



Places for Struggling Teens™

*"It is more important to get it right,
than to get it first."*

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SEEN 'N HEARD...

FEBRUARY VISITORS:

Greg Hitchcock, Randy Russell,
Amanda Thomas...

MMS PRESENTS AT LEGISLATURE...

ELK RIVER EXPANDS CURRICULUM...

ISPA ANNOUNCES INDUSTRY AWARDS...

ASPEN PARTICIPATES IN STUDY...

ASPIRO MAINTAINS PRICE LEVEL...

ICR WELCOMES MENTORS...

RUDOLPH JOINS AIMHOUSE...

LIFE DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE ACCREDITED...

ROGERS MEMORIAL CAC TO OPEN YOUTH PROGRAM...

PARHAM TO HEAD NATSAP ED COMMITTEE...

CALO TO OFFICIALLY OPEN...

SCHROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF NWA

*[For details on these and others, read
SEEN N' HEARD/ Pg 27]*

UNLICENSED AND UNREGULATED?

By: Lon Woodbury



In some circles, there have been growing demands from critics insisting that private parent-choice schools and programs, both residential therapeutic and emotional growth boarding schools, be regulated through licensing. One stated presumption is there is no oversight over these programs because they are unlicensed and unregulated. There also seems to be the presumption that with oversight, these programs will stop the perceived abusive and punitive methods that are claimed common. Another presumption is that lack of government or any other type of oversight is the rule, and that responsible programs are the exception.

I've always wondered exactly what programs these critics have in mind. True, there are some rogue operators who manage to get away with it for a time, despite being roundly condemned by legitimate professionals in the field, including responsible Educational Consultants and programs. Many have eventually been shut down by the authorities or otherwise forced to close their doors. I am aware of some who have settled in foreign countries to avoid any

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[Essays and articles appearing in this publication are the opinions of the authors, and do not necessarily reflect the policy of Woodbury Reports, Inc.,™ or StrugglingTeens.com.™ We urge our readers to conduct their own investigation of the products and services identified herein.]

Woodbury Reports™ is an information source to help parents find the right school or program when their child has behavioral/ emotional problems. We are specifically concerned with children needing more intensive intervention than local resources or day programs can provide.

Our focus is on high quality and effective Emotional Growth and/ or Therapeutic schools and programs, which can include short- and long-term outdoor programs, family style living arrangements, highly structured boarding schools, therapeutic boarding schools, RTCs or psychiatric hospitals.

An important goal of these schools and programs is to teach self-discipline through consequences, so the child will learn to be more responsible for his/ her actions. How attitudes are changed and who is successful is at the focus of each issue of Reports.

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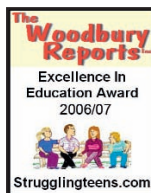
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The Woodbury Reports, Inc.™ website award for Schools, Programs, & Consultants included in the Parent Empowerment Handbook™ - 2006/07



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Loi Eberle, MA



Linda Zimmerman, LPCC



Larry Stednitz, PhD

"Some Children just need to be heard, not cured."

Lon Woodbury, IECA, MA, CEP, is an educational consultant who has worked in schools and programs for emotional growth, character education, and consulting for parents of struggling teens since 1984. Prior to that, he taught in public schools and was involved in public policy while working for the US Senate and the Executive Office of the President. Lon received his BS and MA degrees from the University of Idaho. His practice includes a referral service for parents and professionals, and the publication of this Newsletter and the **PARENT EMPOWERMENT HANDBOOK™**, a resource of **Places for Struggling Teens™**.

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kind of oversight. (This doesn't include those who conscientiously follow US standards even when they are not forced to by foreign governments.) There are others I am aware of who take kids as a type of group home and claim their business license or permit (or some equivalent) is all that is necessary. But in my experience, these are the exceptions, the bad apples that any industry is plagued with. Apparently the critics believe that these rogue operations are the norm, thus the terms "unlicensed and unregulated." In their view, since the industry is "unlicensed and unregulated," federal legislation creating federal oversight is a vital necessity.

To answer the accusation that this industry is "unlicensed and unregulated," I went to the list of the top hundred schools and programs as viewed by the leading Independent Educational Consultants. These are the schools and programs found in my Parent Empowerment Handbook™, and are based on an annual survey among the leading Independent Educational Consultants. The last edition was published in early summer last year. These schools and programs are the ones with the best reputations. They are presumably the most often used for placement by professional Independent Educational Consultants and are leaders in our network. These schools and programs are at the heart of the industry that is being accused of being "unlicensed and unregulated."

