



CDSS

WILL LIGHTBOURNE
DIRECTOR

STATE OF CALIFORNIA—HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

Community Care Licensing Division
Statewide Children's Residential Program
744 P Street, Sacramento, CA 95814



EDMUND G. BROWN JR.
GOVERNOR

July 18, 2014

RITE OF PASSAGE: SILVER STATE ACADEMY- 602300001
2560 BUISINESS PARKWAY, STE B
MINDEN, NV 89423

SUBJECT: Re-Certification by the California Department of Social Services (CDSS)

Capacity : 116 male youth; ages 13-17

Pursuant to California Family Code, Section 7911 et al., this is official notification that CDSS certification for Rite of Passage - Silver State Academy is continued through June 2015.

California licensing standards require that all serious incidents continue to 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. Injuries and illnesses that require hospitalization or medical treatment (beyond first-aid)
- f. Use of restraint (whether or not they result in an injury to a child)
- g. Any unusual incident or absence that threatens the health or safety of a child

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

If you have any questions please contact me at (916) 651-5380, or Carol Lancaster, Out-of-State Certification Analyst, at (916) 838-5751.

Sincerely,

Original Signed by

FERNANDO SANDOVAL
Program Manager II
Community Care Licensing
Children's Residential Program

C: CDSS Deputy Compact Administrator, ICPC/Out-of-State Placement & Policy Unit

FACILITY EVALUATION REPORT

FACILITY NAME:	RITE OF PASSAGE: SIERRA SAGE ACADEMY	FACILITY NUMBER:	602300001
ADMINISTRATOR:	REBEKAH GRAHAM	FACILITY TYPE:	731
ADDRESS:	100 ROSASCHI ROAD	TELEPHONE:	(775) 463-5111
CITY:	YERINGTON	STATE:	NV
CAPACITY:	50	ZIP CODE:	89447
TYPE OF VISIT:	Case Management	CENSUS:	7
MET WITH:	Lawrence Howell, Exec. Director; Peter Woods, Program Director; Shannon Gildea, Business Manager; Dana Centanni, Director of Student Services	UNANNOUNCED	DATE: 07/24/2015
		TIME BEGAN:	09:45 AM
		TIME COMPLETED:	02:25 PM

NARRATIVE

1
2 **PURPOSE OF VISIT:** Annual re-certification inspection pursuant to California Family Code section 7911.1(c)
3
4 **CDSS ANALYSTS CONDUCTING VISIT:** Carol Lancaster
5
6 **FACILITY'S CAPACITY:** 50 **CENSUS AT TIME OF VISIT:** 7 male
7
8
9 **AGENCIES / ENTITIES WITH YOUTH CURRENTLY PLACED AT FACILITY:**
10
11 ● Ventura County Probation (1)
12 ● Mono County Probation (1)
13 ● Santa Clara County Probation (2)
14 ● San Joaquin County Probation (1)
15 ● CA Private Placement (1)
16 ● State of Michigan (Agency Unknown) (1)
17
18 **ADMINISTRATION; PLAN OF OPERATION; PHYSICAL PLANT OVERVIEW / CHANGES:**
19
20 Rites of Passage Silver State Academy has underwent many events and changes over the last year:
21
22 ● Effective June 26, 2015, the capacity of the facility was reduced to 50 (from 116.)
23 ● Effective August 5, 2015, the population served is adolescent females, ages 14-17. The female youth
24 are typically referred from juvenile courts and social service agencies who present with histories of
25 abuse, neglect, trauma, substance abuse, mental illness and violence.
● The facility's name has changed to Rite of Passage: Sierra Sage Academy

SUPERVISOR'S NAME: Marisa Lopez**TELEPHONE:** (916) 651-0631**LICENSING EVALUATOR NAME:** Carol Lancaster**TELEPHONE:** (916) 838-5751**LICENSING EVALUATOR SIGNATURE:***Original Signed by Carol Lancaster***DATE:** 08/18/2015

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

FACILITY REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE:*Original Signed by Facility Representative***DATE:** 08/18/2015

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

FACILITY EVALUATION REPORT (Cont)CCLD Regional Office, 744 P STREET, MS 8-3-54
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814**FACILITY NAME:** RITE OF PASSAGE: SIERRA SAGE ACADEMY**FACILITY NUMBER:** 602300001**VISIT DATE:** 07/24/2015**NARRATIVE**

