

# Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Commission San Mateo County, California

## Group Home Inspection

Facility Name: Your House South

Facility Capacity: 6

Address: 394 Sequoia Avenue Redwood City CA 94061

Current Population: 3

Contact Person: Alicia Siese, Program Manager

Annual Population: 100

Phone Number: 650.367.9687

Date of this Inspection: July 18, 2018

Date of Last Inspection: 2014

Commission Inspection Team: Rebecca Flores & Doug Winter

Presiding Juvenile Court Judge: Judge Lee

### Major Concerns, Observations, and Recommendations

None  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Fire Inspection Report:  Yes  No Date: May 25, 2017

Health Department Report:  Yes  No Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Miscellaneous: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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**Areas Reviewed**

Quality of Life

- Physical Plants
- Meals/Nutrition
- Physical/Dental Health
- Religious Services
- Volunteer Involvement
- Visiting
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Programs

- Education
- Vocational/Employability
- Community Service
- Individual/Group Counseling
- Substance Abuse
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Persons Interviewed

- Minors
- Director
- Youth Supervisor/Staff
- Food Services Staff
- Other: Therapist \_\_\_\_\_

**General Information**

Stated purpose of facility: " The purpose of Your House South is to provide safe and therapeutic housing for youth in the following situations: a) runaway or homeless youth b) youth and families in crisis c) foster youth appropriate for level 10 care d) NMD's [non minor] in transition to a more permanent independent living housing."

Type of operating license: Group Home

License number: 410508685

Most recent licensing inspection: 6/9/17

Rating level: 10

Target population of juveniles: Runaway youth, foster youth, homeless youth and 602 probation youth

Age range of juveniles: Ages 10-17

Juveniles' home counties and number of youth per county: 2 in San Mateo County and 1 in San Francisco County

Pre-Plan for Emergencies:  Yes  No Date of Last Drill: Approximately one month ago

Comments: Pre-Plan for emergencies is part of the youth's orientation

**Staffing**

Describe staff specialties: 1 Licensed Therapist, 1 Program Coordinator & Case Manager, 1 Lead Residential Counselor/Case Manager, 3 full time Residential Counselors, 3 Relief Residential Counselors, 1 Program Manger/Group Home Administrator, and 1 Intern Therapist.

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Describe staff including numbers, background, ethnicity, language: 2 Male Staff, 1 Gender Fluid, 9 Female Staff. 1 Peruvian/American, 4 Mexican, 3 African-American, 1 Guamanian, 1 Italian-American, 3 LGBTQ... Languages spoken: Spanish & English

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Educational requirements for Staff: 2 years of experience or Bachelor's Degree in Social Work, Sociology or Psychology

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Training provided for staff: New hires must complete 40 hours of training a year. There are quarterly trainings consisting of trauma informed care and commercial sexual exploitation of children training.

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Staff to minor ratio: Awake 1:4 Sleeping 1:6

How is staff backup handled during grave-yard shift?: There are 2 relief staff and an on call staff member.

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Describe staff turnover, including frequency and reason: Staff turnover is mostly due to cost of living in the Bay Area. Additionally, staff turnover is due to the desire to pursue graduate school or other professional development opportunities because they have been inspired by the work they have been doing. There were 6 turn overs this past summer. However, 2 staff members have been there for 10 years and another 2 have been there for 3 years.

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Describe general staff and minor interactions: Staff focus on relationship building. They make it a point to create a supportive environment by taking a trauma informed approach. Staff have weekly check-ins with the youth and the youth seem to like and respect the staff.

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Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Conditions of Grounds and Building Exterior**

Give a general description of the property: Small house in a residential neighborhood. Both exterior and interior are in acceptable condition.

Give a general description of the main facility including housekeeping and sanitation:

The home is in good condition. Sanitation and housekeeping is well maintained by the youth and the staff. There are clean up duties listed in the common area and kitchen so that youth know what they are responsible for.

Lawns:  Acceptable  Unacceptable: \_\_\_\_\_

Playing Fields:  Acceptable  Unacceptable: \_\_\_\_\_

Blacktop:  Acceptable  Unacceptable: \_\_\_\_\_

Paint:  Acceptable  Unacceptable: Fresh paint within the past year.