Below is a list of those schools and programs that are licensed and regulated. I didn't include those only under the umbrella of a state's Children's Protective Service, or equivalent, with a mandate to intervene if any child in their jurisdiction is abused, which is a form of regulation. I also didn't include those who are just accredited for their academics, but that is also a form of regulation which includes a legal mandate in at least most states to report abuse if ever observed. In addition, I didn't include those that only have active parent activities, since a steady stream of parents and Educational Consultants through a facility is in itself an informal form of oversight. Finally, I did not include those who just have credentialed staff who have a legal responsibility to report unacceptable behavior, and also those who are members of professional organizations which also would have an interest in stopping abusive behavior they might become aware of. I did include those who are accredited by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO), because this is a designation that is difficult to obtain, and in many ways is the gold standard for competency, effectiveness and professionalism in healthcare organizations. As a result, I took a fairly narrow

view of the question of how many of the programs were regulated with state oversight. The list of 100 schools and programs includes many wilderness programs and therapeutic boarding schools, as well as many residential treatment centers and mainstream type schools who take students transitioning from more highly structured schools and programs. The following are the schools and programs, as reported to us for the Handbook, from the 100 leaders in the private industry of residential parent-choice schools and programs, that have either some kind of state licensure or JCAHO accreditation, or both.

Adirondack Leadership Expeditions

Permit from New York Department of Health

Anasazi Foundation

JCAHO accredited, licensed by Arizona Department of Economic Security and Department of Human Services as a Behavioral Healthcare Provider.

Aspen Achievement Academy

JCAHO accredited, licensed as an Outdoor Treatment Program by the Utah Department of Human Services

Aspen Ranch

Licensed as a Residential Treatment Center in Utah

Boulder Creek Academy

Licensed by the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare

Catherine Freer

JCAHO accredited, licensed as a Mental Health Program and an Alcohol and Drug Abuse Program by the State of Oregon

Center for Change

JCAHO accredited

Chapel Haven

Licensed by Connecticut

Copper Canyon Academy

Arizona Behavioral Health Services licensed.

Explorations Home Base

Licensed by Montana as a group home

Forest Heights Lodge

JCAHO Accredited

Glenholme School

Licensed by the Connecticut Department of Children and Families

Gray Wolf Ranch

Licensed through Washington State Department of Health

Greenwood School

Licensed by the State of Vermont

Hazelden Center For Youth & Families

Licensed and accredited by JCAHO, and Minnesota Department of Health

Continued: **UNLICENSED/** pg 4

UNLICENSED: Continued from page 3

Intermountain

JCAHO and Montana State licensed

Island View

Licensed by the Utah Division of Licensure and JCAHO

King George School

Accredited by Vermont Department of Child and Family Services

The Learning Clinic

Licensed by the State of Connecticut Department of Children & Families

Logan River Academy

Licensed by the State of Utah Department of Human Services

Menninger Clinic

JCAHO accredited and licensed by the Texas Department of Health

Mount Bachelor Academy

Licensed by Oregon Department of Health and Human Services

New Dominion School of Virginia

Licensed by the Commonwealth of Virginia with Interdepartmental Licensure and Certification

New Haven Female RTC

Licensed by Utah as a Residential Treatment Center and as an Addiction Treatment Center

New Leaf Academy

Licensed by the State of Oregon

Northwest Academy

Licensed as a "Children's Residential Care Facility" in Idaho

Provo Canyon School

JCAHO accredited, licensed by Utah Department of Human Services

Remuda Ranch Programs

JCAHO accredited, licensed by the State of Arizona

Redcliff Ascent

Licensed by the State of Utah

Riverview School

Licensed by Massachusetts Office of Child Care Services

Rogers Memorial Hospital

JCAHO accredited, licensed by Wisconsin as Psychiatric Hospital

San Cristobal Ranch Academy

Licensed in New Mexico as a Pharmaceutical Custodial Care Facility

Sierra Tucson

JCAHO accredited

Spring Ridge Academy

Licensed by the Arizona Department of Behavioral Health

Spruce Mountain Inn

Licensed in Vermont as a Therapeutic Community Residence

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Summit Achievement

Licensed as a Residential Treatment Center in Maine, with Mental Health and Substance Abuse Treatment certifications

SUWS Adolescent Program

Licensed in Idaho

SUWS Youth Program

Licensed in Idaho

SUWS of the Carolinas

Licensed in North Carolina

Three Springs of Duck River

Licensed Residential Child Care Facility in Tennessee

Three Springs - Paint Rock Valley

Licensed as an Outdoor Treatment Center by the Alabama Department of Youth Services

