

**County of San Diego - Juvenile Justice Commission
 2012 Inspection**

According to Welfare and Institutions Code Section 229, the Juvenile Justice Commission conducts annual inspections of the juvenile detention facilities in San Diego County. It shall report the results of such inspections together with its recommendations based thereon, in writing, to the juvenile court and to the Board of State and Community Corrections.

Facility Name:	
San Pasqual Academy	
Facility Address: 17701 San Pasqual Valley Road Escondido, CA 92025-5301	Date of Inspection: December 5, 2012
	JJC Chair: Kimberly Allan
	JJC Administrative Officer: Marc Regier
	JJC Secretary: Kathi Hamill
	Chief of Probation: Mack Jenkins
	Presiding Judge of the Juvenile Court: Hon. Cynthia Bashant
Facility Administrator: Tia Moore	Telephone: (760) 233-6005
Facility Contact:	Telephone:
JJC Inspection Team: Dr. Kathleen Edwards / Dr. Arlene Young	
Staff and Representatives Interviewed/Met in Person: Tim Farley, Assistant Executive Director, New Alternatives, Incorporated (NAI) Tia Moore, San Pasqual Academy Director Dan Radojevic, Regional Director, Workforce Partnership Jay Sakamoto, Protective Services Supervisor, Child Welfare Services (CWS) Connie Cain, Executive Assistant to the Director, CWS Suzanne Miyasaki, Principal, SPA, San Diego County Office of Education (SDCOE) Rex Sheridan, Mental Health Services Director, NAI Dietary Director Medical Clinic RN through California Forensic Medical Group (CFMG)	
Overview: San Pasqual Academy (SPA) is the first education campus for foster youth in the United States. It was opened in 2001 through a collaboration with New Alternatives, Inc., San Diego County Health and Human Services, San Diego County Office of Education, and San Diego County Workforce Partnership. SPA has a licensed capacity of 184; there were 114 minors living there on the day of the inspection.	

Recommendations:

The 2012-13 Juvenile Justice Commission recommends that the San Diego County Office of Education:

1. Provide California Standards Curriculum, including the grade 9-12 college prep requirements. These are commonly referred to as the a-g requirements. Minors need to have access to college prep curriculum to allow access to a four-year college.
2. Increase the number of students referred for potential special education placement. The Commission feels this population is being underserved, as only two such referrals have been made in the past year.
3. Increase the number of special education teachers from one to two teachers so that students requiring more than 50 percent of their day in Specialized Academic Instruction may be allowed to be served at SPA.

The 2012-13 Juvenile Justice Commission recommends that the County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency, Child Welfare Services:

1. Review admission criteria to balance reunification goals with needs of individual clients. SPA is an excellent facility to meet the needs of dependent children and adolescents in San Diego County and yet had 70 openings on the day of the inspection.
2. Because the majority of the families have addiction issues, staff training should include precursors of addiction in under-age minors so that minor residents are trained and knowledgeable about the dangers of addiction.

Follow-up on 2011 Recommendations for NAI:

1. Tracking of Critical Incidents: SPA follows submission of all Incident Reports as required by CWS and State of California Community Care Licensing.
2. Dating of Residents: SPA monitors appropriate relationships between residents. Couples therapy is available as is information on birth control and STDs.

Commendations

1. All staff were cooperative, open, and prepared for the inspection. There was a spirit of cooperation during the inspection process;
2. Facility and adjoining grounds were well kept, clean, and a homey environment for residents was well established;
3. Especially impressive was the Workforce Partnership efforts and staff. Encouraging he dependency to independence growth in residents is enhanced by this program;
4. Mental Health services provided to residents through NAI are comprehensive and responsive to the evolving needs of the residents;
5. Staff does training in methods of reducing violence;
6. There is excellent college attendance after high school graduation;
7. There are excellent relationships between staff and residents after graduation;
8. One prior resident who is 26 works on site in the kitchen;
9. There is excellent training in dealing with issues of self care, financial management, seeking and maintaining work and school performance;
10. Good family involvement with most residents having some contact with family;
11. When a weapon was found, residents received help in violence diversion.