1 **ADMINISTRATION; PLAN OF OPERATION; PHYSICAL PLANT OVERVIEW / CHANGES:** (Continued)
2
3 ● New Program Director: Rebekah Graham, formerly the Supervising Deputy Probation Officer of San
4 Joaquin County (CA) Juvenile Probation Department, Placement Unit.
5 ● New Therapeutic Manager: Joshua Lepley.
6 ● New Director of Student Services: Dana Centanni
7 ● Residential treatment staff to student ratio will remain the same - 1:6 (with the exception of awake night
8 staff between 10:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m.: 1:12)
9 ● Primary medical and health care needs will no longer be met on campus; rather, they will be met at the
10 Paiute Tribal Health Care Clinic located off campus but less than a mile away. (Note: Staffing at ROP's
11 on-grounds health center has been reduced to two medical assistant staff. One will be on duty at a time;
12 hours covered will be seven days a week between 6:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. The medical assistants will
13 be tasked primarily with safe storage, management, distribution of client medications and record keeping
14 of same; medical triage and overseeing and facilitating client "sick call" on a daily basis, as well as
15 attending to first aid needs.)
16 ● Clinical psychiatry services will continue to be met on campus by contracted psychiatrist Dr. Dwark
17 Vuppalapati; clinical psychological by Dr. Jack Araza.
18 ● A year round charter school supported by El Dorado County Office of Education continues to operate on
19 campus five days a week. The school, which is also accredited by the Western Association of Colleges
20 and Schools (WASC,) also offers special education as well as career and technical education (computer
21 technology and culinary arts.)
22
23 With the switch to serving female youth, ROP no longer characterizes its program as a positive peer (or
24 "normative") culture. Instead, it attests to being a "positive organizational culture," offering a least restrictive
25 academic model with a campus-like milieu that promotes diverse social and educational interactions essential
26 to the competency development of students.
27
28 Additionally, features of the new Sierra Sage Academy include:
29 ● Gender-specific and culturally competent services.
30 ● Commercially sexually exploited children curriculum.
31 ● Cognitive behavioral approach within a normalized academic environment.
32 ● Individualized treatment plans and access to mental health and substance abuse services.
● Recently remodeled campus with a 20,000 square foot administration building which includes state of the
art classrooms, case management offices, cafeteria and medical clinic.

SUPERVISOR'S NAME: Marisa Lopez**TELEPHONE:** (916) 651-0631**LICENSING EVALUATOR NAME:** Carol Lancaster**TELEPHONE:** (916) 838-5751**LICENSING EVALUATOR SIGNATURE:***Original Signed by Carol Lancaster***DATE:** 08/18/2015

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

FACILITY REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE:*Original Signed by Facility Representative***DATE:** 08/18/2015

FACILITY EVALUATION REPORT (Cont)CCLD Regional Office, 744 P STREET, MS 8-3-54
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814

FACILITY NAME: RITE OF PASSAGE: SIERRA SAGE ACADEMY

FACILITY NUMBER: 602300001

VISIT DATE: 07/24/2015

NARRATIVE**1 ADMINISTRATION; PLAN OF OPERATION; PHYSICAL PLANT OVERVIEW / CHANGES: (Continued)**2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32

Along with the change of population to females, noticeable transformation or "feminization" has occurred. To bolster this, a local artist was commissioned to paint large murals and female empowering affirmations on walls throughout the campus. New furnishings, decor and linens in the living unit also nicely reflect the change of population. While the facility hopes to grow the new population to one day occupy the three living units on campus (Justice, Unity and Legend,) only Justice Hall will be utilized at first.

A couple of other changes will be private bedrooms (i.e., one to a room) as well as remodeled bathrooms with enhanced privacy for showering, toileting and hygiene needs as well as newly tiled counters and wall mounted mirrors that serve as make-up and hair stations. The bathrooms are also equipped with a wall mounted hair (blow) dryer, an electric hand drying machine and extra electric receptacles for curling and straightening irons.

The remodeling of Unity Hall located next door has also been embarked upon and is just about complete. Although it is not anticipated to be utilized for females until adequate population growth is realized, Justice and Unity Halls have 12 bedrooms and two bathrooms each. The bathrooms include an ample number of toilets, showers and sinks. Lastly, there is Legend Hall. It, too, will remain vacant unless and until population growth warrants its use.

Another physical plant change which occurred over the last year was the tear down and removal of two large older industrial type buildings on campus: One of these buildings housed maintenance and miscellaneous staff offices, the other served primarily as a laundry and supply building. The removal of these buildings occurred just subsequent to them suffering fire damage on February 28, 2015. The fire is believed to have been intentionally set by one or two clients during a large group disturbance which culminated in involving most of the student population there. No plans to rebuild in these locations is known of at this time. Other capital building and space improvements over the last year are sufficient to accommodate the loss of these buildings.