Blacktop:  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: \_\_\_\_\_

Floors:  Acceptable  Unacceptable: \_\_\_\_\_

Ceilings:  Acceptable  Unacceptable: \_\_\_\_\_

Drains:  Acceptable  Unacceptable: \_\_\_\_\_

Plumbing Fixtures:  Acceptable  Unacceptable: \_\_\_\_\_

Air Vents/Heating/Windows:  Acceptable  Unacceptable: \_\_\_\_\_

Smoke Alarms:  Acceptable  Unacceptable: \_\_\_\_\_

Storage of Cleaning Fluids/Chemicals:  Acceptable  Unacceptable: Kept in locked cabinets.

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- Recreation/Sports Equipment:  Acceptable  Unacceptable: \_\_\_\_\_
- Hallways Clear/Doors Propped Open:  Acceptable  Unacceptable: \_\_\_\_\_
- Sleeping Rooms:  Acceptable  Unacceptable: \_\_\_\_\_
- Beds  Acceptable  Unacceptable: \_\_\_\_\_
- Art, Books, Personal Items Allowed in Rooms:  Acceptable  Unacceptable: \_\_\_\_\_
- Graffiti Present:  Acceptable  Unacceptable: \_\_\_\_\_
- Ample Blankets:  Acceptable  Unacceptable: \_\_\_\_\_
- Study Area:  Acceptable  Unacceptable: \_\_\_\_\_
- Adequate Lighting:  Acceptable  Unacceptable: \_\_\_\_\_
- Temperature:  Acceptable  Unacceptable: \_\_\_\_\_

**Orientation of Minors**

What is the intake process for the facility? First, the youth are assessed through the crisis hotline. Second, they will complete a client intake form. Lastly, they will be evaluated to see if they meet the requirements.

Are minors oriented to the house rules and procedures?:  Yes  No Explain: Staff go over the house rules and procedures with each youth. The youth must read and sign the house agreement form as well.

Are house rules and grievance procedures posted?:  Yes  No Explain: Both are posted in the common area and in a binder accessible to all the youth.

What is in place to ensure that these rules and procedures are understood by minors?: The minors must sign the form acknowledging that they read and understood the rules and procedures

Are clothing and possessions inventoried on arrival and departure? How are juvenile's clothing and possessions protected or stored?

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There is an inventory log up on arrival of each minor. Gang related colors or any type of sharp object is locked up along with their personal property. Petty cash is kept in a lock box and given to the youth when needed.

Interviewed Minors:  Yes  No Details: A female minor was interviewed. She expressed that she really enjoyed being a part of the group home and that staff were really supportive and friendly. She is appreciative oo the fact that the group home has helped her pass high school and has given her the necessary tools and skills to take her education to the next level as well as helping her find employment.

**Meals/Nutrition**

Kitchen:  Acceptable  Unacceptable: \_\_\_\_\_

Do the youth share in preparation of meals?:  Yes  No Details: The youth learn to cook and are supervised by the staff.

Are meals served family style?:  Yes  No Details: \_\_\_\_\_

Are minors permitted to converse during meals?:  Yes  No Details: They do brief check-ins at dinner time and share what they are appreciative of.

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

Are weekly menus posted?:  Yes  No Details: Weekly menus are posted on the fridge

Are servings ample, nutritious, appetizing?:  Yes  No Details: \_\_\_\_\_

Weaker minors protected from having food taken from them?:  Yes  No Details: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Are snacks and beverages available?:  Yes  No Details: \_\_\_\_\_

How do you meet special nutritional needs? Dietary constraints are asked upon intake

Length of time allowed to eat?: Dinner is from 5pm-7pm to allow time for prep, eating, and cleaning.

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

Breakfast: On their own time

Lunch: On their own time

Dinner: 5pm

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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**Personal Appearance of Minor**

Appearance:  Acceptable  Unacceptable: \_\_\_\_\_

Showers (frequency, privacy, supervised):  Acceptable  Unacceptable: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Clothing appropriate to current weather:  Acceptable  Unacceptable: \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

**Programs**

Recreation (type, amount, etc.):  Acceptable  Unacceptable: Types of recreation include: bike riding, Wii sports, hiking, active games, and art therapy.

Exercise (daily schedule, amount, etc.):  Acceptable  Unacceptable: Exercises include: Yoga, running, hiking, and Zumba.

