

**JJMU FACILITY REPORT
KARMA ACADEMY, RANDALLSTOWN
OF KHI SERVICES, INC.
JANUARY – MARCH, 2008**

Department of Juvenile Services Response

Youth Not Attending School, p. 3

The Bridge Center serves as a three-week assessment program to determine the level of academic functioning of students transferring into Baltimore County Public Schools from other school districts. This is done in order to develop the most appropriate school placement to meet the youth's needs. It is not used for alternative education. The resident who was being placed directly into a high school was already a Baltimore County student.

Home and Hospital was contacted by both this resident's DJS case manager and the case manager at Karma at Randallstown within days of his admission to arrange continuation of tutoring. However, the tutor did not appear until two weeks later, and it appeared there was some confusion between Home and Hospital and the high school with regards to whether the student needed to complete his previously determined hours of tutoring before being classes at the school.

Enrolling students in school can be difficult as they do not always arrive with the requisite paperwork needed for enrollment, particularly those students who have not recently been enrolled in or regularly attending school. However, DJS has advised that their Transition Team is available to Karma Academy through their Pupil Services unit to assist in facilitating this process.

Sex Offender Treatment, p. 4

It should be noted that a staff who has since left our program, received ongoing clinical supervision for two years from the former director at KAR, who is licensed as a professional counselor, has provided juvenile sex offender treatment for over 10 years, and is certified in treating sex addictions.

Facility Maintenance – Exterior, p. 5

Several of the areas noted (e.g., the areas near the shed and at the extreme rear of the property) are not utilized by the residents when outside, as their activities are confined to the non-wooded portions of the side yard. Prior to the day of this particular visit, there had been several days of heavy rain, sleet and wind, which had resulted in a higher than usual number of fallen leaves and branches. As the weather had been cold and wet for several weeks (winter), residents were not utilizing the yard for recreational activities, but were instead being transported off grounds or using the weight/exercise room in the basement of the facility.

On the date in question, the resident responsible for turning on the outside lights as one of his ongoing chores had not yet had the opportunity to do so, because he was first being interviewed

by the JJMU monitor, and then needed to return to his scheduled activities. All lights are routinely maintained.

Facility Maintenance – Interior, p. 5

This is not an accurate statement. All residents are responsible for daily house chores (e.g., making beds, cleaning rooms, washing dishes, preparing and cleaning up after meals). In addition, residents assigned to the Maintenance area of responsibility also monitor the grounds for trash or other out-of-place items, maintain the outside security lighting, monitor and replace light bulbs, monitor and replace paper supplies, inventory maintenance and cleaning supplies, monitor the condition of the house and facility van for needed repairs, check and, if necessary, require correction of daily house chores by other residents, and perform minor repairs under staff supervision. For more complex repairs, such as repairing the hole in question, which was several inches wide and penetrated the drywall, the facility contracts with an outside firm.

As noted above, the residents are routinely involved in performing maintenance activities similar to those they would be responsible for performing in the average home environment. All other tasks are performed either by paid staff or outside providers.

Advocacy/Investigations/Monitoring - Incident Reporting, p. 6

The Director attended DJS training on how to access and utilize the electronic database. DJS has reported that almost immediately after outside ASSIST access was granted, a virus infected the server from an outside computer system and disabled it. Providers continue to submit written reports via facsimile.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The program and DJS must collaborate to ensure youth are receiving their education as required by State law.

RESPONSE

Enrolling students in school can be difficult as they do not always arrive with the requisite documentation, particularly students who have not recently been enrolled in or regularly attending school. However, DJS has advised that their Interagency Transition Team is available to Karma Academy through their Pupil Services unit to assist in facilitating record retrieval and school enrollment.

2. DJS should consider providing some type of sensitivity training to teachers in the public school system so they can understand the special concerns for a juvenile delinquent.
3. The program should coordinate with DJS to participate in updated training and certification opportunities for sex offender treatment.

RESPONSE

Karma Academy contracts with Trained2Perfection to provide the mandated training sessions.

DJS has also recently encouraged participation of program clinicians in training through

the Mental Health Policy Institute at the University of Maryland., a nine-month program that is accessed through a once-a-year training conference at significant cost (over \$3000 per person), and has only been in existence since 2006. The program is available only to “a limited number of clinicians...[t]hrough an application process” (from the Mental Health Policy Institute web site: <http://nursing.umaryland.edu/events/forgotten/certificate.htm>).

4. The interior and exterior of the facility should be repaired and maintained to reflect a positive attitude towards the youth and their environment.

RESPONSE

Repairs and maintenance are performed as required.

5. Designated facility employees should be trained and have access to the DJS ASSIST and Incident Report databases to expedite historical checks on youth placed at the facility and for the entry of incidents into the database system.

RESPONSE

Training was conducted; DJS is working to correct technical problems prior to granting access to outside users.