A.B. and Jessie POLINSKY CHILDREN'S CENTER

FACT SHEET

COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO
HHSA
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY

POLINSKY CHILDREN'S CENTER
Child Welfare Services
Health and Human Services Agency
County of San Diego
9400 Ruffin Court, San Diego, CA 92123
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History:

Polinsky Children's Center (PCC) is operated by San Diego County Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA), and became licensed as a group home on July 31, 2001. Dedicated in 1994, it replaced the Hillcrest Receiving Home.

The current facility was built through the efforts of a unique public-private partnership between the Child Abuse Prevention Foundation, now known as Promises2Kids, and the County of San Diego. PCC continues to receive support through public and private partnerships and individuals in the community.

Population:

PCC offers Emergency Shelter Care for children, ranging in age from newborns to 18 years, who fall within the provisions of Section 300 of the Welfare and Institutions Code. The center is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The average length of stay at PCC is 10-12 days, although some children may stay longer. With a licensed capacity of 204, PCC serves an average of 60- 90 children per day. Approximately 2,500-3,000 children are admitted to PCC each year. Children are usually brought to PCC by Child Welfare Services social workers or by law enforcement officers. The children are evenly distributed by gender and reflect a wide range of ethnic backgrounds.

23-Hour Assessment Center:

The 23-Hour Assessment Center at PCC allows social workers to place children with a relative or foster parent as soon as possible within 23 hours as an alternative to admission to PCC.

Medical Services:

HHSA contracts with Rady Children's Hospital and UCSD Health Center to operate an on-site clinic where pediatricians and nurses provide medical screening and healthcare for all children admitted to PCC. Sexual abuse victims are referred to Rady Children's Hospital for evaluation.

Education Program:

Operated on-site by the San Diego Unified School District, PCC has a year-round school for grades K-12 and an on-grounds library for residents.

Assessment and Treatment Services:

Social workers, counselors, teachers, and psychologists provide casework services, crisis intervention, diagnostic evaluation, psychosocial histories, developmental work-ups and educational assessments for children requiring emergency shelter care. Input is provided to the CWS social worker and Juvenile Court to assist them in making an appropriate disposition in the child's case. PCC direct-care staff utilize the Polinsky Active Teaching Approach (PATA), a cognitive behavioral model developed by Boys Town, to assist youth with social skills development. Youth are provided a variety of programs and activities to help build their life skills.

In addition, PCC has a Day Rehabilitation Program operated by Fred Finch which provides a variety of groups to help in life-skill development, including Substance Abuse Prevention groups, Independent Living Skills training, and Violence Prevention Education groups. For children six and under, a developmental screening is conducted by specialists from the Developmental Screening and Enhancement Program of Rady Children's Hospital-San Diego and follow-up services are provided as needed.

Community Involvement:

In an effort to ease transition at PCC, children are involved in a variety of activities in the community, including field trips to athletic events, recreational activities, visits to amusement parks, movies, restaurants, camping and beach trips. For information regarding these activities, please call (858) 874-1110. In addition, PCC accepts monetary or in-kind donations on behalf of the children from individuals or groups in the community.

Volunteers:

Individual and group volunteers come to PCC to spend time with the children. The PCC Auxiliary and Promises2Kids provide direct services to the children by sponsoring parties and activities, arranging fundraisers as well as purchasing furniture, equipment, toys, clothing and other items for PCC. Volunteer activities are also organized by local churches, auxiliaries and community support groups. Please call the Promises2Kids Volunteer Line at (858) 427-1105 for more information.