Access to Religious Services:  Acceptable  Unacceptable: All types of religions are welcomed and accommodated.

Access to Medical Services:  Acceptable  Unacceptable: \_\_\_\_\_

Access to Mental Health Services:  Acceptable  Unacceptable: There is an onsite therapist.

Individual Counseling:  Acceptable  Unacceptable: Once a week or more if needed

Group Counseling:  Acceptable  Unacceptable: Offered once a week along with music or art therapy

Substance Abuse Counseling:  Acceptable  Unacceptable: Offered by the insights program along with Al-Anon and AOD courses.

Victim Awareness Classes:  Acceptable  Unacceptable: Offered by the CORA program and CSEC informational sessions

Gang Awareness Classes:  Yes  No Details: \_\_\_\_\_

Sexual Harassment Classes:  Yes  No Details: Provided by guest speakers

Parenting Classes:  Yes  No Details: Provided through family counseling services, public nurse and county resources.

Vocational Classes:  Yes  No Details: Offered by the Independent Learning Program

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Work Program:  Yes  No Details: Youth receive help with their resume, job applications, job searches, and interviewing skills.

Other: Staff run programs depending on the needs of the group. Friday nights they watch movies and play board games.

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**Discipline of Minors**

Describe the discipline process of minors: Staff follow the level system which is part of their discipline policy. The level system is a point system that affects their daily privileges. If points are taken away, then certain privileges are taken away as well. If a youth is still misbehaving they will have 2 hours of room time and a writing assignment. Bad behavior is corrected in their therapy sessions. The system is based on their attitude and ability to follow through with their responsibilities. There is also an incentive program to acknowledge good behavior. The point system in general helps provide structure and consistency.

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Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Grievances**

Grievance Process:  Acceptable  Unacceptable: Youth can fill out a grievance form or speak to their case manager, staff member, or program manager to mediate the issue. If they wish to file a formal complaint they can also schedule a meeting with the executive director and their parents.

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Number of grievances this year: 1-2

Trends and/or Comments: Not often

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**Correspondence / Telephone**

Access US Mail?:  Yes  No Details: Mail is not monitored or checked

Postage Free?:  Yes  No Details: \_\_\_\_\_

Incoming/Outgoing Mail (screened? Confidential?):  Yes  No Details: \_\_\_\_\_

Access to Telephone?:  Yes  No Details: Cell phones are used in the common area only and staff must dial out the number.

**Visiting**

Visiting Schedule: Weekdays \_\_\_\_\_ Weekends \_\_\_\_\_ Special Events \_\_\_\_\_

Do all minors have access to visitations?:  Yes  No Details: Visitor hours are till 5PM. They have a visitor log and visitor rules. The youth can have a guest over for dinner upon request.

Under what circumstances would visitation be restricted?: None

Are visitation logs kept?:  Yes  No Details: \_\_\_\_\_

Adequate Space:  Acceptable  Unacceptable: \_\_\_\_\_

Staff Supervision:  Acceptable  Unacceptable: \_\_\_\_\_

Privacy Provided:  Yes  No Details: Only for their CASA, Family, Parent, Therapist or Social worker.

Games or Activities Provided:  Yes  No Details: Yes, in the recreation room.

**School**

List the schools your residents attend: Redwood High School, Woodside High School and Menlo Atherton High School.

How is transportation to school provided: Themselves, public transportation or their parents.

Are students able to participate in school-based extra curricular activities?: Yes

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Is tutoring available?: Yes, staff will help them with their homework or will provide outside tutoring if it is beyond their scope.

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Adequate Supplies, Books, Paper, Computer?: Yes

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Access to computers/Internet? How is this managed? : Staff monitor the computer usage and youth may be on the computer for 30 minutes to an hour. Time may be extended if it's for a homework assignment.

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**Comments**

General comments or concerns that should be noted that haven't already been addressed?: We were very impressed with the group home. Staff run a very good program and really care for the well-being of each minor. The group home seems to be a very warm and welcoming environment for the youth and we believe it is a very safe place for the youth. The group home offers an array of programs and resources and we are impressed with the level of resources and thoroughness.

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Signature of Commissioner(s) preparing this report:

Rebecca Flores  Date: September 7, 2018

Douglas J. Winter  Date: September 7, 2018

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Date: \_\_\_\_\_