

# Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Commission

## San Mateo County, California

### Group Home Inspection

Please respond to sections that apply to the facility you are inspecting.  
Type or print clearly.

Facility Name: Rise – Corbett Group Home

Date of this Inspection: 8/4/14

Address: 413 Lincoln Avenue, Redwood City, CA

Date of Last Inspection: n/a

Contact Person: Annie Corbett

Facility Capacity: 6

Phone Number: 408-202-4856

Current Population: 6

Presiding Juvenile Court Judge: Judge Susan Irene Etezadi

Annual Population: n/a (facility opened in May 2014)

Commission Inspection Team: Mieke Barrows, Susan Swope

The Rise Group home opened in May of this year. They also opened a drop-in center and a thrift store on May 12th. The home was full within 3 weeks of opening. As a one of only a few licensed CSEC (Commercially Sexually Exploited Children) facilities in CA, they are a badly needed resource for a population that is very difficult to work with. This is the fourth group home opened by Corbett group homes; the first to specialize in CSEC youth. The other homes are in Santa Clara county. Since they had only been open for 3 months when we inspected, we expected that they would still be sorting some things out.

### Major Concerns, Observations, and Recommendations

Overall, we were impressed with the program. Rise is addressing a real need in our community. There were a number of areas where processes had not been fully implemented yet, which we assume is because they have only been open for 3 months. We recommend that they:

- Hold regular fire drills – they have not held any drills yet and are working with Corbett to get this process in place
- Post the phone number for CCL as well as an explanation of the grievance process.
- Post house rules

We also recommend youth get regular large muscle group exercise.

One issue of note: Rise would like to get all the youth to attend school at Camp Kemp as they feel that is a more appropriate setting than Sequoia high school. But some of the youth are dependency youth, not delinquency youth. They are working to see if this can be arranged.

Fire Inspection Report:  Yes  No Date: 5/1/2014

Health Department Report:  Yes  No Date: only required for larger facilities

**Areas Reviewed**

**Quality of Life:**

- Physical Plants
- Meals/Nutrition
- Mental Health
- 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: \_\_\_\_\_

**General Information**

Stated purpose of facility: Group home for CSEC (commercially sexually exploited children) youth. LGBT youth are a sub focus. Licensed co-ed but only accepting female youth for now. Would like to be able to help transgender youth in future. Can accept both 300 and 600 youth.

Type of operating license: Group home level 12

License number: 415650024

Most recent licensing inspection: 5/6/14

Rating level: 12

Target population of juveniles: CSEC/LGBT – can accept ages 6-17 but all youth must be within 5 years of each other

Age range of juveniles: current range 14 to 18 years old

Juveniles' home countries: San Mateo, Santa Clara, San Francisco, Sacramento

Will take most youth unless they have severe mental health issues, then they recommend a higher level group home. They are accredited by Council on Accreditation – the County required this.

Pre-Plan for Emergencies:  Yes  No Date of Last Drill: \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: This group home opened in May 2014. They are working with Corbett Group Homes to get fire drills in place but have not had any fire drills yet. Relocation plan is to take youth to the Days Inn or Best Western on El Camino. They don't have any agreement in place with these hotels but would take the youth there.

## Staffing

**Describe staff specialties:** With regard to CSEC experience, one house manager has a BA in social work with 5 years CSEC experience; the other has an MSW with 1.5 yrs CSEC experience.

**Describe staff including numbers, background, ethnicity, language:** Diverse ethnicity. English and Spanish languages spoken. There are 13 staff as required by Level 12 licensing.

**Educational requirements for Staff:** Minimum: High school diploma or GED. Prefer BA in Social Work or Psychology. Also look for CSEC or Domestic Violence experience.

**Training provided for staff:** They follow the GEMS' Victim/Survivor/Leader Curriculum ([www.gems-girls.org](http://www.gems-girls.org)) for 24 hours of CSEC training. Ms. Corbett was personally trained by GEMS' founder Rachel Lloyd, and the rest of the R.I.S.E. Program was trained by a GEM's trainer in June. The model has a leader working with youth who are enmeshed and entrenched in the life of commercial sexual exploitation - bringing them out of that life and helping them evolve into survivors and then thriving as leaders. Staff receive an additional 24 hours of training in Mandated Reporter Training and Therapeutic Crisis Intervention (behavioral management and de-escalation). Prior to starting at the group home, staff also shadow at another Corbett group home for 24 hours. Staff is getting trained on My Life/My Choice by Lisa Goldblatt Grace, LMFT, which is another survivor led methodology working with CSEC youth.

