth Center

Facility Capacity: 12

Address: 400 Edmonds Road, Redwood City, 94062

Current Population: 8 current residents, but only 5 (3 females and 2 males) were at the facility at this time. 2 were at YSC, 1 was in the hospital. 3 are high school graduates. One is 18 years old and a volunteer resident.

Contact Person: Victoria Valencia, Supervising Mental Health Clinician

Annual Population: NA

Phone Number: 650-839-1810

Date of this Inspection: 5/24/2018

Date of Last Inspection: 8/1/2017

Commission Inspection Team: Toni Barrack, Daniel Casillas, Christine Ford

Presiding Juvenile Court Judge: Hon. Elizabeth Lee

Major Concerns, Observations, and Recommendations

Observations: Canyon Oaks appears to be a very well run facility with a dedicated and well trained staff and a commendable reliance on trauma informed practices. The staff is very engaged with the youth and each other, creating a comfortable and relaxed environment.

There is an extensive array of programs available to the youth. The staff seems proactive and creative in trying new activities to engage the residents. They take advantage and draw from the many resources available in the Bay Area to develop programs.

Concerns: Each resident has an individual needs and assessment plan, as well as individual goals to meet. A major problem exists when a minor's goals have been met and he/she is ready to transition out of the facility, but has nowhere to go because foster care is not available or they cannot go back to their family. Waiting is very frustrating to the individuals and leads to problems and poor behaviors, thereby justifying even longer stays.

Recommendations: No recommendations made at this time.

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Fire Inspection Report: Yes No Date: 1/9/2018

Miscellaneous: 3 minor deficiencies noted in fire inspection. All Corrected 1/10/2018

Health Department Report: Yes No Date: NA

As a Community Care licensed facility, Canyon Oaks does not have a BSCC health inspection.

Areas Reviewed

| <u>Quality of Life</u> | <u>Programs</u> | <u>Persons Interviewed</u> |
|--|--|---|
| X Physical Plants | X Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Minors |
| X Meals/Nutrition | X Vocational/Employability | X Director |
| X Mental Health | <input type="checkbox"/> Community Service | <input type="checkbox"/> Youth Supervisor/Staff |
| X Physical/Dental Health | X Individual/Group Counseling | X Food Services Staff |
| X Religious Services | X Substance Abuse | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Volunteer Involvement | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: | |
| X Visiting | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other: | | |

We were with the youth during lunch and an occupational therapy cooking class in the afternoon. Due to the limited number of youth at the facility at the time and an issue with a resident during the time of our visit, one-on-one interviews with the youth were not possible.

General Information

Stated purpose of facility: Canyon Oaks is a co-ed residential treatment facility offering comprehensive services to youth with serious emotional and behavioral challenges. Each resident receives individual services to meet their needs and circumstances. Youth come to the facility through 1. Volunteer placement, 2. through a social worker, or 3. through the probation department. The objective of the program is to help youth reduce symptoms, gain stability and transition into the least restrictive setting in which they can succeed. The typical resident spends one year at Canyon Oaks

Type of operating license: As of January 1, 2018, Canyon Oaks has a provisional STRTP license. They have one year to get fully accredited through CARE.

License number: 415600309

Most recent licensing inspection: 11/30/17

Rating level: Transitioned from Group Home Level 14 to STRTP

Target population of juveniles: Severely emotionally disturbed youth with behavioral challenges. Canyon Oaks has always been a facility providing high levels of service to meet the needs of their population. The levels of service will not change with the STRTP license.

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Age range of juveniles: The current residents range in age from 13 to 18.

Juveniles' home counties and number of youth per county: All youth are San Mateo County residents.

Pre-Plan for Emergencies: Yes No Date of Last Drill:

Comments: Canyon Oaks maintains a log of safety drills. Drills are conducted to completely clear the facility. There is an evacuation and relocation plan with space available at an alternate site. 3 county vehicles remain on site to transfer residents in case of emergency.

Staffing

Describe staff specialties: There are 17 full time residential counselors, 15 relief counselors. The clinical team consists of 2 full time therapists, plus a full time occupational therapist (OT), a full time art therapist (being hired), 1 alcohol and drug (AOD) therapist with 2 AOD interns. One psychiatrist comes in 2x/week and is available 24/7 by phone.

Describe staff including numbers, background, ethnicity, language: There are 15 African Americans, 8 Latinos, 5 Caucasians, 5 Filipinos, 5 Pacific Islanders, and 2 Asians. There is a bilingual (Spanish) staff member and 24/7 translations by phone are available. Translation and interpretation services are available to clients and family by appointment.

