



**Licensed Child Caring Agency Unannounced Site Visit Report
Therapeutic Boarding School**

Licensee: JBARJ Youth Services – The Academy at Sisters

Executive Director: Stephanie Alvstad

Program Director(s): Brooke Hare

Board Chairperson: Jeannette McKenzie

Date of Unannounced: December 16th, 2020

Licensing Coordinator: Ed Wyller

Other Regulatory or Accrediting Agencies: AdvancEd / National Association of Therapeutic Schools Programs, Inc (NATSAP)

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. During the time that I was going to conduct my unannounced site visit Covid-19 was active in a JBARJ Youth Programs. To prevent further spread of Covid-19 DHS CCLP elected to conduct the JBARJ Youth Programs unannounced site visits via virtual format. I interviewed youth from each program via phone call. I reviewed youth charts, policies, training records, and other records via electronic emails. I conducted virtual tour via mobile phone using face time with the program managers at each site.

Previous Findings: License Renewal Site Visit 08/10/2020 – 08/11/2020	Repeat Findings Further Action Needed	Comments
413-215-0616(2)(a) &(c) Buildings are smoke free, clean and in good repair: “Phase 3 bathroom has mold in corner shower sheetrock wall / ceiling. Same bathroom has mold on wall and ceiling near vanity mirror.”	Yes ☐ No ☒	On 10/26/2020 I received a photograph of the mold free Phase 3 bathroom. On 12/16/2020 I verified during the virtual tour that the Phase 3 bathroom continues to be mold free. In addition, program had bathroom exhaust system serviced.

413-215-0676(3) (b) Visitors are approved by parent/guardian: “Student charts were missing visitor authorizations approved by parent/guardian.”	Yes ☐ No ☒	On 12/15/2020 I reviewed approved contact lists for students at The Academy of Sisters. Student charts have visitor approved authorizations.
413-215-0676(3) (c) Visitation resources are pre-approved by parent/guardian and identity of resources verified by agency: “Student charts were missing visitor authorizations approved by parent/guardian and missing visitation resources that are pre-approved by parent/guardian and identity of resources verified by agency.”	Yes ☐ No ☒	On 12/15/2020 I reviewed approved contact lists for students at The Academy of Sisters. Student charts have the appropriate approvals.
413-215-0076 (2) (Reviewer found while reviewing financial records that students were fined for not properly completing assigned chores. (Discipline Policy. A child-caring agency must incorporate into the program’s care-giving practices positive nonpunitive discipline and ways of helping a child in care build positive personal relationships, self-control, and self-esteem.)	Yes ☐ No ☒	Practice of fining students from their allowance has stopped. The Academy of Sisters reported this fall all staff were informed through daily log and staff meeting to terminate the practice of fining students. Confirmed during youth interviews that this practice no longer is occurring.

New Findings from Site Visit	Comments
N/A	No new findings

Interview Summary

I interviewed two students via telephone. Both students reported that they feel safe at The Academy at Sisters. Both reported that if they did not feel safe, they would have plenty of options of staff to talk to. Both students reported having many treatment options such as zoom family counseling, daily groups, and working with the horses. Both youths indicated that the school is good, and it is nice being in a classroom setting instead of distance learning. One student reported the food to be "good". The other student reported food to be "sometimes good". They indicated the previous cook did not cook as much frozen food as the new cook. One of the students can cook their own food as they are on the Pathways track. Youth indicated that there are vegetarian options as well. One student reported that there is variety in the food, and the menu changes weekly.

On a scale from (0-10, 0=worst program in the State, and 10=best program in State) students reported The Academy at Sisters to be a 7.5, and an 8 on that scale. Due to Covid there are less options for outings such as going to movie theaters. Students reported recently there was a Harry Potter night. Other activities that students participate in are horses, cooking, wellness center, driving into town, old mill, walks and arts/crafts.

Observations

I observed the program decorated for the Holidays. Program took the students to the forest for an outing and cut down a beautiful wild tree. I observed all students and staff wearing masks during the virtual tour. Since my renewal review visit this summer The Academy at Sisters has installed patio pavers as a precautionary measure to prevent slips during the icy winter months.

Corrective Actions and Timeframes:

Please submit the following to verify compliance.

Within 45 days of receipt of this report **J Bar J Youth Services** 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 **Ed Wyller at Edward.Wyller@dhsosha.state.or.us** or sent by regular mail to the following address:

Due to Covid-19 pandemic and working remotely the preferred method is to send directly to Ed Wyller at his email address.

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

Licensing Coordinator's Signature: Ed Wyller Date: 12-18-2020

Manager Review: [Signature] Date: 12-21-2020