**Staff to minor ratio:** Awake 1:3 Sleeping 1:3

**How is staff backup handled during grave-yard shift?:** There is an on-call schedule that rotates with the other Corbett group homes to aid staff if there is a problem. For staff backup (i.e., if someone is sick or does not show up), there is a schedule of backup shift person for each night. Ms. Corbett and Robert (Smitty) Smith (Chief Program Officer) are secondary backup and one of them is always reachable.

**Describe staff turnover, including frequency and reason:** No turnover yet but they have only been open for 3 months.

**Describe general staff and minor interactions:** They seemed respectful – good interactions. Ms. Corbett said they work to create connections and to know resident's interests and preferences.

Comments They have a spreadsheet that contains contact info and AWOL notification processes for all youth.

I followed up with Ms. Corbett about AWOL Procedure via email and here is her response about their policies with regard to AWOLs and Probation requests:

Rise/Corbett's policy is to derive ALL notification procedures from Social Workers and Probation Officers. At our regular level 12 Group homes, notification is standard at two hours for youth over age 14, but only if Social Worker and P.O. agrees. IF Social Worker and/or P.O. requires immediate or shorter period of time notification, that's what we

adhere to. Every case is different, and we treat every case differently. We have had 18 year olds in placement (regular level 12 GH) who went AWOL, and went notified ASAP due to mental health issues.

Every time they walk out of the house WITHOUT permission, an Incident Report is automatically generated. For example, the Social Worker does not want to call in a youth AWOL for one hour, a youth leaves the facility for 20 minutes without permission and returns, an incident report is automatically generated and held in-house amongst leadership. The Social Worker would get a report of the "unauthorized absence" but the police would not be notified of AWOL "missing persons". Our internal policy is to generate incident reports on anything of note that occurs with the youth in placement for documentation.

Probation: We enforce ALL Probation requirements above and beyond Social Services as they hold sway over DFCS. We have had many cases where a youth is dual status, and I need to ensure my staff (and the family) completely understand that probation is primary over DFCS orders. For example, even though a family may have approved overnight visits, if the P.O. has taken that privilege away from the youth due to a probation violation, the youth is NOT allowed to have overnight visits until the P.O. approves or that youth can get violated if he/she goes on an overnight.

### Conditions of Grounds and Building Exterior

**Give a general description of the property:** Two-story bright yellow house in residential area. Attractive from the street. It has a good-sized backyard with vegetable garden and some patio furniture.

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

The house was clean, cheerful and comfortably furnished. Walls were painted with decals that have inspirational quotes. Skylights brought in plenty of sunlight.

**Lawns:** Acceptable Unacceptable: back lawn could use some work

**Playing Fields:** Acceptable Unacceptable: n/a

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

**Paint:** Acceptable Unacceptable: \_\_\_\_\_

**Roof:** Acceptable Unacceptable: \_\_\_\_\_

**Drains and Gutters:** Acceptable Unacceptable: could not see

**General Appearance:** Acceptable Unacceptable: \_\_\_\_\_

### Condition of Interior of Building

**Walls:** : Acceptable Unacceptable: \_\_\_\_\_

**Paint:** : Acceptable Unacceptable: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

**Drains:** Acceptable Unacceptable: not observed

**Plumbing Fixtures:** Acceptable Unacceptable: not observed

**Air Vents/Heating/Windows:** : Acceptable Unacceptable: they had some window air conditioners that needed to be installed

**Smoke Alarms:** Acceptable Unacceptable: Forgot to check – according to Ms. Corbett: in every bedroom, and the highest peak of the bottom floor and second floor. 8 total

**Storage of Cleaning Fluids/Chemicals:** Acceptable Unacceptable: locked up

**Recreation/Sports Equipment:** Acceptable Unacceptable: Board games, yoga mats

**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: none observed

**Ample Blankets:** Acceptable Unacceptable: not observed

**Study Area:** Acceptable Unacceptable: Limited Computer use space for one. A resident was studying at the dining room table. Study area next to the staff office as well.

**Adequate Lighting:** Acceptable Unacceptable: \_\_\_\_\_

**Temperature:** Acceptable Unacceptable: Comfortable

### Orientation of Minors

**What is in intake process for the facility?:** Staff does a property inventory, reviews the personal rights document (which the youth sign) and reviews the program. Youth get all new bedding (it goes with them when they leave) and an alarm clock. Will take them shopping for clothes and basic needs if necessary.

**Are minors oriented to the house rules and procedures?:** Yes No Explain: Staff sit down with youth and go over program. Some may need more than one orientation. Personal rights are posted.