Additional Comments from San Pasqual:

Accountability and Supervision (Pg 6): Individualized plans are created as part of a supervision addendum which sets the level of supervision that youth require based on past and current behavior. While all students are supervised within the program, some students may require constant adult supervision while others can earn varying levels of adult monitoring giving them the ability to develop skills of independence. Youth are held accountable to follow their assigned supervision plans which includes communicating their location, following through with check ins, and remaining in assigned areas. Staff are held accountable as one of their primary duties to maintain supervision of youth and follow their supervision.

Last Fiscal Year:

Number of suicides: _____

Number of attempted suicides: _____

Number of deaths from other causes: _____

Number of youth absence without leave (AWOL): _____

Number of attempted AWOL: _____

Other Inspections (please list dates):

Community Care Licensing: _____

Fire Marshal: _____

Department of Environmental Health: _____

Other: _____

Other: _____

Date of Last Fire Drill:

Problems/Complaints Affecting Facility During Previous Calendar Year:

Court Orders Affecting Facility (please have available, if applicable): Yes No

Pending Litigation: Yes No

Number of Written Complaints Involving:

- Residents: _____
- Attorneys: _____
- Family Members: _____
- Medical: _____
- Abuse: _____

FACILITY BACKGROUND

Resident/Staff Composition and Communication:

General Facility Condition:

Housing/Sleeping Accommodations:

Storage:

ADMINISTRATION / MANAGEMENT

Admission and Orientation:

- Are minors oriented to rules and procedures? Yes No
- Are minors given copies of rules and procedures? Yes No
- Can minors request that rules and procedures be provided in a language other than English? Yes No
- Can parents request that rules and procedures be provided in a language other than English? Yes No
- Are minors required to sign a document indicating they understand rules and procedures? Yes No
- Are rules and procedures posted anywhere in the facility? Yes No

If yes, please indicate the number of postings and the locations.

Number: _____

Locations: _____

What steps are taken to ensure that minors are explained the rules and procedures in a developmentally appropriate manner?

Personal Property and Monies:

Are personal property and monies recorded, stored, and returned upon release? Yes No

Describe the types of personal property that may be kept in sleeping rooms:

Youth Release and Transition:

Are there established protocols for transitioning youth out of the facility and into the community? Yes No

Do facility staff members consult with the staff that will be assigned to the youth when they leave to discuss transition-related concerns? Yes No

Has the facility received any complaints from parents regarding the transition process? Yes No

Has the facility received any complaints from attorneys regarding the transition process? Yes No

Accommodations for the Disabled:

Does the facility accept youth with disabilities? Yes No

Has this facility been determined to be an inappropriate facility for a youth with a disability (*physical, developmental, emotional, psychological, intellectual, etc.*) in the last 12 months? Yes No

SECURITY AND CONTROL

Permanent Logs:

Are there policies and procedures in place that describe the types of incidents and occurrences which must be documented on a daily basis? Yes No

Are these logs stored electronically? Yes No

Security Features:

Does the facility have ample security features (cameras, locks, alarms, etc.)? Yes No

Are there staff members on site who have the skills to maintain security features? Yes No

Security Inspections:

Does the administrator in charge ever visually inspect the facility for security-related concerns? Yes No

If yes, how often: _____

Are random reviews of security tapes conducted? N/A Yes No

Control of Dangerous Materials:

Are dangerous materials (toxins, biohazards, etc.) stored on site? Yes No

Non-Hazardous Furnishings:

Are mattresses and bedding fire-resistant and non-toxic? Yes No

Control of Contraband:

Are there written policies that describe contraband? Yes No

Are there written policies that describe the disposition of contraband? Yes No

Has a weapon been found in the possession of a youth in the facility within the last 12 months? Yes No

Has a controlled substance (alcohol, tobacco, illegal drugs, or prescription drugs for which the youth in possession does not have a prescription) been found in possession of a youth within the last 12 months? Yes No

Describe if there have been a high number of incidents related to a specific type of contraband:

Resident Searches:

Do staff search sleep areas/rooms? Yes No

If staff search sleep areas/rooms, do staff search in the presence of the youth? Yes No

If staff search sleep areas/rooms, is clean bedding or clothes mixed with soiled bedding or clothes during this process? Yes No

Accountability and Supervision:

Describe measures taken to ensure that youth are supervised in a manner that provides for youth and staff safety.

