

**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES**

Community Care Licensing Division  
Statewide Children's Residential Program  
Out-of-State Certification Unit  
744 P Street, Sacramento, CA 95814 ~ MS 19-50



November 5, 2008

Cynthia K. Cox, Executive Director  
Clarinda Academy  
1820 N. 16<sup>th</sup> Street  
Clarinda, IA 51632

**SUBJECT: Out-of-State Group Home Certification  
Clarinda Academy (CA Facility #602300055)**

Dear Ms Cox:

Pursuant to California Family Code Section 7911 et al., this is official notification that effective October 23, 2008, Clarinda Academy is certified as meeting California group home licensing standards. This certification is based on the application submitted to the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) as well as the onsite evaluation performed by certification analyst Carol Lancaster on October 22-23, 2008.

California licensing standards require that all serious incidents be reported to CDSS' Out-of-State Placement Policy Unit for each child in care regardless of whether he or she is a California placement. Incident reporting shall include the following:

- a. Deaths
- b. Suicide attempts
- c. Suspected physical, sexual or psychological abuse
- d. Epidemic outbreaks and catastrophes
- e. Use of restraint (whether or not they result in an injury to a child.)
- f. Any unusual incident or absence that threatens the physical or emotional health or safety of a child.
- g. Injuries and illnesses that require hospitalization or medical treatment (beyond first aid.)

Certification will be reviewed annually. We will be following our Department policy which authorizes us to inspect facilities with or without appointment as necessary.

If you have any questions, please contact Carol at (916) 838-5751; or myself at (916) 327-8763.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Carol Lancaster".

MEI YUK KUNG, Program Manager

## FACILITY EVALUATION REPORT

Out of State Cert, 1700 9th Street, 2nd Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814

FACILITY NAME:	CLARINDA ACADEMY	FACILITY NUMBER:	602300055
ADMINISTRATOR:	CYNTHIA COX	FACILITY TYPE:	731
ADDRESS:	1820 N. 16TH STREET	TELEPHONE:	(712) 542-3103
CITY:	CLARINDA	STATE:	IA
CAPACITY:	<del>245</del> 250	CENSUS:	245
TYPE OF VISIT:	Preticensing Initial Certification	ANNOUNCED	
MET WITH:	Cynthia Cox, Executive Director, et. al. (administrative team and program directors)	DATE:	10/22/2008
		TIME BEGAN:	12:45 PM
		TIME COMPLETED:	04:45 PM

## NARRATIVE

1 PURPOSE OF VISIT:  
2  
3 As mandated by California law, this initial on-site visit was performed on October 22-23, 2008 by the  
4 undersigned analyst to assess and determine Clarinda Academy's eligibility and suitability to be certified by  
5 the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) through:  
6 1. being in substantial compliance with California's Title 22 licensing regulations which apply to children's  
7 group homes; as well as  
8 2. being licensed and in good standing with the licensing laws of the State of Iowa where the facility is  
9 located.  
10  
11 REQUEST FOR CERTIFICATION / APPLICATION HISTORY:  
12  
13 In a letter dated September 4, 2008, juvenile placement officials of San Joaquin County Probation  
14 Department requested the Out-of-State Certification Unit (OSCU) of CDSS to consider Clarinda Academy for  
15 certification as they wished to utilize the facility for residential care and treatment of a minor under the  
16 jurisdiction of their Juvenile Court as a 602 ward. Shortly thereafter, contact was made by the undersigned  
17 analyst with facility administrative representatives, CDSS certification was discussed and application  
18 instructions and material was provided. This on-site evaluation visit was later coordinated and arranged after  
19 receiving and reviewing completed application material.  
20  
21 FACILITY INFORMATION AND BACKGROUND:  
22  
23 Clarinda Academy is in Clarinda, Iowa, a small southwestern Iowa town (population approximately 6000.)  
24 Articles of Incorporation dated January, 1992, reflect the Academy to be operated under Clarinda Youth  
25 Corporation [a Section 501(c)(3) - - i.e., non-profit organization] formed to:

SUPERVISOR'S NAME: Mei Yuk Kung

TELEPHONE: (916) 327-8763

LICENSING EVALUATOR NAME: Carol Lancaster

TELEPHONE: (916) 838-5751

LICENSING EVALUATOR SIGNATURE:

DATE:



10/23/08

I acknowledge receipt of this form and understand my licensing appeal rights as explained and received.

FACILITY REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE:

DATE:



10/23/08

This report must be available at Child Care and Group Home facilities for public review for 3 years.