Valley View School

Licensed as Treatment Facility in Massachusetts

Villa Santa Maria

Licensed by New Mexico to provide Residential Treatment

Vista Adolescent Treatment Centers

JCAHO accredited, licensed by the Utah Department of Human Services

Wilderness Quest

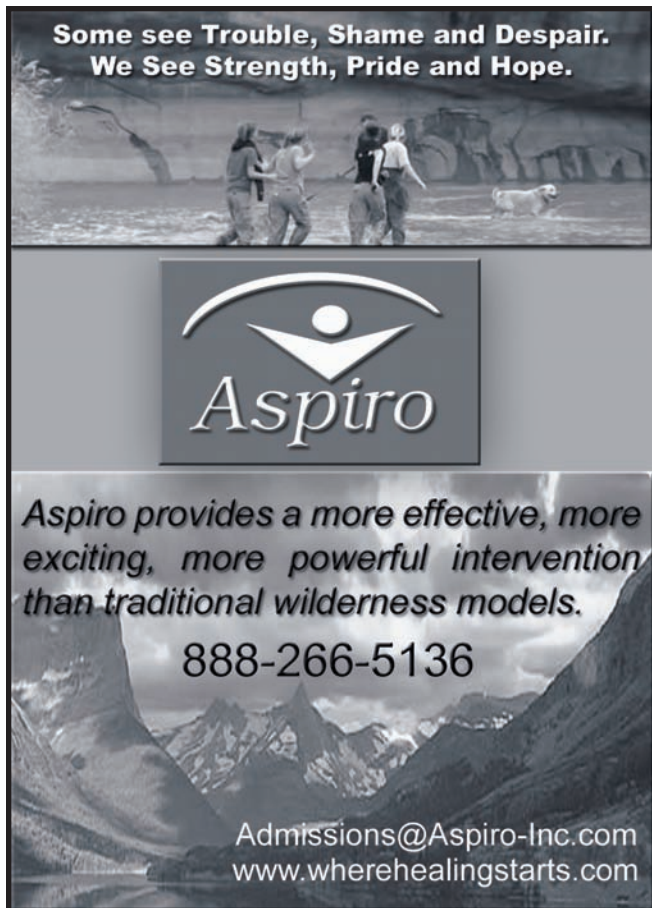
JCAHO accredited, Licensed by the Utah Department of Human Services

Out of the 100 leaders in the industry of private, parent-choice, therapeutic and emotional growth schools and programs, about half (45) have some kind of state licensure and/or JCAHO accreditation. Actually, the percentage would be higher because some of the leading programs are in Montana, which does not yet have comprehensive licensure but is developing it with the cooperation and help from these schools. The percentage would also be higher if we excluded those that are included in the top 100 who are primarily mainstream boarding schools, that just take graduates of more highly structured programs as a transition and make no claim to be therapeutic, thus not needing licensure.

So, where are these "unlicensed and unregulated" schools and programs we hear accusations about? Certainly not with the schools and programs we at Woodbury Reports and other professional Independent Educational Consultants primarily work with.

The wise man doesn't give the right answers, he poses the right questions.

~ Levi-Strauss



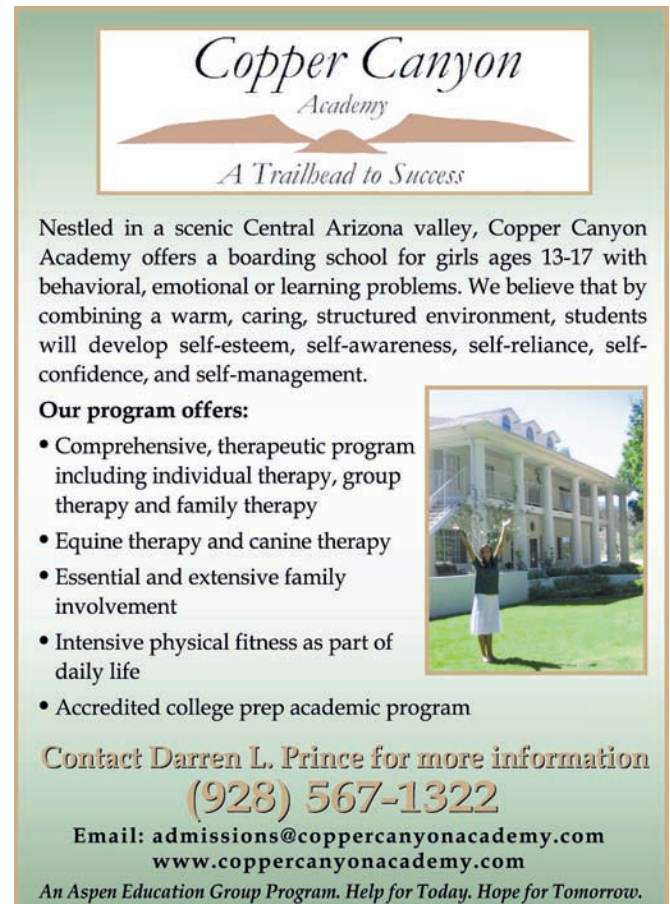
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