Educational requirements for Staff: A bachelor's degree is now required; several staff members have master's degrees. The clinical staff members are professionally licensed.

Training provided for staff: Training has historically included 20 hours/year of continuing education plus in-house training programs. To be licensed as a STRTP, each staff person will need 40 hours of continuing education training, including ProAct and CPR. The training calendar for 2017/18 listed monthly sessions on a wide range of mental health issues. A comprehensive binder for staff includes written policies and procedures, program overviews, roles and training requirements.

Staff to minor ratio:

Awake The staff number stays the same, regardless of the number of residents. Currently: 17 staff, working in 8 hours shifts, to 8 residents Sleeping 3 staff to current 8 residents

How is staff backup handled during grave-yard shift?: Six staff work the swing shift; 3 staff are awake all night.

Describe staff turnover, including frequency and reason: Turnover is low. Most staff have been there 10+ years.

Describe general staff and minor interactions: The staff were completely engaged with the youth; they were direct, but respectful. They were friendly and demonstrated an ease with the youth even in tense times. When one youth angrily left an afternoon activity, the other youth and staff calmly

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continued their project despite loud yelling out of view. Staff managed the situation and the individual that left returned one hour later to join a yoga practice.

Several youth loudly complained about the food when we entered the dining area. This did not seem to be a serious issue with them, but rather a way to get a response from the cook. The cook was good-natured and told us about his approach to satisfying the likes/dislikes of the youth.

One of the residents teased Ms. Valencia several times, explaining to her that she would be able to keep her job because he had talked to us and given her great job performance ratings. The environment was relaxed and comfortable.

Conditions of Grounds and Building Exterior

Give a general description of the property: One story facility in a wooded area, next to the fire station. The front gate opens into a courtyard with a poorly maintained lawn area and basketball hoop. Newly painted, bright murals by the youth line two sides. The interior consists of offices, a large dining room (doubles as activity room), newly remodeled kitchen, and living quarters. Rooms are designed for one or two youth.

Give a general description of the main facility including housekeeping and sanitation: The facility was clean and well organized. The walls included some colorful artwork by the residents. Board games and TV were available. A large board posted each individuals daily status and weekly plans and goals.

Lawns: Acceptable Unacceptable: Lawn is occasionally used by residents for activities, such as barefoot walking, as part of mindfulness training. However it is not in good condition. If upgraded, it would be more conducive to use. Tree and shrub maintenance is underway nearby.

Playing Fields: Acceptable Unacceptable. There is one basketball hoop for play in the courtyard.

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:

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Floors: X Acceptable Unacceptable:

Ceilings: X Acceptable Unacceptable:

Drains: X Acceptable Unacceptable:

Plumbing Fixtures: X Acceptable Unacceptable:

Air Vents/Heating/Windows: X Acceptable Unacceptable:

Smoke Alarms: X Acceptable Unacceptable: No issues on fire report

Storage of Cleaning Fluids/Chemicals: X Acceptable Unacceptable:

Recreation/Sports Equipment: X Acceptable Unacceptable:

Hallways Clear/Doors Propped Open: X Acceptable Unacceptable:

Sleeping Rooms: X Acceptable Unacceptable:

Beds X Acceptable Unacceptable:

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

Graffiti Present: X Acceptable Unacceptable:

Ample Blankets: X Acceptable Unacceptable:

Study Area: X Acceptable Unacceptable:

Adequate Lighting: X Acceptable Unacceptable:

Temperature: X Acceptable Unacceptable:

Orientation of Minors

What is the intake process for the facility? After receiving a referral, Ms. Valencia meets with each youth at an appropriate location. Most are resistant upon initially entering Canyon Oaks. Therefore the staff does not impose a lot of rules. They inventory belongings with the resident and review the Resident Handbook (available in English and Spanish) which contains extensive information including house rules, rights and responsibilities, schedules, and a complaint form. Each new person meets with staff and all other residents. Each specifies the gender they identify with and the section of the house

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where they are most comfortable. They have had transgender residents in the past, but none at this time.

Are minors oriented to the house rules and procedures?: X Yes No Explain: See above.

Are house rules and grievance procedures posted?: X Yes No Explain: Complaint procedures, forms, and process of follow-up are included in the Resident Handbook.