## FACILITY EVALUATION REPORT (Cont)

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FACILITY NUMBER: 602300055

VISIT DATE: 10/22/2008

## NARRATIVE

1 FACILITY INFORMATION AND PROGRAM: (Continued)  
 2  
 3 "... operate as a rehabilitative services program and facility providing residential living and academic,  
 4 vocational and physical education to troubled youths and juvenile offenders with the ultimate goal of returning  
 5 the program's recipients as productive members of society."  
 6  
 7 The Clarinda Academy campus, buildings and faculties, which are leased by Clarinda Inc. (from the State of  
 8 Iowa who owns the property) are located amongst other adjacent, but separate buildings and organizations -  
 9 most of which are state government run and/or public facilities.  
 10  
 11 With specific reference to the residential component of Clarinda, there are nine living units (referred to as  
 12 halls,) throughout the campus which range in capacities from the lowest of eight (Independence Hall) to the  
 13 largest of 33 (Lincoln Hall.) Each hall is individually licensed by the State of Iowa. Collectively they total 250.  
 14 Two halls (Angelou and Parks) house 32 and 28 female youth respectively; and six halls (Jackson, Coolidge,  
 15 Lincoln, Jefferson, Washington and Kennedy) house male youth with capacities varying between 30 and 33.  
 16 An additional hall, Independence (capacity eight) was just recently licensed September 1, 2008, to operate as  
 17 a pre-independent living program. Clarinda also operates a Boys Shelter, capacity 15. The shelter,  
 18 however, is not being considered or included for certification.  
 19  
 20 The two gender-specific residential treatment programs operated (one for boys; one for girls - - who program  
 21 separately and co-mingle very minimally) are highly structured 6 - 12 month programs which emphasize  
 22 behavioral change through the establishment of a normative culture, intensely scheduled programming and  
 23 skill building activities. Throughout a student's stay, they are challenged to analyze failures and experience  
 24 success in nearly every area of life.  
 25  
 26 For the male youth, the program's goal is to prepare young men for a positive future by identifying strengths  
 27 and weaknesses. Once identified, staff and students work together to enhance the student's positive qualities  
 28 and promote social change through normative culture influence.  
 29  
 30 For the female youth, the program facilitates helping them to confront and overcome delinquent behaviors,  
 31 while assisting them to process the impact that physical, emotional, and sexual abuse may have had on their  
 32 lives. They learn to develop healthy relationships and build self-esteem in a compassionate environment.

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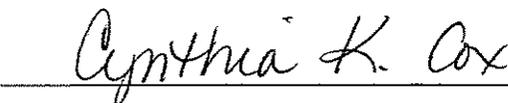
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VISIT DATE: 10/22/2008

## NARRATIVE

1 PROGRAM SERVICES:  
2  
3 Educational: Clarinda Academy is an accredited middle school and high school as part of the Clarinda  
4 Community School District . Special education, Title I and GED classes are offered based on a student's  
5 academic needs. School is held year-round with weeklong breaks in between semesters. Gender specific  
6 classroom sizes average from 12-22 students for regular education and no more than eight for the Special  
7 Education classrooms.  
8  
9 Medical: Youth health needs are met while in the program with access to the following:  
10 • 24/7 full-time on campus nursing staff (All students receive a complete physical assessment within 24  
11 hours of admission.)  
12 • General Medical - local physicians conduct weekly on-campus appointments for examinations and  
13 non-invasive treatments  
14 • On campus dental services  
15 • On campus vision screening; local optometrist available  
16 • Mental Health - Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner can provide assessments and medication management;  
17 • Additional medical referrals as needed.  
18  
19 Lifeskills Continuum:  
20 • Curriculum consists of: Health Awareness; Drug Education; Healthy Communications; Victim Awareness;  
21 Emotions Management; Traumatization and Empowerment; Healthy Sexuality; Healthy Parenting;  
22 Self-Image and Self-Growth and Healthy Relationships.  
23  
24 Fitness:  
25 • Involvement in physical activities to enhance body, mind and spirit.  
26  
27 Athletics:  
28 • Member of the Iowa High School Athletic Association.  
29 • Interscholastic sports available: football, cross country, basketball, wrestling, track, soccer, baseball and  
30 power lifting.  
31 • Participation in interscholastic athletic competition encouraged.  
32

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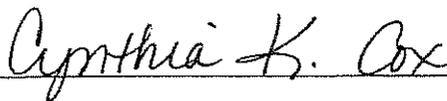