**Are house rules and grievance procedures posted?:** Yes No Explain: Grievance forms are available, but procedure is not posted. The form has space to enter the resolution. A resident submits the form to the house manager as long as the manager is not the subject of the grievance. The grievance is discussed at the Thursday staff meeting and goes up the chain until it is resolved. CCL phone number is not posted, nor are house rules. There are 5 house rules (No recruiting; No weapons in the house; No alcohol or drugs in the house; No sex in the house; No unapproved visitors in the house).

We recommend that Rise post the CCL number, an explanation of the grievance process and the house rules.

**What is in place to ensure that these rules and procedures are understood by minors?:** Rules and procedures are reviewed on intake and residents receive a handbook, but we recommend that they be posted as well .

**Are clothing and possessions inventoried on arrival and departure?:** Yes No

**How are juvenile's clothing and possessions protected or stored?:** They have a locked cabinet for valuables. If they have/find contraband, they will dispose of it or give to social worker/probation officer. Everything that is disposed of is documented.

**Interviewed Minors:** Yes No Details: \_\_\_\_\_

### Meals/Nutrition

**Kitchen:** Acceptable Unacceptable: Kitchen is airy, clean and attractive. Groceries are delivered. Residents participate in menu planning.

**Do the youth share in preparation of meals?:** Yes No Details: Youth may participate if they want but they are not required to do so.

**Are meals served family style?:** Yes No Details: in dining room

**Are minors permitted to converse during meals?:** Yes No Details: \_\_\_\_\_

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

**Are weekly menus posted?:** Yes No Details: \_\_\_\_\_

**Are servings ample, nutritious, appetizing?:** Yes No Details: did not see

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

Ms. Corbett says that this is not a problem.

**Are snacks and beverages available?:** Yes No Details: Fruit, milk and juice are always available. Licensing requires fruit and milk.

**How do you meet special nutritional needs?:** Plan menu with youth depending on their needs. They always have a vegetarian dish available.

**Length of time allowed to eat?:** As long as they want--until they are finished

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

**Breakfast:** 7      **Lunch:** 1      **Dinner:** 7

Comments: When we were there, lunch was pizza, buffalo wings, milk and juice. They do have a garden that produces corn, tomatoes and zucchini. They cook meals from scratch. Would be nice to see healthier options for lunch.

### Personal Appearance of Minors

**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: We were there from 11:30 am to 2:30 pm and three of the residents were sleeping—one in her room and two on living room couches.

### Programs

**Recreation** (type, amount, etc.):  Acceptable  Unacceptable: Every weekday, the youth go to the Rise drop-in center from 2pm to 7pm where they have different expressive arts programs. Art of Yoga teaches class 1-2 times a week. They have a schedule of possible events for the weekend, but whether they go depends on the youths' interest. They have gone to festivals at the SM County Event Center, Summer in the City in San Francisco and to the beach in Santa Cruz.

**Exercise** (daily schedule, amount, etc.):  Acceptable  Unacceptable: Youth can go on walks. We asked about YMCA memberships and they will look into getting these (the other Corbett group homes all have access to YMCA). We recommend youth get regular large muscle group exercise.

**Access to Religious Services:**  Acceptable  Unacceptable: Staff will take them

**Access to Medical Services:**  Acceptable  Unacceptable: For emergencies, they go to Sequoia Hospital. For regular medical/dental, they go to Willow clinic in Daly City (it is the sister clinic to one in San Jose where they take youth from the Santa Clara Corbett homes. They have been working to find doctors that take MediCal and are accepting new patients). For eye appointments, they take youth to Eyeclub in San Jose.

**Access to Mental Health Services:**  Acceptable  Unacceptable: Residents continue with their current therapist if they have one. If they don't, Corbett has a therapist on staff.

**Individual Counseling:**  Acceptable  Unacceptable: If youth have a therapist when they arrive, Rise staff will continue to take them there (unless they are too far away, like youth from Sacramento).

There is a therapist with Corbett that offers services but it sounds like the youth are not enthusiastic about taking advantage of that.

**Group Counseling:**  Acceptable  Unacceptable: At the drop-in center, they have a survivor-led group as well as a therapeutic group led by a social worker. They have an empowerment group meeting at the house every night. House meetings can be called by residents or staff as needed.

**Substance Abuse Counseling:**  Acceptable  Unacceptable: They are looking for an outside program but it is hard to get youth to go if it isn't a condition of probation.

**Victim Awareness Classes:**  Acceptable  Unacceptable: Their program addresses these issues.

**Gang Awareness Classes:**  Yes  No Details: Looking to do this

**Sexual Harassment Classes:**  Yes  No Details: not yet

**Parenting Classes:**  Yes  No Details: not yet

**Vocational Classes:**  Yes  No Details: did not ask

**Work Program:**  Yes  No Details: Youth can volunteer at the thrift store associated with the group home. Profit from the thrift store goes to fund social worker and survivor that work at drop in center.