What is in place to ensure that these rules and procedures are understood by minors?: Each new resident receives the Resident Handbook and participates in an orientation session (O Rap). Each is tested on their knowledge of the material by answering 20-25 questions. Once the resident's primary counselor signs off on their understanding of the rules and procedures, the individual moves from an orientation to learning program.

Are clothing and possessions inventoried on arrival and departure? How are juvenile's clothing and possessions protected or stored? Staff inventories belongings with the resident. Each is given a personal storage box that is locked in the hall closet for safe keeping.

Interviewed Minors: Yes X No Details: Ms. Valencia felt it would not be appropriate to visit with the individuals given the incident that occurred with one youth during our visit.

Meals/Nutrition

Kitchen: X Acceptable Unacceptable: Fully remodeled last year; clean; residents special needs displayed.

Do the youth share in preparation of meals?: Yes X No Details: One youth has expressed interest in working in the kitchen. She is getting some training from the OT; we watched her lead the youth in a cooking class (how to make cookie dough) that included safe food handling procedures. When trained she will be allowed to work in the kitchen earning some money.

Are meals served family style?: X Yes No Details: The cook prepares meals and the youth pick them up at the kitchen window in the dining room. They share meals family style at two large tables.

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

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

Are weekly menus posted?: X Yes No Details:

Are servings ample, nutritious, appetizing?: X Yes No Details: Lunch the day we visited included steak, fresh broccoli, and fried potatoes, with mandarin oranges for dessert. The portions were very large.

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Weaker minors protected from having food taken from them?: Yes No Details: N/A

Are snacks and beverages available?: Yes No Details: Snacks, such as fruit, yogurt, or granola bars are available throughout the day. A minor may receive a full meal if one is missed during the scheduled time.

How do you meet special nutritional needs? There is a list in the kitchen with the name of each youth and any special needs. The list we saw listed one vegetarian, one needing gluten free meals, and an indication that one youth should not have seconds. Staff will be meeting with a nutritionist to plan appropriate vegetarian meals for one of the residents.

Length of time allowed to eat?: As much as needed.

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

Breakfast: Before 8:30 school Lunch: 12:10 Dinner: 5:00

Comments:

Personal Appearance of Minor

Appearance: Acceptable Unacceptable:

Showers (frequency, privacy, supervised): Acceptable Unacceptable: Some youth are reluctant to take showers. There is privacy but they are supervised and encouraged to shower in the morning or the evening, but are not required to bathe every day.

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

Clothing appropriate to current weather: Acceptable Unacceptable:

Comments:

Programs

Recreation (type, amount, etc.): Acceptable Unacceptable: A daily treatment schedule is published that includes yoga, art, movement, therapeutic recreation. In addition, the youth are offered activities such as hiking or participating in a variety of outings. There were pictures posted of the youth visiting San Francisco sites and the Marine Mammal Center in Marin County. In the evening, the residents can play board games or watch TV.

Exercise (daily schedule, amount, etc.): Acceptable Unacceptable: The residents may be taken to the park, Red Morton Center, or a track. Movement classes are offered daily and there is a basketball hoop in the yard.

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Access to Religious Services: Acceptable Unacceptable: Youth will be taken by staff to services if requested.

Access to Medical Services: Acceptable Unacceptable: Unacceptable: Residents receive a physical within the first 30 days and have ongoing access to dental and eye services.

Access to Mental Health Services: Acceptable Dr Osher is at the facility every Wednesday and Friday and available 24/7 by phone.

Individual Counseling: Acceptable Unacceptable: Each resident has a personal session once a week, or more if needed. Family sessions are possible.

Group Counseling: Acceptable Unacceptable: Two groups meet every afternoon.

Substance Abuse Counseling: Acceptable Unacceptable: The AOD counselor will have 2 interns this year. Residents may also attend outside group sessions, such as AA.

Victim Awareness Classes: Acceptable Unacceptable: No specific class; may be part of individual treatment plan.

Gang Awareness Classes: Yes No Details: There is access to training for gang awareness, but gang affiliation is not an issue for these residents.

Sexual Harassment Classes: Yes No Details: There are no classes, but sexual harassment is discussed on an ongoing basis.

Parenting Classes: Yes No Details: One male, perhaps two, are parents. They are linked to parenting classes offsite, as are the parents of the residents if desired.

Vocational Classes: Yes No Details: There are no specific classes. OT may help connect youth with off site programs.

