



Licensed Child Caring Agency Unannounced Site Visit Report

Licensee: Deschutes Wilderness Therapy Program

Executive Director: Andrew Scott

Program Director(s): Rachel Grimm

Date of Unannounced: 04/14/22

Licensing Coordinator: Irvin Minten

Other Regulatory or Accrediting Agencies: National Association of Therapeutic Schools and Programs, Advanced Education

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: Unannounced Site Visit 06-16-2020	Repeat Findings Further Action Needed	Comments
Governance 413-215-0021(2)(i). The program's governing board must obtain and review an annual independent financial review or audit of financial records.	Yes ☐ No ☒	The program requested an exception to this requirement and the exception request was approved after a review of the program's financial records.
Licensing Umbrella Rules: Policies and Procedures 413-215-0056(2)(a)(A-C). The program's policy on child abuse and neglect reporting needs to be updated to reflect current statute. The program's policy on child abuse and neglect must reflect current statute.	Yes ☐ No ☒	The program's child abuse and neglect reporting policy has been updated and it now reflects current statute.

413-215-0976(3)(a-b). Staff must closely monitor children for acclimatization to the elevation and temperature for first 72 hours of each child in care's stay in the program to ensure safe assessment of fitness. This physical assessment must be documented at least 3x per day, and more often if the child in care is exhibiting signs of exhaustion or fatigue.	Yes ☐ No ☒	The program is now closely monitoring for acclimatization to the elevation and temperature for the first 72 hours of each child in care's stay in the program to ensure safe assessment of fitness. The program is also documenting this physical assessment at least 3x per day, and more often if the child in care is exhibiting signs of exhaustion and fatigue.
Program Services, Service Planning 413-215-0996(3)(d)(f)(g). The program's treatment plans do not reflect whether a parent/guardian participated in the treatment plans development and review, and if not, why not. The program's treatment plans must reflect whether a parent/guardian participated in the treatment plans development and review, and if not, why not.	Yes ☐ No ☒	The program's treatment plans now reflect whether a parent/guardian participated in the treatment plans development and review, and if not, why not.
Licensing Umbrella Rules: Personnel, Staff requirements and hiring 413-215-0061(1)(a) & (3)(c) Background check completed and documented. In 4 of the 6 applicable staff files reviewed, an ODHS Background Unit (BCU) approval was not present. The program's individual staff files must contain documentation that an ODHS BCU check was completed.	Yes ☐ No ☒	The program is now completing BCU background checks on all staff. The completed BCU checks of each staff are being kept in each individual staff's personnel file.
Staff Health Requirements 413-215-0971(2)&(3). The program is not consistently completing an annual health history for program staff to ensure that staff do not have a history of physical injuries, infectious diseases, and drug and alcohol abuse which might currently interfere with employment responsibilities. The program must ensure that all staff	Yes ☐ No ☒	The program is now consistently completing an annual health history for program staff to ensure that staff do not have a history of physical injuries, infectious diseases, and drug and alcohol abuse which might currently interfere with employment responsibilities.

complete an annual health history to determine if staff have recent histories of physical injuries, infectious diseases, and drug and alcohol abuse which might currently interfere with employment responsibilities.		
Staff Training 413-215-0981(3)(h)(i). The program's staff training log does not clearly document whether new staff are receiving training on first aid contents and use and basic navigation skills. The program's staff training log must clearly document whether new staff are receiving training on first aid contents and use and basic navigation skills.	Yes ☐ No ☒	The program's staff training log now clearly documents whether new staff are receiving training on first aid contents and use and basic navigation skills.
Consents, Disclosures and Authorizations 413-215-0918(1)(b)(e) and (2)(a). The program does not have the following consents and disclosures: 1. a consent which details the program's discipline and behavior management system; 2. a consent which states the program will allow access as defined in 413-215-0091 and 0101; and 3. a disclosure that the program can conduct searches, confiscate contraband, and notify law enforcement if illegal contraband is discovered. The program must ensure that the above noted consents and disclosures are contained in the individual child files.	Yes ☐ No ☒	The program now has and is utilizing all required consents and disclosures including: 1. a consent which details the program's discipline and behavior management system; 2. a consent which states the program will allow access; and 3. A disclosure that the program can conduct searches, confiscate contraband, and notify law enforcement if illegal contraband is discovered.

New Findings from Site Visit	Comments
There were not any new findings from the unannounced site visit.	

Interview Summary

During the unannounced site visit, an extensive amount of conversation took place with Andrew Scott, Executive Director; Rachel Grimm, Treatment Director; Olivia Akana, Administrative Manager; and Liz Deardorff, Clinical Director for Family Services. In addition, a field site was randomly selected for the unannounced visit. At the field site, individual and randomly selected interviews were held with 2 staff and 4 youth. The field site which we visited was a girl's group, and this field group was randomly selected shortly before being driven to the field site by Rachel Grimm.

During discussion with Mr. Scott and Ms. Grimm, it was discussed that the program, as with many other businesses across the nation, has been experiencing some difficulty in hiring and retaining qualified staff, although the program has been utilizing best practice and creative approaches in maintaining staffing levels and in ensuring that all staff receive needed training and support. In addition, it was discussed that due to recent Oregon law changes, the program is not utilizing unlicensed transport companies to transport children to the program from the parent/guardian's home. As a result, children who can't be transported to the program by their parent/guardian are currently not being accepted into the program. In addition, we discussed the recent Oregon law changes regarding Educational Consultants, and the need for the program to only accept referrals from licensed Educational Consultants. Finally, during the office visit, 4 child files were reviewed to ensure compliance with new legislative changes as well as to ensure that previous corrective actions were addressed.

During interviews with the 2-field staff, it was reported they felt they had received sufficient and good initial and orientation training and that this training allowed them to effectively do their job. The 2 field staff also stated that if they ever wanted to staff an issue, they could staff with the field supervisor or quickly contact a qualified and knowledgeable manager, if needed. Field staff also reported a positive culture within the organization and one which allowed for continued learning and for staff at all levels to question a decision if they had concerns. The staff also indicated that although the job was difficult, they enjoyed seeing therapeutic progress in the youth over their enrollment in the program. In addition, both staff stated that the job allowed them to learn a great deal about themselves, and that the job also allowed them to improve in areas where they previously may not have been as confident or strong, which they would be able to take with them the rest of their lives. The staff also reported that there was good communication between the program's therapist and managers about the individual youth issues which led to enrollment into the program as well as ongoing communication about important issues going on with each of the individual youth in a field site, especially at the time of shift change.

During interviews with the 3 youth, they all reported they felt safe in the program, both during the day and while at night while they slept in their individual, one-person tent. All 3 youth also reported that they felt staff were sufficiently trained to assist them with their treatment issues and none of the youth reported any concerning staff interactions. The youth also reported they got enough to eat, although all 3 youth reported they wished there was more variety in the food. All 3 youth also reported they very much enjoyed working with the program's family therapist.

Observations

During the unannounced site review, I was able to observe a girl's group which consisted of six youth between the ages of 14 to 17. I was also able to observe the youth's medications, how the medications were kept secure, and several individual medication administration records. In addition, I was able to observe the area where the youth congregated during the day and where the youth slept and cooked their meals.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me either by email at Irvin.minten@dhsosha.state.or.us or by phone at 503/428-1355.

Licensing Coordinator's Signature:  Date: 04/25/2022

Manager Review:  Date: 04-22-2022