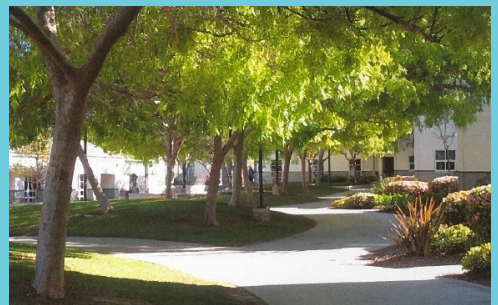
About Polinsky Children's Center

The A.B. and Jessie Polinsky Children's Center (PCC) is a 10-day temporary shelter care facility operated by the County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency. Opening its doors on October 6, 1994, PCC provides trauma informed care for children, ages birth to 17 years, who have been separated from their families due to child abuse or neglect.

Licensed by the California Department of Social Services, PCC offers children/youth:

- Safe housing in a friendly, healing environment, which includes six "home-like" residential cottages and an infant nursery
- Cafeteria and nutrition services
- Art and enrichment activities
- Gymnasium, playground, swimming pool, athletic field, basketball courts and weight room
- Medical clinic services
- On-site school

Services focus on the child's safety and meeting the immediate physical, emotional, social and spiritual well-being of each child, while return to their family or other placement options are assessed.



POLINSKY CHILDREN'S CENTER
Child Welfare Services

Health and Human Services Agency
County of San Diego

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A.B. and Jessie Polinsky Children's Center

Providing emergency shelter and support services to children and youth since 1994

Trauma Informed Care

Trauma Informed Care practices ensure that our interactions, behaviors, services and communities of support are accountable to avoid worsening the effects of trauma, supporting youth in building resilience, and in being balanced, healthy and empowered.

As a Trauma Informed Agency, PCC staff value everyone regardless of gender identity, race, sexual orientation, social status, religious and personal beliefs or culture. PCC views each individual as creative, resourceful and whole.

Our Safety Enhanced Together (SET) framework inspires our practice with the vision that every child grows up safe and nurtured. The following six core values guide our work at PCC:

- Relationships with Children, Youth and Families are the Foundation
- Collaborative Partnerships with Kinship and Resource Families
- Helping Children and Youth Achieve Their Full Potential and Develop Lifelong Relationships
- Shared Responsibility with Community Partners
- A Strong Working Relationship with the Legal System
- A Workplace Culture Characterized by Reflection, Appreciation and Ongoing Learning

HEALTH AND MEDICAL SERVICES

At PCC, children receive comprehensive medical and mental health assessments, through partnerships with contracted providers. A thorough medical assessment verifies that the child is up to date on immunizations and has services in place or are coordinated to address current health conditions. There are on-site medical staff available 24 hours a day.

MENTAL HEALTH AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

PCC provides mental health services through contracts with community providers via a multi-pronged approach including comprehensive assessment, individual and group therapy, care coordination with other agencies, psychiatry services and placement services to best meet the needs of the child.

A Developmental Screening and Enhancement Program (DSEP) supports a thorough developmental assessment of all children under the age of six at PCC, and coordinates services and support as appropriate.

Polinsky Children's Center staff teach children life-changing skills, help them build healthy relationships, empower them to make good decisions on their own and to care for themselves in a family-style environment while respecting their values and beliefs.

EDUCATION PROGRAM

While most children and youth at PCC continue to attend their school of origin, PCC's K-12 school is operated by the San Diego Unified School District and meets California State Standards. For some children, it is not in their best interest to attend their school of origin and PCC's school enables children to continue their education while in residence. Children have access to laptop computers and are able to earn credit/hours on a daily basis. Support personnel include a site administrator, counselor, speech and language specialist and other designated instructional services personnel.

For youth attending their school of origin, PCC staff are instrumental in coordinating transportation and logistics to maintain consistency in the child's education.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS AND VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers serve a critical role at PCC and in the lives of our County's children. Promises2Kids, an organization dedicated to providing direct services to children at PCC, offers support to foster children including a youth mentor and volunteer program. In addition, Promises2Kids:

- Purchases furniture, equipment, toys, clothing and other child-specific items
- Oversees Camp Connect, a public-private partnership which provides enrichment events and activities to youth in the foster care system who are separated from one or more of their siblings

Please call Promises2Kids at (858) 278-4400 for more information to volunteer and/or to donate funds or in-kind items to PCC.