Work Program: Yes No Details:

Other: A number of the residents work outside of the facility. Bus transportation is poor, so a staff member takes the youth to and from work or a taxi voucher is provided. The staff will provide guidance to the youth for succeeding in their jobs as they encourage preparation for transitioning out of Canyon Oaks.

Programs such as Workability, ILSP are available. The OT may help with resumes, college application processes, or employment applications.

Discipline of Minors

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Describe the discipline process of minors:

Canyon Oaks utilizes a trauma informed approach. Specific consequences do not follow inappropriate behavior; punishment is not allowed. Staff recognize the behavior, determine the underlying issue, and then determine the appropriate therapeutic intervention for getting to the bottom of the issue.

Outing privileges are granted based on safety and stability. Each youth is rated every day and given a color (green means they can go out and engage in activities, blue indicates the individual must stay at Canyon Oaks, and yellow means questionable privileges, depending on situation). The day's color is posted on a board outside the dining room, along with the individual's targets for the week. All residents participate in a "check-in" every morning and afternoon.

There are no locked doors. Meltdowns are handled in a manner to keep all residents and staff safe. If necessary, a youth may be taken to the hospital for emergency mental health treatment or to YSL. There is a "time out" room that a youth can go to. They are continually observed through windows; the door can only be locked by a staff member standing at the door with a button pressed down.

Grievances

Grievance Process: Acceptable Unacceptable: A resident fills out a form. Any grievance is sent to the staff supervisor. It is recorded, validated with the resident and investigated. The supervisor meets with the client and the staff involved and then meets with all parties together. They continue to meet until the issue is resolved and then log the outcome. Actions taken and the status must be documented within 5 days. The Community Care License phone number is listed for a resident to call if they find it necessary to follow up. This has not occurred in recent years.

Number of grievances this year: 2

Trends and/or Comments: Complaints are usually over an objection to a rule or an interaction with another individual.

Correspondence / Telephone

Access US Mail?: Yes No Details:

Postage Free?: Yes No Details:

Incoming/Outgoing Mail (screened? Confidential?): Yes No Details: Mail can be received from any approved person. It is opened to ensure there is nothing inappropriate included, but the mail is not read.

Access to Telephone?: Yes No Details: Staff encourage communication to any approved person. The staff wishes the residents had more people they could talk to.

Visiting

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Visiting Schedule: Weekdays

Weekends

Special Events

Visitation is allowed after school hours for anyone on an approved list.

Do all minors have access to visitations?: Yes No Details:

Under what circumstances would visitation be restricted?: Visitation is never restricted at the Canyon Oaks facility. It may be restricted outside the facility if the safety and the stability of the youth is in question.

Are visitation logs kept?: Yes No Details: Visitation schedules are posted every week. Clinicians always maintain logs and notes of visitation in individual client folders.

Adequate Space: Acceptable Unacceptable:

Staff Supervision: Acceptable Unacceptable:

Privacy Provided: Yes No Details:

Games or Activities Provided: Yes No Details: There are activities scheduled throughout the afternoon that the residents can select. These have included yoga, drumming, hiking, library visits. Television and board games are also available. The staff provides numerous outings and they try a number of different activities to engage the youth, such as equestrian therapy.. Resources are adequate in the area to continually try new activities. Internet access is not provided.

School:

Date of Inspection: May 8, 2018

School Year 2017-2018 (Summer 2017 through June 2018)

Background: The Canyon Oaks school is a small, 2 classroom school run by the County Office of Education and with the focus of teaching the residents of Canyon Oaks. All residents of Canyon Oaks have an IEP and require special education. Both teachers are Special Education certified and combine group teaching with individual instruction and individualized learning on the computerized personalized learning platform. Students are not forced to go to class if their mental health is not conducive to attending school, so the number of students varies day-to-day.

Number of Full-Time Instructors: 2

Number of Full-Time Instructional Aids: 1 (on leave)

Number of Tutors (Paid? Volunteer?): 0, however Silicon Valley Children's Fund provides some academic support through the Independent Living Program (ILP).

Frequency of Substitute Teachers: 4 throughout year

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Number of youth attending School: 7 students in class (of 8 youth in residence, 7 attend class on site; 1 works so the teacher meets that student at the student's job site.

Average Classroom Size: 6

Max Classroom Size: 6

Number of youth on independent study: 0

Describe Reason and Independent Study: There isn't really an independent study program, although note that one student receives education at the job site.

Number of youth not attending school: varies daily. School attendance is approximately 50% on any given day although all students do attend.