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**NARRATIVE**

1 PROGRAM SERVICES (Continued)  
2  
3 Additional/Specialized Services Available: (Add-On Services at a Negotiated Rate.)  
4 • Individual Therapy and Counseling  
5 • Family Therapy and Counseling  
6 • Family Skill Development  
7 • Juvenile Level One Substance Abuse Outpatient Treatment Services  
8 • Medical services above and beyond routine -- i.e., psychiatric, psychological, psychotherapy ((MSW),  
9 ortodontic, podiatry, orthopedic, etc.  
10  
11 CLIENTS SERVED:  
12  
13 Clarinda Academy serves at-risk and adjudicated male and female youth (referred to as students) between  
14 12-18 years old who typically present with a DSM Axis I (primary) diagnosis of Conduct or Oppositional  
15 Defiant Disorder, often times accompanied by ADD/ADHD or a Depressive Mood Disorder. Characteristics,  
16 traits and/or behaviors displayed by such youth commonly include:  
17 • Impulsiveness  
18 • Irresponsible  
19 • Denial and justification of negative behavior  
20 • Problems with anger and aggression  
21 • Demonstrates a low degree of empathy.  
22 • Lacks self-discipline  
23 • Is non-compliant with authority.  
24  
25 To benefit from the facility's program offered however, students should be amenable to a positive peer culture.  
26  
27  
28 Youth with deep-seated psychopathology; those with a full scale IQ of less than 70; youth with recent suicidal  
29 ideation or youth diagnosed with Bi-Polar and/or who are receiving Lithium derivatives are not generally  
30 suitable for admission although they may be considered on a case-by-case basis.  
31  
32

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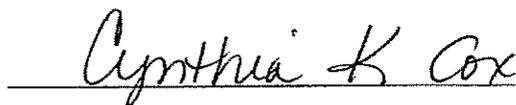
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IOWA LICENSING INFORMATION:

As part of evaluating Clarinda for certification, the facility's Iowa licensing representative [Deb Dixon (515) 669-4198] was contacted and spoken with by phone. She acknowledged being the licensing surveyor for the facility and being quite familiar with it. She indicated her agency, Department of Inspections and Appeals, is subcontracted by the Iowa Department of Human Services to do the routine surveys and investigate complaints. She indicated the facility is in good status with licensing. She indicated that routine surveys are performed on either a one, two or three year cycle - - depending on facility performance, history and complaint record.

As part of the application submitted, Clarinda was forthright in providing licenses that are current and reports on each hall covering the last few years. Although there were a few investigated incidents/complaints that resulted in a substantiated finding of a regulation violation or two, none were of a nature to suggest that there are ongoing issues or serious conditions that render the facility substandard in any area or which pose a significant threat to the health and safety of clients.

FIRE CLEARANCE

A Certificate of Inspection (for Fire Safety Rules, Regulations and Standards) issued by a deputy with the Iowa State Fire Marshall reflects that Clarinda was last inspected on April 3, 2008 and was deemed to be in compliance with state requirements.

STAFF BACKGROUND CLEARANCES:

As required under Iowa law and Clarinda personnel policies and procedures, all staff having contact with clients (children) undergo both a criminal records check with the Iowa Division of Criminal Investigation and a check of the Iowa Central Abuse Registry for any founded reports of child abuse. These checks are required to be completed prior to the person's providing any care or services to children under the care of the facility. Executive Director Cynthia Cox verified that all current employees have cleared their background checks or that Iowa Licensing has granted an exemption for those who needed same based on minor or old criminal infractions or violations. Ms. Cox attested that every employee has evidence of clearance in their personnel file.

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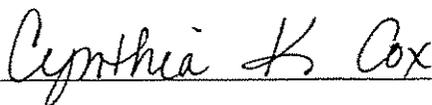
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SCOPE OF CERTIFICATION REVIEW:

- Review of application and program material submitted.
- Verification of licensure status and history with Iowa licensing officials.
- Introductions, entrance interview, and discussion of the Clarinda program and services and CDSS certification requirements with Executive Director, Cindy Cox and numerous other executive and administrative staff.
- Physical tour of the campus, grounds and halls in the accompaniment of five Eagles Club members (high status clients.)
- Exit interview.

FINDINGS, AREAS OF CONCERN AND/OR THOSE REQUIRING COLLECTION:

Based on the application submitted and information collected throughout the application process and on-site tour, this analyst finds that the Clarinda Academy is suitable for certification by the CDSS. The living halls and client bedrooms were found to be remarkably clean and orderly; and discussions and interactions this analyst was able to have concerning the program and services with staff and clients at the facility were quite positive. The staffing, amenities and resources seem quite adequate.

Because CDSS' serious incident and restraint reporting standards and requirements seem to be higher and more extensive than what the facility is accustomed to and/or required to do by other oversight agencies who have clients placed at the facility, this analyst will closely monitor this area and provide more direction and consultation during the first year of certification.

CERTIFICATION DECISION:

Certify.

SUPERVISOR'S NAME: Mei Yuk Kung

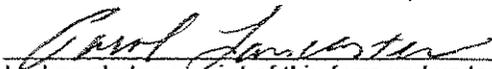
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