In addition to the loss of property described above, the facility lost much of its population over the last year. Although the fire did not result in student injuries, numerous placement agencies pulled their youth and/or the youth were discharged on a case by case basis by ROP management, the majority as program failures. All told, the male youth population at the facility went from 51 (at the time of last year's CDSS certification inspection on June 10, 2014,) to only seven at the time of this year's inspection.

SUPERVISOR'S NAME: Marisa Lopez

TELEPHONE: (916) 651-0631

LICENSING EVALUATOR NAME: Carol Lancaster

TELEPHONE: (916) 838-5751

LICENSING EVALUATOR SIGNATURE:

Original Signed by Carol Lancaster

DATE: 08/18/2015

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

FACILITY REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE:

Original Signed by Facility Representative

DATE: 08/18/2015

FACILITY EVALUATION REPORT (Cont)CCLD Regional Office, 744 P STREET, MS 8-3-54
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814**FACILITY NAME:** RITE OF PASSAGE: SIERRA SAGE ACADEMY**FACILITY NUMBER:** 602300001**VISIT DATE:** 07/24/2015**NARRATIVE**1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32**ADMINISTRATION; PLAN OF OPERATION; PHYSICAL PLANT OVERVIEW / CHANGES:** (Continued)

In approximately June of this year, ROP made the decision to discontinue serving male youth, develop a new program and begin serving female youth as described earlier in this section.

INFORMATION AND COMPLAINTS: NEVADA / TRIBAL LICENSING

Being located on tribal land just outside of Yerington, NV, ROP is licensed by the Yerington Paiute Tribe (YPT). Prior to the issuance of its most recent "Youth Care Facility" (good for the period June 26, 2015 through June 26, 2016,) the facility was surveyed by a team of six over the dates of June 8 and 9, 2015. The members of the team included: YPT Licensing Board Chairman; YPT Human Services Director; YPT Clinic Director; an Indian Health Service (IHS) member; the Mason Valley District Fire Chief and the YPT Review Specialist. Aside from the facility's capacity decreasing to 50, a summary of findings reads as follows:

"The four youth interviewed were generally satisfied with the facility and staff. More than one youth indicated frequent use of illegal drugs by some of the youth. This continues to be an area of concern as youth have previously reported use of illegal drugs and ROP staff report youth bring contraband back to the facility after home visits or visits from family.

The two staff interviewed were well trained, spoke well of ROP, and stated a commitment to work at ROP as their stated profession.

Due to a change in the entrance criteria for the youth to be admitted to the program as well (sic) declined referrals for new admissions, the census at the time of the review was 11 youth. Regardless of the low census, the facility must be in compliance with YPT regulations. ROP must be commended for a lack of repeat deficiencies from the previous review, with the exception of the physical standards of the facility. Mikayla Deardorf from IHS indicates the facility is improving in this area as well.

SUPERVISOR'S NAME: Marisa Lopez**TELEPHONE:** (916) 651-0631**LICENSING EVALUATOR NAME:** Carol Lancaster**TELEPHONE:** (916) 838-5751**LICENSING EVALUATOR SIGNATURE:***Original Signed by Carol Lancaster***DATE:** 08/18/2015

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

FACILITY REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE:*Original Signed by Facility Representative***DATE:** 08/18/2015

FACILITY EVALUATION REPORT (Cont)**FACILITY NAME:** RITE OF PASSAGE: SIERRA SAGE ACADEMY**FACILITY NUMBER:** 602300001**VISIT DATE:** 07/24/2015**NARRATIVE**1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32**INFORMATION AND COMPLAINTS: NEVADA / TRIBAL LICENSING** (Continued)

There were no citations with the medical department as the medications were secured, stored, dispensed, and recorded properly. It is recommended that unused tool boxes stored in the medication room be removed to another location.

All the youth are housed in one dormitory in single occupancy rooms which were reasonably neat, clean, and personalized by the youth with neatly hung pictures and other items. There was trash noted on the bathroom floors.

The grounds were well maintained, including a vegetable garden.

An exit interview was conducted with administration staff on June 9, 2015.

FINAL NOTE: During this reporting period, there were serious disturbances at the facility which are extensively documented by the Licensing Board and resulted in significant changes to the program. The current review focuses on the modified program put in place since the significant disturbance of December, 2014."

On July 16, 2015, the undersigned spoke to Daniel Monahan, the Licensing Review Specialist, who confirmed:

- ROP is in good standing with Tribal Licensing.
- There are no administrative actions pending.
- Tribal Licensing is in favor of and approve the population change (from boys to girls.)
- Male placements must all be gone prior to the arrival of new female placements.

