

Testimony
Health and Human Services Committee
Representative Robin Weisz, Chairman
March 23, 2010

Chairman Weisz and members of the Interim Health and Human Services Committee, I am Marilyn Rudolph, the Director of North Central Human Service Center in Minot. I am here today to respond to questions about the services and outcomes of the Oppen Home (Kay's Place) program.

Kay's Place (formerly the Oppen Home) is a residential group home serving girls 12 – 19 years of age. The home-like environment provides supervision, care and structure to adolescent girls who are in crisis. Kay's Place has seven beds.

Kay's Place provides independent living skills, health education, behavior management, labor coaching for pregnant teens, educational services, recreational services, psychiatric services, individual and group therapy services, outpatient drug and alcohol treatment and social skills education.

During the fiscal year of July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009, Kay's Place provided services to seventeen girls for a total of 1,508 client days. This is an average stay of eighty-nine days per girl. Eight of these girls were pregnant. Three of these girls transitioned to an extended family member's home, three transitioned to a PATH (therapeutic foster home with infant) and one to an independent apartment setting. One girl transferred to a private maternity home. Seven of the girls kept their babies. One girl placed her baby for adoption.

This concludes my testimony. I would be happy to answer any questions.

HISTORY

The program was originally developed in 1972 as a maternity home under a bequest from the Oppen Foundation. It expanded its program population to include foster care residents and operated as the Oppen Home until 2007.

In 2007, the program became independent of the Oppen Foundation, and acquired a new name and location. **Kay's Place** is named for Kay Erickson, who was the program's first housemother, beloved and admired by all who knew her.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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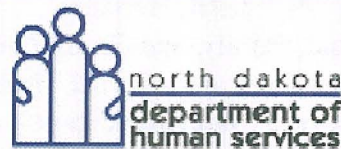
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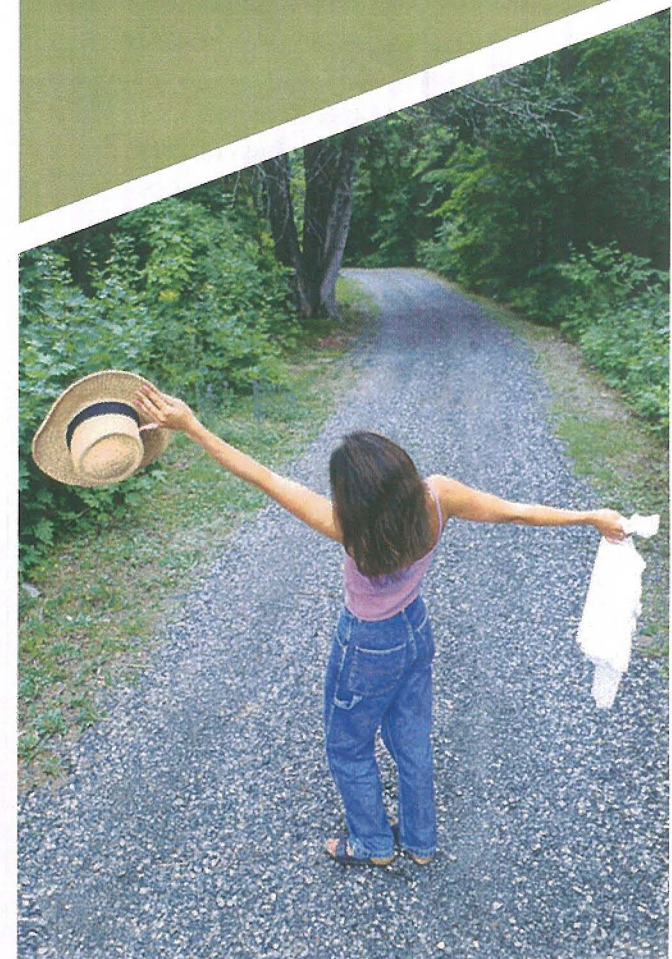
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Kay's PLACE

A FACILITY FOR
GIRLS IN CRISIS



PHILOSOPHY

Kay's Place is a state operated program of the North Central Human Service Center. This facility provides a safe and secure setting for girls 12 - 19 years of age who are in need of residential services. The home-like environment provides supervision, care, and structure to adolescent girls who are in crisis. The mission of Kay's Place is to provide and promote effective services to benefit identified vulnerable children, adolescents and families. The services will help those persons to help themselves maintain or enhance their quality of life.

TYPES OF CHILDREN SERVED

Unruly
Delinquent
Neglected
Pregnant
Substance Abusers
From conflictual home environments
With mental or emotional disorders
Physically or sexually abused

GOALS

- ☉ To provide support, encouragement, and education for the residents.
- ☉ To promote the physical, mental, and emotional health of the residents.
- ☉ To encourage positive, healthy, substance-free activities.
- ☉ To assist the residents in making future lifestyle decisions.
- ☉ To assist transitional youth into independent living.

SERVICES PROVIDED

Independent Living Skills Program
Health Education
Behavior Management
Labor Coach (for pregnant teens)
Educational Services (through Minot Public Schools)
Recreational Activities
Psychiatric Services
Individual, Family, and Group Therapy
Outpatient Drug and Alcohol Treatment
Social Skills Education

ELIGIBILITY

Kay's Place is licensed as a group home by the State of North Dakota for females ages 12 - 19. Referrals are made by application using the North Dakota Universal Application, available from any state agency. Referrals are screened weekly.

LIMITATIONS

The program cannot accept for placement individuals who pose an extreme safety risk to self or others.