Reason: Students are not forced to attend school and may be late or not attend if they sleep in or otherwise refuse to attend. This may be due to anxiety about attending school, change in medications, or other issues that are related to the resident's diagnosis.

Describe the general atmosphere of the classrooms: The classrooms are set up to feel like classrooms in a district school: friendly, inviting, and well-supplied. The teachers each put their own personalities into the classrooms. The students work on a combination of group teaching, work assisted individually by the teacher, and independent work on the computer. The teachers are attentive and caring. They meet the students where they are.

Adequate Supplies, Books, Paper, Computer? Acceptable Unacceptable: Teachers at the school have supplemented the supplies available through the county by writing for grants.

Are youth given access to computers/internet? Yes No Details (when, purpose, supervision): Students may use computers in class and, in fact, for the 2017-2018 school year, were working on the Summit Personalized Learning Platform (PLP), which required coursework be done on computer using Summit's software services. For computers in the classroom, there is centralized supervision software that allows a single resource to see the screen of each of the students and cut off access if needed. The teacher generally uses this software when the students are working individually on the computer.

Students are occasionally allowed to use computers outside of class (outside of the school), but this is not part of the school function and is not managed or monitored by the school personnel.

Describe the relationship between school and facility staff: The student's success at Canyon Oaks school depends greatly upon their level of comfort and success of treatment at the facility, so a good, collaborative relationship between the school and facility staff is imperative. Facility staff may include school participation and social interaction in each youth's daily goals as part of the therapeutic program. Facility staff are stationed in the alcove in front of the classroom doors so that youth can take a time-out or so that staff are present if there is any issue with the students. The teachers report feeling well-supported by the staff. Staff suggest that it might be beneficial, if permitted, to include them in IEP meetings for the students since they are in close daily contact with the youth and understand their needs, behaviors, and attitudes outside the classroom. The staff also recommend

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that when a student leaves the classroom, the teacher indicate the reason so that they have context to the situational and student's needs.

Describe access to school, recreation, etc. for youth confined to their rooms: Canyon Oaks is a residential treatment facility rather than a locked facility. Youth are not confined to their rooms. Although a youth may choose to stay in their room for personal reasons, they are not confined there and have access to school, recreation and counseling during the day as it is scheduled.

When is school held on the unit instead of in the classroom? Never, as Canyon Oaks is a residential treatment facility rather than a locked facility.

Post High School/GED:

Are there educational opportunities available for youth who have completed high school or their GED?

Yes No Describe: For vocational options, the Canyon Oaks teaching staff is part of WeCan Work, which provides job opportunities for post-secondary youth (and youth who are still in high school who participate can get school credit for their participation). Vocational Education is also provided by the occupational therapist who is on staff at Canyon Oaks. For academic options, Silicon Valley Children's Fund provides academic support for youth who have completed high school or have their GED and have assisted with academic counseling and financial aid applications. Youth can go to CSM or college if accepted and would be transported by staff if they were attending college.

Are youth given information and counseling regarding community college and four-year college options?

Yes No Describe: Yes, this is done informally by teachers when requested by individual students, who can make a connection to Project Change. Canyon Oaks also contracts with Silicon Valley Children's Fund who sends a college counselor to Canyon Oaks once a week to work with students for college preparation. That individual does career interest inventories, FAFSA applications, personal statements, letters of recommendations, etc.

Are youth given information/counseling about financial aid options for college? Yes No

Describe: Canyon Oaks contracts with Silicon Valley Children's Fund who sends a college counselor to Canyon Oaks once a week to work with students for college preparation, one portion of which is FAFSA applications; Project Change has provided help with financial aid applications.

Are youth given resources for college entrance exam prep when appropriate? Yes No

Describe: This has not been an issue recently, but Silicon Valley Children's Fund staff could help if the situation arose.

Are youth able to take courses for college credit online? Yes No

Describe: This is not currently available through the Canyon Oaks school, however, a Canyon Oaks resident could sign up for an online class at CSM or elsewhere and would be permitted to use the computers to complete the coursework.

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Special Education/IEP Programs:

How many youth in the facility have an Individualized Education Program (IEP)? All students at Canyon Oaks have an IEP.

Do credentialed special education teachers participate in lesson planning and curriculum development? Yes No

How many credentialed special education teachers are at the facility full-time? 2. Both full-time teachers are credentialed special education teachers.