SUPERVISOR'S NAME: Marisa Lopez**TELEPHONE:** (916) 651-0631**LICENSING EVALUATOR NAME:** Carol Lancaster**TELEPHONE:** (916) 838-5751**LICENSING EVALUATOR SIGNATURE:***Original Signed by Carol Lancaster***DATE:** 08/18/2015

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

FACILITY REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE:*Original Signed by Facility Representative***DATE:** 08/18/2015

FACILITY EVALUATION REPORT (Cont)CCLD Regional Office, 744 P STREET, MS 8-3-54
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814**FACILITY NAME:** RITE OF PASSAGE: SIERRA SAGE ACADEMY**FACILITY NUMBER:** 602300001**VISIT DATE:** 07/24/2015**NARRATIVE**1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32**COMPLAINTS: CA LICENSING**

The following are violations cited related to substantiated complaint allegations:

- Based on a complaint received February 18, 2015, the facility was cited at the conclusion of an investigation on March 16, 2015 for a PERSONAL RIGHTS violation (inappropriate restraints); and a FOOD SERVICE violation (inadequate amount of food; no second helpings; small snacks.)
- Based on a complaint received March 10, 2015, the facility was cited at the conclusion of an investigation on March 20, 2015 for a PERSONAL RIGHTS violation (inappropriate restraints; excessive force.)

APPROPRIATE PLANS OF CORRECTION WERE RECEIVED IN A TIMELY MANNER RELATIVE TO THE ABOVE.

SCOPE OF CERTIFICATION REVIEW:

- Prior to conducting the grounds visit and inspection, the facility was required to submit extensive updated material and a new program statement in line with the change of population and the program offered.
- Entrance and exit interview/meeting with Lawrence Howell, Exec. Director; Peter Woods, Program Director; Shannon Gildea, Business Manager; Dana Centanni, Director of Student Services.
- Collection and discussion of additional material not deemed to be complete or fully developed.
- Facility tour.
- Communication exchange and collection of information with/from Tribal Licensing.

FINDINGS:

Re-certify through July 31, 2015. No deficiencies in relation to this year's inspection.

SUPERVISOR'S NAME: Marisa Lopez**TELEPHONE:** (916) 651-0631**LICENSING EVALUATOR NAME:** Carol Lancaster**TELEPHONE:** (916) 838-5751**LICENSING EVALUATOR SIGNATURE:***Original Signed by Carol Lancaster***DATE:** 08/18/2015

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

FACILITY REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE:*Original Signed by Facility Representative***DATE:** 08/18/2015

FACILITY EVALUATION REPORT (Cont)**FACILITY NAME:** RITE OF PASSAGE: SIERRA SAGE ACADEMY**FACILITY NUMBER:** 602300001**VISIT DATE:** 07/24/2015**NARRATIVE**1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32**HEALTH DEPARTMENT INSPECTION/CLEARANCE:**

A comprehensive environmental health survey of ROP was conducted on April 30, 2015 by Department of Health & Human Services, Public Health Service, Reno IHS District Office, Office of Environmental Health & Engineering. The purpose of the survey was to assess the health and safety conditions in accordance with applicable standards and guidelines, and to make recommendations for improvement. Findings and recommendations were subsequently provided to the facility June 5, 2015. There were 16 items that required corrective action. On June 8, 2015, a follow-up visit was made and another report was produced and provided to the facility on or about July 14, 2015. In the new report, it was noted that corrections had been made relative to two areas; partial correction had been made in six areas; and four areas had no corrective actions made. An extension was provided and on July 24, 2015, the undersigned analyst was informed that all areas had been corrected except for painting the porch on staff housing. (Not considered a serious threat to health and safety.)

Water supply and sewer systems services are provided by the Yerington Paiute Tribe for a monthly fee.

FIRE INSPECTION/CLEARANCE:

In addition to the environmental health survey written of above (which included inspection of many fire safety areas,) a Fire Alarm and Life Safety System Inspection Certificate reflecting compliance with National Fire Protective Agency 72 Standards was issued to the facility by ABC Fire and Cylinder Service based on an inspection they performed April 28, 2015. Their report indicated no deficiencies.

EMERGENCY DISASTER PLAN:

During the undersigned's tour of the facility, I noted floor plans denoting exit routes being prominently posted in each building.

SUPERVISOR'S NAME: Marisa Lopez**TELEPHONE:** (916) 651-0631**LICENSING EVALUATOR NAME:** Carol Lancaster**TELEPHONE:** (916) 838-5751**LICENSING EVALUATOR SIGNATURE:***Original Signed by Carol Lancaster***DATE:** 08/18/2015

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

FACILITY REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE:*Original Signed by Facility Representative***DATE:** 08/18/2015