Other: There is a nightly empowerment group to help develop life skills

### **Discipline of Minors**

Describe the discipline process of minors: There are no negative consequences in terms of losing step levels. Any problems are dealt with in group. Peers decide consequences and staff ensures they are reasonable. They may be required to go to a program or excluded from an activity. The outcome depends on the situation. They are not penalized if they go AWOL but welcomed back and supported. Most of these kids have been through many group homes. There are rewards for attending groups and tackling behavioral problems. Rewards are usually gift cards that are spent with staff at a store. They explained that this is a very tough population to work with and this is the approach they have decided to implement.

They will abide by any regulations or consequences mandated by Probation or HSA.

Many group homes will terminate placement and give away the bed after 2 days if a youth runs and has not returned. Rise has an agreement with the county to keep the bed open for 14 days to allow the youth to return. They work to establish rapport with the youth and get them to return to the home. They have had 2 terminations due to extensive AWOL (other counties don't all support the 14 day policy, some only have a 2 day policy).

If one of the youth breaks the rules or has an issue with another youth, they will address it as a peer group.

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



## Grievances

**Grievance Process:**  Acceptable  Unacceptable: Grievance forms are available to the youth. They are handled by staff and either addressed directly with youth or brought to weekly staff meetings. The process is fine, but we would like to see the process posted – along with information about contacting CCL.

**Number of grievances this year:** 0 (they have been open for 3 months)

**Trends and/or Comments:** \_\_\_\_\_

## Correspondence / Telephone

**Access US Mail?:**  Yes  No Details: They use the main office address. Access is only curtailed based on a social worker or probation officer request.

**Postage Free?:**  Yes  No Details: Residents are provided with stamps and envelopes

**Incoming/Outgoing Mail (Screened? Confidential?):**  Yes  No Details: Should only be screened if there is a court order. There was some confusion on this so we encourage that all staff be made aware of the process.

**Access to Telephone?:**  Yes  No Details: They have to request it. Staff will check contact list to make sure person is on approved list. Each phone call limited to 10 minutes (they can make multiple calls).

## Visiting

**Visiting Schedule:** no set schedule

**Do all minors have access to visitation?:**  Yes  No Details: Visits may be supervised or unsupervised based on court order. Visitors must be approved.

**Under what circumstances would visitation be restricted?:** Only if youth would not be safe – if, for example, the youth was very volatile at the time visit is supposed to happen. Thus far, only social workers, lawyers or CASAs have visited any of the residents.

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

**Adequate Space:**  Acceptable  Unacceptable: there is no private space in the house – only in the backyard. They had hoped to have an office with door but had to remove door due to safety regulations (one of the exits from the house was through the office). Alternatively, the resident and visitor can go for a walk.

**Staff Supervision:**  Acceptable  Unacceptable: Only if required by court or PO.

**Privacy Provided:**  Yes  No Details: There is no private space in the house (see above). Youth often visit outside in the backyard or go for a walk.

**Games or Activities Provided:**  Yes  No Details: Did not ask

Residents can request community passes by filling out a form for approval. If it is under 5 hours, the Resident Counselor can approve it. For overnights or more than 5 hours, it has to be approved by a case manager.

## School

List the schools your residents attend: Youth have not started school yet. Right now, they are hoping youth might be able to attend school at Camp Kemp. Otherwise they will likely go to Sequoia. There is a concern that some of the girls who are still active might try to recruit other youth at Sequoia.

How is transportation to school provided?: By staff

Are students able to participate in school-based extra curricular activities?: Yes, it is encouraged. Need to notify staff of the activity.

Is tutoring available?: Yes, either within the Corbett system or locally

Adequate Supplies, Books, Paper, Computer?: Yes. Staff have credit cards to get whatever the residents need.

Access to Computers/Internet?:  Yes  No How is this managed?: 1 hour computer use per day with staff supervision. They have laptops but the youth are abusing that privilege (taking into room, covering with blanket so staff cannot see screen). So they are looking at better blocks and possibly moving to desktop computers. They have to be careful about residents contacting their pimps on FB.

Describe the relationship between school and staff: n/a

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

## Comments

General comments or concerns that should be noted that have not already been address?: \_\_\_\_\_

## Signature of Commissioner(s) preparing this report:

\_\_\_\_\_/s/ Mieke Barrows Date: 8/15/2014

\_\_\_\_\_/s/ Susan Swope Date: 8/15/2014