Use of Force/Physical Restraint /Safety Room Procedures/Searches:

Are there written policies in place to ensure that force is used only when necessary? N/A Yes No

- Are there written policies in place to ensure that force is used only as long as necessary? N/A Yes No
- Is each instance of a use of force documented? N/A Yes No
- When there is an instance where force is used, does an internal committee or task force convene to discuss the incident? N/A Yes No

Non-routine Use of Restraints:

- Are there written policies in place to ensure that restraints are used only when necessary? N/A Yes No
- Are there written policies in place to ensure that restraints are used only as long as necessary? N/A Yes No
- Is each instance of a use of restraints documented? N/A Yes No
- If yes, are these documents reviewed by the administrator in charge? N/A Yes No

Tool & Equipment Control:

- Is there a written policy to ensure the adequate control of keys? Yes No
- Is there a written policy to ensure the adequate control of tools? Yes No
- Is there a written policy to ensure the adequate control of culinary utensils and equipment? Yes No
- Is there a written policy to ensure the adequate control of medical equipment? Yes No
- Is there a written policy to ensure the adequate control of supplies? Yes No
- Is there a written policy to ensure the adequate control of vehicles? Yes No

Weapons Control:

- Are weapons of any types permitted in the facility? N/A Yes No
- Is there a weapons locker on site? N/A Yes No

Discipline:

- Are there written policies that describe the discipline process? Yes No
- Are measure to taken to ensure that due process is preserved? Yes No
- Approximately what percent of discipline grievances/appeals are resolved in favor the youth? _____ %

Contingency/Emergency Plans:

Are there written plans in place for the following contingencies/emergencies? Check all that apply.

- Contagious disease outbreak (Tuberculosis, Flu, etc.)
- Earthquake
- Fire
- Power outage/failure
- Unit Disturbance or Riot
- Other: _____
- Other: _____

DISCIPLINE MODEL

All Child Care staff are trained upon their hiring and at regular intervals in Pro-ACT with a focus upon de-escalation and preventative strategies to minimize the use of any physical intervention or containment. The physical interventions taught in Pro-ACT are only used in the event that a youth is a direct and serious danger to themselves or someone else and that harm can be prevented through no other action. Searches may be written into the student's Needs and Service Plan and conducted in cases where there is a history of risk or is engaging in behaviors that place the community or themselves at risk. A basic visual search of pockets, clothing, and bags is done upon reentering S.P.A. from pass or alternate placement but not of the client's body. Another measure taken is the completion of the student's Needs and Services Plan as well as their Emergency Intervention Plan which describes particular ways to handle individual students in moments of crisis or when escalated. Overall, the S.P.A. philosophy and structure falls in line with the New Alternatives agency philosophy. This philosophy emphasizes healthy development and personal growth, therapeutic support rather than punitive methods, the significance of meeting basic needs and building toward meeting higher level needs, creating conditions that allow for growth towards one's potential, and hopeful and positive expectations of the youth we serve.

HOSPITALIZATION, ASSAULT AND AWOL HISTORY:

Peer to Peer Assaults in Prior Fiscal Year:

Total number of Peer-to-Peer Assaults: 49

Total number of Peer-to-Peer Assaults resulting in injury requiring treatment: 3

JJC Comment: Assaults tend to be a push between sibs and house mates.

Peer to Staff Assault in Prior Fiscal Year:

Total number of Peer-to-Staff Assaults: 1

Total number of Peer-to-Staff Assaults resulting in injury requiring treatment: 0

Total number of Peer-to-Staff Assaults resulting in law enforcement/police/probation contact: 0

Number of injuries within the youth "residences" (first aid, medical intervention, or hospitalization) in Prior Fiscal Year:

There were 46 total injuries during the prior fiscal year. The majority of these injuries did not required first aid or a higher level of intervention. The vast majority of these injuries were due to sporting or recreational related activities.

Number of youth hospitalized for psychiatric reasons (reasons, length of treatment) in Prior Fiscal Year:

One youth was hospitalized during the prior fiscal year. This was due to self-harm behaviors and the youth was hospitalized for 72 hours and returned to the program.

Number of youth requiring higher level care (including placement at other NA sites) as temporary stabilization measures (include details: reasons, length, how many were unable to return etc.) in Prior Fiscal Year:

Number of AWOLs, including facility response and youth return in Prior Fiscal Year:

Total number of AWOLs during the prior fiscal year was 20 with 11 students returning to the program and 5 who did not return.

