

BRIEFLY...

Highlights of Report Number 26-08-003-01-370, *Complaint Involving the Tulsa Job Corps Center*, to the National Director, Office of Job Corps, dated March 13, 2008.

WHY READ THE REPORT

The report discusses the audit results from our assessment of a hotline complaint concerning improprieties at the Tulsa Job Corps Center, located in Tulsa, Oklahoma and operated by ResCare Corporation (ResCare). The hotline complaint listed 4 specific allegations, and our audit of the hotline complaint reported that 3 of the 4 allegations had merit.

WHY OIG CONDUCTED THE AUDIT

The complainant alleged that Tulsa officials did not properly conduct and complete student surveys, did not properly follow parental approval requirements when enrolling minors, did not establish and maintain an Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) program for students, and did not properly account for separated students.

Our audit objective was to determine if the allegations had merit. Specifically, we answered the following questions:

1. Did Tulsa officials properly conduct and complete student surveys?
2. Did Tulsa officials properly follow parental approval requirements when enrolling minors?
3. Did Tulsa officials establish and maintain an Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) program for its students as required by the Policy and Requirements Handbook (PRH)?
4. Were separated students improperly included in the Center's Morning Report and shown as part of the Center's On-Board Strength (OBS)?

READ THE FULL REPORT

To view the report, including the scope, methodology, and full agency response, go to: <http://www.oig.dol.gov/public/reports/oa/2008/26-08-003-01-370>

U.S. Department of Labor
Office of Inspector General
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WHAT OIG FOUND

We concluded that 3 of the 4 allegations had merit. Specifically, Center officials properly conducted and completed student surveys. However, Center officials did not properly follow parental approval requirements when enrolling minors. Six of the 7 minor students included in our review did not have proper parental consent, which could prevent Center staff from fully assessing the student and providing appropriate services, and could lead to the student not completing the program.

We also concluded that Center officials did not properly establish and maintain an EEO program for its students. Center officials did not publicize the program and most students we interviewed were not aware of the program. As a result, there was not sufficient assurance that the Center was adequately protecting students' civil rights.

Finally, we concluded that 2 of the 3 separated students mentioned in the complaint were improperly included in the Center's Morning Reports and shown as part of the OBS. Including students in OBS after the students should have been separated artificially distorts the Center's actual performance.

WHAT OIG RECOMMENDED

The OIG recommended the National Director, Office of Job Corps require the Center Director to: establish procedures to verify compliance with PRH and local requirements for obtaining and maintaining supporting documentation regarding parental consent for minor students; take action to provide training to the EEO Officer, establish a formal EEO training program for students, train all students, periodically monitor student awareness of the EEO program, and adequately publicize the EEO program to students; and verify the integrity of the Center's reported OBS by monitoring the Center's Morning Report and by periodically visiting the Center to confirm reported OBS.

HOW AUDITEE RESPONDED

The National Director, Office of Job Corps, concurred with all findings and the 3 recommendations made in the report.