

**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES**

Community Care Licensing Division  
Statewide Children's Residential program  
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**OUT-OF-STATE ANNUAL REVIEW****EXCELSIOR YOUTH CENTER**

1500 East Oxford Ave  
Aurora, Colorado 80014

**FACILITY VISIT DATES:** November 16, 2006

**OUT-OF-STATE CERTIFICATION UNIT (OSCU) STAFF MEMBER:**

Olaniyan Akyeem, Associate Governmental Program Analyst

**PURPOSE OF VISIT:**

Re-certification by the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) to verify that the facility continues to remain in substantial compliance with California licensing standards governing children's residential group homes.

**CALIFORNIA PLACEMENTS AND PLACING AGENCIES:**

The census at the time of visit was 185. Thirty (30) of the youth in placement were placed by California agencies from the following counties: Los Angeles, Placer, Riverside, Sacramento, San Bernardino, San Francisco, Santa Clara, Sonoma and Ventura.

**FACILITY AND PHYSICAL PLANT OVERVIEW:**

A tour of the entire facility grounds, including living units, school, and outside activity areas, was conducted. Of special focus was the level of upkeep of the student's individual rooms as well as visual artistic decor throughout the campus. Over the last two to three years, students appear to be taking more pride and assuming a higher sense of responsibility in maintaining their personal space and living units.

With the renovation of the "Summit" living unit now being complete, staffs' ability to supervise based on much better visibility has been enhanced. With the new staff office station being relocated, reaction time by staff to each side of the unit in case of an emergency has also improved.

No issues of concern related to the physical plant are noted.

### **FIRE CLEARANCE:**

Fire inspections by the Aurora Fire Department are conducted on an annual basis. Although several code violations were initially noted during the last inspection of August 22, 2006, a follow-up inspection of November 2, 2006 revealed that corrections to all had been successfully made.

### **LOCAL STATE LICENSING / COMPLAINTS:**

Excelsior Youth Center (EYC) is licensed by the Colorado Department of Human Services (CDHS), Child Care Licensing Division. As a result of Colorado legislative changes during the 2006 fiscal year, former titles given to children's programs were re-named. Formerly licensed as a Residential Treatment Facility, EYC was re-evaluated for compliance as a "Therapeutic Residential Child Care Facility" (TRCCF) license on May 16, 2006. As a result of that evaluation, the program was awarded full licensing status for operation under that license type on July 1, 2006. No deficiencies noted.

Since last year's annual evaluation, EYC has been the subject of a complaint investigation resulting in one substantiated finding. In February, 2006 while students were attending an overnight "Outward Bound" field trip, two students apparently engaged in inappropriate sexual misconduct. As a result of this occurring outside the presence of staff, CDHS cited a "lack of supervision"; although it was reported that the CDHS licensing representative did not feel the incident was intentional or that a gross lack of supervision occurred. A plan of correction was requested. Subsequently, EYC did follow through with an acceptable POC and has since discontinued the overnight "Outward Bound" field trips.

### **HEALTH DEPARTMENT CLEARANCES:**

Excelsior's last health inspection was conducted by Tri-County Health department on May 31, 2006. No deficiencies were noted.

### **ADMINISTRATION AND PLAN OF OPERATION REVIEW:**

Over the last year, a number of administrative changes have occurred at EYC, which include the following:

- Joan Gabrielson, Executive Director
- Carol Beauchamp-Hunter, Associate Director of Treatment
- Arnold Goldstein, Associate Director of Finance
- Vivian Zlobec, Director of Human Resources
- Elaine Atwater, Director of Quality of Care Improvement.

(Note: A revised administrative organization chart reflecting the changes was received.)

In short, administrative review failed to reveal any issues related to intake procedures, operating outside of license capacity, staffing ratios, and/or health and safety.

**PROGRAM REVIEW AND CHANGES, (If applicable):**

No significant changes in program structure, treatment philosophy or the program in general appear to have been made since the previous year.

**EMERGENCY INTERVENTION PLAN / INCIDENT REPORTS:**

There are no issues pertaining to EYC's Emergency Intervention Plan. They continue to utilize and train in Crisis Prevention Institute methods and critical Incident reporting appears to be on a regular flow basis.

**PERSONNEL AND CLIENT FILE REVIEW:**

Through a review of five staff and five client files, no issues of concern were noted. Areas of review for staff included:

- Health screenings.
- First aid/CPR training.
- Fingerprint/background clearances.
- Training and documentation of same.

Client file reviews included:

- Admission agreements
- Health screening and medical consent.
- (Quarterly) Needs and services plans

**CLIENT(S) AND PERSONAL RIGHTS REVIEW:**

During the on-site visit, five California clients were interviewed. All reported the perception of their needs being met, and no issues of concern related to personal rights were voiced.

Additionally, personal rights literature was observed appropriately posted in various areas of the living units.

**MEDICAL, DENTAL, AND NUTRITIONAL FOLLOW-UP SERVICES:**

The EYC medical staff provided an overview of current medical and dental issues with students. Files were reviewed and special cases were discussed. Student interviews revealed that medical and dental services are being provided satisfactorily. Client files appeared in good order and contained the proper documentation of medical and dental examinations.

**TREATMENT SERVICES (COUNSELING, GROUPS, THERAPY, ETC):**

Excelsior appears to be continuing to provide a high level of counseling support in their therapeutic residential treatment program. Students are meeting with their assigned therapist on a regular basis and report involvement in regular groups and individual counseling sessions. No issues of concern in this area exist.

**SCOPE OF CERTIFICATION REVIEW:**

Areas covered during this review were:

- Physical plant inspection
- Program features, policies and procedures.
- Food Service.
- Observation of daily program and activities
- Client and staff file reviews.
- Client and staff interviews.
- Staff training.
- Intake and discharge process and procedures.
- Therapeutic treatment services offered/provided.
- Emergency intervention plan.
- Medication handling.

**OUT-OF-STATE CERTIFICATION FINDINGS AND PLAN OF CORRECTION (S):**

The OSCU's review of the EYC revealed no issues of concern: Facility appears to be operating in substantial compliance with California group home licensing standards as well as the applicable licensing standards in the state of Colorado.

**CERTIFICATION DECISION**

Recommendation for re-certification through 2006-2007.

- c: The California Department of Social Services, Children and Family Services Division, Out-Of-State Placement Policy