TRAINING, PERSONNEL, AND MANAGEMENT

Child Supervision and Staffing Levels:

Currently, the academy maintains a minimum of 1-6 ratio of staff-to-students. Child supervision is further discussed in the "Accountability and Supervision" section of this report.

Training:

Per Community Care and Licensing requirements and Title 22 Regulations, all child care staff complete a minimum of 40 hours of training initially and 40 hours annually following their hiring. These trainings include in-service trainings on safety, first-aid/CPR, transporting clients, new staff orientation, Pro-ACT, Cultural Competency, Trauma Informed Care, etc. Additional trainings focused upon staff improvement and therapeutic skills include parenting training, communication skills, burnout and self care, self-harm and suicide, solution-focused methods, substance abuse issues, psychotropic medication, etc. Teachers and counselors receive trainings set by their licensing bodies and as part of their ongoing continuing education.

Facility Capacity and Crowding:

The Academy's current capacity is 184. Since the increase of 48 beds in 2009, the facility has not reached capacity nor have had to deal with the issue of crowding for this reason.

CLASSIFICATION AND SEGREGATION

Describe how youth are classified and/or segregated:

Youth are not segregated at the academy other than being separated by gender with a female and male side of the campus. House selection is based on many factors which most often include age, risk factors, "goodness of fit" with house parents or lead staff, hobbies and interests, the resident's level of structure needed, etc. After the youth is assigned, there is also flexibility if a change is requested or needed.

Orientation:

Youth are partially oriented before their intake to the Academy through student led tours, campus visits, and an interview process where a thorough program description is given. Upon intake, students meet 1:1 with intake staff, house parents, clinical social worker, and program supervisors to be introduced, oriented, to answer questions, and to familiarize students with the structure and opportunities within the program

Segregation:

As stated above, youth are not segregated at the academy with the exception of them being separated by gender in their residences.

COUNSELING AND CASEWORK SERVICES

Mental Health services are provided on campus at SPA by an EPSDT funded Full Day Rehabilitation program. This program offers milieu based psychotherapy provided by BBS registered clinicians (individual therapy, group therapy, and family therapy), medication monitoring, basic medical services (2 LVNs on-site), recreational therapy, and a performing arts extra-curricular program. Program clinicians provide services, groups, trainings, and sessions after school each day and there is a clinician assigned to each home on campus so they work collaboratively with house staff and other providers. *JJC Comment: Interns are assigned to each home. Interns are present after school and early evening and meet with residents individually.*

GRIEVANCES, REPORTING INCIDENTS AND STAFF MISCONDUCT

- Is there a formal grievance policy? Yes No
- Are written grievances reviewed daily? Yes No
- Are grievances tracked in some manner that would permit facility leaders to observe trends in grievance report? Yes No
- Is there a method for youth to be able to express concerns about the facility to a staff member who is not assigned to their cottage? Yes No
- Are youth made aware on a routine basis that they can express concerns about their placement to their case worker, social worker and/or attorneys? Yes No
- Is there a formal grievance process available for parents? Yes No
- If yes, how many parents have submitted grievances in the last 12 months? _____

Reporting of Incidents:

Staff Misconduct:

- Are there written policies for addressing staff misconduct? Yes No
- Have there been any allegations within the last 12 months of a staff member physically assaulting a youth? Yes No
- Have there been any allegations within the last 12 months of staff member sexually assaulting a youth? Yes No
- Have there been any allegations within the last 12 months of a staff member verbally threatening a youth? Yes No
- Have there been any allegations within the last 12 months of a staff member touching a youth in any inappropriate way? Yes No
- Have there been any allegations within the last 12 months of a staff member commenting on the physical appearance of a youth in a manner that is outside the scope of the staff member's job duties? Yes No
- Have there been any allegations within the last 12 months of a staff member entering a youth's sleeping room for any reason that was outside the scope of the staff member's job duties? Yes No
- If the answer is yes to any of the inquiries related to allegations, is there written documentation of the incident, follow-up, and responsive action? Yes No
- Please describe the circumstances related to any of the allegations noted above:

PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES

School Program:

Parenting Classes: We have had therapeutic groups focus on parenting skills for the youth at the academy as well as having trainings for our house parent staff regarding parenting skills to equip them for some of the challenges and issues presented with our population of youth. Parenting classes for youth's family members is typically not provided due to them no longer living in the home or holding parenting rights.