Are regular IEP meetings held? Yes No Describe: There are 3 IEP meetings held per youth. One is held 30 days after admission, another is held at the annual marker and the last is held as part of the youth's transition to his or her next school. Probation and social services are part of the IEP meetings.

Are parents notified of these meetings? Yes No Parents are notified if they have educational rights. In some cases, the parent does not attend and the person notified and in attendance is the appropriate holder of those rights.

Are parents permitted to attend these meetings? Yes No

Describe the most common obstacle to IEP compliance: One of most common obstacles to IEP compliance is that parents do not make themselves available. Additionally, emergency placements at Canyon Oaks can make compliance difficult because the records in SEIS (the Special Education Information System) may not be sufficiently complete at the initial IEP meeting.

School Summary and Comments: The teachers are working in a challenging environment, but interact with the students respectfully and with patience, firmness and kindness. Their manner supports the students' overall therapeutic plans The classrooms are inviting and warm. Instruction is a combination of computer-based individualized learning and group teaching. Due to the nature of the Canyon Oaks residential treatment facility, education is as individual as possible and is focused on basic skill acquisition and proficiency, as well as the core subjects required by the Education Code. To that end, teachers use both individualized and group teaching strategies.

Comments

General comments or concerns that should be noted that haven't already been addressed?:

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Overall, we are highly impressed with the programs and services being offered. The staff commented that they wished the residents had more people they could talk to on the phone. We suggest exploring ways to build more connections for these youth with the outside community so they could have more contact & support.

Signature of Commissioner(s) preparing this report:

Antoinette Barrack



Date: 8/24/18

Christine Ford



Date: 8-28-18

Daniel Casillas

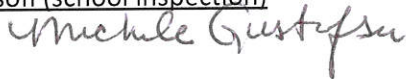


Date: 8-28-18

Melissa Wilson (school inspection)

Date:

Michele Gustafson (school inspection)



Date: 10-30-18

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Attachment 1: School Supplement

How many minutes of instruction per week do students receive?
Varies by student

Do students attend school within three (3) days of placement? Does the school create a preliminary education plan for each new student before the student attends school or once the student has started?
Yes, the student attends within 3 days of placement if the student is emotionally ready to do so. The education plan is created before the student starts unless the student is an emergency placement.

Are there difficulties obtaining transcripts from the student's prior school? Are these typically received before or after the student has started attending school?
These are typically received before the student has started attending school, but can sometimes be received afterward if it is an emergency placement.

How are limited English-speaking students identified and served? How do are these services provided once the student has been identified as non-English proficient?
There are currently no limited English-speaking students in the Canyon Oaks classroom.

Is credit recovery offered? Please describe.
Yes, credit recovery is offered. One of the teachers used to be responsible for credit recovery at the district level, so he is experienced in credit recovery and often crafts relevant projects for the students to complete in the subject areas in which credits are required. He has not experienced issues with getting credits honored for those credit recovery modules.

Is homework assigned? When and where do students do homework?
Canyon Oaks does not assign homework. The after-school programs are therapeutic and the school does not add work to the students' daily schedules.

How is transition back to a student's home district handled?
This varies depending upon the school district into which the student will transition. For in-county placements, Canyon Oaks will work with the home school district to re-enroll the student. Where a student may be going out of the county, the transition is much less certain.

Propose Areas of Commendation.

The teaching staff are extremely patient, dedicated and flexible. Their interactions with the students demonstrated their understanding of the challenges the students face and a willingness to meet the student where they are at. The teachers are not only committed to covering the curriculum, but to helping the students build the skills necessary to continue to learn and also helping their social and emotional progress.

Recommend Improvements:

Based on observation, when working one-on-one, the teachers were the most effective when they were working on material they had the opportunity to prepare. The students were able to learn how to attack the material when the teacher knew how to best present instruction on the subject. While it is good to have the option for students who are able to self-study to be able to use personalized learning and supplement their education with information and study aides from the internet, group teaching should

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be used and, where students are doing self-directed study, the instructors still need to provide direction, explanation and context.

Student Interviews

Students were interviewed about their school experience while attending Court Schools. Two students were interviewed.

The best thing about this school is

- None

Improvements I'd like to see made are

- More teacher interaction in English/Social studies. Computers are a good way to learn grammar and other rote subjects, but we need a back and forth with the teacher for our reading and writing.

I like that

- The Math/Science teacher is very good and very understanding.

I suggest that

- None

I'm concerned that

- None

I wonder why

- None