



Licensed Child Caring Agency Unannounced Site Visit Report

Licensee: Connections 365

Executive Director: Debby Lute

Program Director(s): Brandi Haws

Date of Unannounced: 12/8/2020

Licensing Coordinator: Mary Torres

Other Regulatory or Accrediting Agencies: Oregon Youth Authority (OYA)

Purpose: Per OAR 413-215-0101 (1) (b) Children's Care Licensing is required to perform at least one unannounced site visit a year where children in care reside.

Previous Findings	Repeat Findings Further Action Needed	Comments
413-215-0391 and 0576(1)(e)(g) Parent/guardian signs consent that authorizes access to a child in care and for the program to apply the reasonable and prudent parent standard Although the program made updates to their consent forms specifically regarding Reasonable and Prudent Parent Standard and Allowing Access to a Child in Care in September of 2019 and provided DHS Licensing a copy of the updated forms, the updated consents were not utilized for three of the programs' newest youth. These youths entered the program on 10/30/19, 11/14/19 and 11/21/19. Applying Reasonable and Prudent Parent Standard has been incorporated into the proctor parent training.	Yes ☐ No ☒	

Corrective Action: Ensure that intake staff begin to implement the corrected consent forms for all future placements effective immediately.		
413-215-0056(2)(a)(A)C) Policies and procedures must include a written policy on mandatory child abuse reporting that includes employees, staff, contractors, agents and proctor foster parents to immediately report suspected child abuse and receive child caring agency provided training on the definitions of child abuse A policy correction was also made in September of 2019 and submitted to DHS Licensing regarding Mandatory Reporting, but it is unknown if the corrected policy is being utilized. Corrective Action: Ensure that the updated policy is being used and the agency's trainer is following the updated policy.	Yes ☐ No ☒	
413-215-0091(12) License is posted in common area at facility The program has expired DHS licenses posted in the main lobby and in the Continuum home. Project 180 does not have a license posted. Corrective Action: Post a copy of the program's 2019 - 2021 license in all common areas to include the lobby, Project 180 and Continuum.	Yes ☐ No ☒	
413-215-0521(3) Bedding must be changed at least weekly or when soiled It was reported that at Continuum, staff encourages youth to wash their bedding weekly, but this is not enforced. Rather, it is	Yes ☐ No ☒	

left to the residents' discretion as to when bedding should be changed or washed. Corrective Action: Create a process to ensure that the residents' bedding is changed or washed on a weekly basis and track how this task is being completed each week.		
413-215-0381(10)(h) Written record of the administration of medication includes possible adverse reactions: Information regarding potential adverse reactions could not be located at Continuum. Corrective Action: Develop a protocol regarding the documentation and storage of adverse reaction information regarding each youth's prescribed medication. If this protocol currently exists, retrain staff to ensure fidelity of this practice.	Yes ☐ No ☒	
413-215-0511(c) All areas of buildings where children in care are present must be kept clean and in good repair: Corrective Actions: Continuum: Remove dust from hallway vent Vacuum hallway Replace missing molding around the doorframes in the residents' bedrooms Ensure ongoing cleanliness of the bedrooms. Consider increasing "deep cleaning" of the bedrooms from once a week to biweekly Develop a process to ensure that bedroom garbage bins are emptied more frequently than once a week. Corrective Actions: Project 180:	Yes ☐ No ☒	

Install baseboard molding in the ground level bathroom Clean and organize the kitchen area. Immediately discard all unsanitary containers with mold. Discard old alcohol container Clean and vacuum computer room adjacent to the kitchen Ensure that residents have immediate and ongoing access to clean paper towels in the main bathroom		
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New Findings from Site Visit	Comments
None	There were no new findings regarding the program during unannounced visit.

Interview Summary
During this unannounced site visit, this licensor had an opportunity to speak to Exec. Director, Debby Lute, Kevin, the program's maintenance man, and staff members, Luis and Antonio. The following information was shared during the tour: - Kevin has been with Connections for the last 5 years. He works full time and is responsible for the care and maintenance of 10 acres plus all buildings. - Project 180 Program currently has 2 youth. Two additional youth are scheduled to be onboarded soon. - Youth at Project 180 attend online schooling from 8:30 am to 3:00 pm. Youth attend 4 periods a day and are given 10 min breaks between each period. - The program received a grant, allowing the opportunity to create a large basketball court at each facility. - Prior to COVID, Connections 365 had community volunteer groups that would come on site to help complete larger projects. - The program is always on the look out for solid/gently used dressers. - There are 3 youth at Continuum. Two youth, one from each facility, were interviewed. One youth has been in program for 5 months while the other was newer, having been in the program for just a month. The youths raved about their placements describing the Continuum as "one of the best programs" and Project 180 as safe. Both youths were able to identify several staff members whom they could turn to when faced with a problem or conflict. Each youth had a good understanding of their treatment

plan and their aftercare plan. One youth's support system consists of staff and his alcohol and drug counselor. The other youth reports that all staff at Connections 365 measure his progress in reaching his treatment goals. Strengths of the program include the staff's values of "wisdom, respect, empathy" and forgiveness, art projects, exposure to positive male role models as well as the staff's investment in the youth. One youth's criticism of the program was the inability to go on outings due to COVID. Family contact with the residents is daily and frequent by phone and/or face time.

Observations

Both facilities were found in good condition with previous repairs completed and well maintained.
The Rec Room has been cleaned out since the last site visit and was well organized for youths' use.
The garage at Continuum was cleaner and more organized.

Corrective Actions and Timeframes:

Please submit the following to verify compliance.

Within 45 days of receipt of this report **Agency Name** must submit a letter of verification indicating the agency is in compliance with the specific rules cited above and describing how compliance will be maintained going forward. Along with the letter of verification, the agency must submit any and all specific documentation requested in the body of this report. The letter of verification and any additional requested documents can be emailed directly to **Licensing Coordinator email address** or sent by regular mail to the following address:

Department of Human Services
Children's Care Licensing Program
Attn: Licensing Coordinator
201 High St. SE Suite 500
Salem, OR 97301

Licensing Coordinator's Signature: _____

Date: _____

Manager Review: _____

Date: _____