Recreation and Exercise: Student can participate in a variety of recreational and exercise activities including formal sports teams that are part of the school CIF program, a campus intra-mural program, regular hikes, recreational trips and outings, use of the gymnasium and training facilities, health related activities sponsored by the Health and Wellness Center, etc. We also have a performing arts program that includes instrument lessons, voice lessons, dance, self-defense, and other performance oriented activities. Currently, a third of our students are participating in fitness programs that include cardiovascular and strength training activities.

Religious Program: Students are transported and supported in their attendance of religious services, following their particular faith tradition, within the community. It is typical for groups of students to attend religious services each week and some have also participated in mid-week religious activities when offered.

Work Program/Vocational Training: Career counseling is formally provided by the Workforce Partnership (YES program), who offer career exploration and vocational assessment, career counseling, training, on and off campus internships (in collaboration with New Alternatives, Inc), and post internship placement. These services are also supported by the residential and clinical programs offering many of the internships available as well as helping counsel and direct students toward career interests and experiences. *JJC Comment: Training performed by technical faculty. Areas of training include multi-media, financial literacy, on and off campus, pre-employment training, work readiness and skills, agricultural and culinary arts, off-campus experience work training done on a daily basis.*

Visiting: Clinical and Residential staff provide supervised family visits in both on and off campus settings. When approved by County HHSA, some visits are able to become community, day, or overnight passes with family or friends that the students can participate in on a regular basis. When visits are required to be supervised by staff, they are monitored closely, documented, and intervention is used when necessary. S.P.A. staff not only assist with the monitoring of the visitation but often transport students to locations where these visits take place for the convenience of both the student and those they are visiting due to the location of S.P.A. Family participation and engagement, when approved and appropriate, is strongly encouraged and supported by the Academy and its staff.

Correspondence: Letters can be received and written by youth and are not screened by program staff. Phone calls can also be made by all students and are unrestricted so long as phone calls are made at appropriate times and so long as the youth's HHSA social worker or the court has not disallowed contact with a specific person or required that phone contact be supervised by a program staff.

Access to Legal Services: All students are dependents of the court and thereby are assigned to an attorney. All students have access to their attorney's contact information and attend court hearings every 6 months.

HEALTH SERVICES

S.P.A. has a health and wellness center that houses two LVNs, as well as facilitates our psychiatric and medical services. Approximately 30% of students are receiving psychotropic medication managed by a contracted psychiatrist who comes two days per week and provides medication monitoring services. Assessments of illness, monitoring and coordinating of medical appointments, and basic nursing care are provided by the nursing staff. Routine physicals and evaluations are also available on campus with specialty and emergency services provided at the local hospital or Children's Hospital. Nursing staff also conduct a variety of health-related programs and initiatives aimed at improving the overall health of the population.

MEAL SERVICE

Are kitchen staff members trained regarding sanitation and food handling procedures? Yes No

Have kitchen staff members received any training in the last year other than training given to newly hired employees? Yes No

If yes, describe what the training included:

Do youth work in the kitchen? Yes No

If yes above, have they been trained? Yes No

Are youth permitted to converse during meals? Yes No

If yes, may a youth seated at one table converse with a youth seated at a different table? Yes No

Are meals served cafeteria style? Yes No

Are youth permitted 20 minutes or more to eat? Yes No

Who/what agency maintains the kitchen area? _____

Describe the types of work youth perform:

Adequate and Varied Meals:

Is there a weekly menu posted? Yes No

Does a nutritionist, dietitian, or other health professional participate in the creation of the menu? Yes No

How many calories per day does a youth who eats all of the standard meals provided consume? _____

What approximate percent of calories are from the following:

Protein: _____ %

Carbohydrate: _____ %

Fat: _____ %

Are weaker youths protected from having food taken from them? Yes No

Special Diets:

Can special diets be accommodated when medically necessary? Yes No

Was the facility unable to accommodate a special diet based on medical reasons within the last 12 months? Yes No

Can special diets be accommodated when based on a youth's religious practices or beliefs? Yes No

Was the facility unable to accommodate a special diet based on a youth's religious practices or beliefs in the last 12 months? Yes No

SANITATION

Clothing and Personal Hygiene:

Bedding and Linens:

TRANSITION PLAN