



**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF AUDITOR-CONTROLLER**

KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION
500 WEST TEMPLE STREET, ROOM 525
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012-2766
PHONE: (213) 974-8301 FAX: (213) 626-5427

J. TYLER McCAULEY
AUDITOR-CONTROLLER

November 4, 2003

TO: Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke, Chair
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

FROM: J. Tyler McCauley 
Auditor-Controller

SUBJECT: **GROUP HOME PROGRAM MONITORING REPORT – HUDSON
LYNDSEY GROUP HOME, INC. - CARLIN, CHOUTEAU, AND LUGO
SITES**

We have completed a review of the three agencies operated by Hudson Lyndsey Group Home, Inc., the Carlin, Chouteau, and Lugo facilities. Each home contracts with the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and Probation Department.

Carlin is a six-bed facility located in the Second Supervisorial District that provides care for boys ages 7-15 years who exhibit behavioral, social, and emotional difficulties. At the time of the monitoring visit, Carlin was providing services for four Los Angeles County DCFS children.

Chouteau is a six-bed facility located in Orange County that provides care for girls ages 7-15 years who exhibit behavioral, social, and emotional difficulties. At the time of the monitoring visit, Chouteau was providing services for three DCFS children.

Lugo is a six-bed facility located in the Second Supervisorial District that provides care for girls ages 7-15 years who exhibit behavioral, social, and emotional difficulties. At the time of the monitoring visit, Lugo was providing services for three DCFS children.

Scope of Review

The purpose of the review is to verify that the three agencies are providing services outlined in their Program Statements. Additionally, the review covers basic child safety and licensing issues. The review included an evaluation of each home's Program Statement, internal policies and procedures, child case records, a facility inspection,

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and interviews with two children placed in each of the homes at the time of the reviews. The interviews with the residents were designed to obtain their perspectives on the program services provided by each facility and to ensure adherence to the Foster Youth Bill of Rights.

Summary of Findings

Generally, all three agencies were providing the services outlined in their Program Statements. However, we did note various areas where improvements are needed.

Carlin

Carlin needs to make several improvements to its facility; complete initial diagnostic assessments for each resident; improve its Needs and Services Plans; advise residents of their right to refuse medication; and maintain a monthly clothing expenditures log.

Chouteau

Chouteau needs to make a few minor facility repairs.

Lugo

Lugo needs to make several repairs to its facility; complete initial diagnostic assessments for each resident; and advise residents of their right to refuse medication and maintain a log of monthly clothing expenditures.

Review of Report

We discussed our report with the Agency's management. The Agency's management is required to provide DCFS with a written corrective action plan within fifteen business days from the receipt of this report. We thank the management and staff for their cooperation during our reviews.

If you have any questions, please contact me, or have your staff contact Patrick McMahon at (213) 974-0729.

JTM:PM:CC

Attachment

c: David E. Janssen, Chief Administrative Officer
Violet Varona-Lukens, Executive Officer
Public Information Office
Audit Committee
David Sanders, Ph.D., Director, DCFS
Richard Shumsky, Chief Probation Officer
Diana Mitchell, Executive Director, Hudson Lyndsey

HUDSON LYNDSEY GROUP HOME, INC.
Carlin Site
3583 Carlin Avenue
Lynwood, CA 90262
(310) 669-9114
License No.: 191592347
Rate Classification Level: 9

I. FACILITY AND ENVIRONMENT

(Facility Based - No Sample)

Method of assessment – Observation and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

Carlin is located in a residential neighborhood and has a moderately maintained exterior.

The interior of the facility was moderately maintained with bedrooms personalized by the residents. However, there were areas in need of improvement.

In the kitchen, the floor tiles were cracked and the light bulbs burned out. The paint on the walls in the living room and dining room was chipped and peeling, the drawers in the hallway linen closet were broken, and the walls and ceiling in the hallway needed painting.

In bathroom number one, the walls needed painting and there were cracks on the walls in the shower stall area. In the bathroom number two, there was a broken towel rack and light bulbs were burned out over the sink.

In the sitting room, the book case and the TV stand had worn finishes and the walls needed painting.

In bedrooms number one and two, the walls needed painting and in bedroom number two, some of the light bulbs were burned out. In bedroom number three, there were cracks in the ceiling, the walls needed repair and painting, and the carpeting was stained. In addition, the beds in bedrooms number one and three did not have mattress pads.

There was age-appropriate play equipment, including board games, video games, a TV, VCR, a variety of books, and resource material.

There was a sufficient supply of food including fresh fruits and vegetables, properly stored.

Recommendations

1. **Carlin management:**
 - a. **Repair/Replace the kitchen floor tile.**
 - b. **Replace burned out light bulbs throughout the facility as needed.**
 - c. **Repair and paint the walls throughout the facility as needed.**
 - d. **Repair the broken linen closet drawers.**
 - e. **Paint the hallway ceiling.**
 - f. **Repair the cracks in the shower stall wall area in bathroom number one.**
 - g. **Replace the towel rack in bathroom number two.**
 - h. **Repair the bookcase and TV stand in the sitting room.**
 - i. **Clean the carpeting in bedroom number three.**
 - j. **Provide mattress pads for all residents' beds.**

II. PROGRAM SERVICES

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

The residents met Carlin's population criteria as outlined in their program statement but neither resident had an initial diagnostic assessment in their files.

The Needs and Services Plans (NSPs) were current but one resident's placement worker did not participate in the development of the NSP.

The Quarterly Reports were current, comprehensive, timely, and focused on the goals in the NSPs.

The residents were receiving individual and group therapy.

Recommendations

2. **Carlin management:**
 - a. **Complete an initial diagnostic assessment for each resident within the first thirty days of placement.**
 - b. **Include each resident's placement worker in the development and modification of the Needs and Services Plan.**

III. EDUCATIONAL AND EMANCIPATION SERVICES

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

Both residents were attending school and their records contained current report cards or progress reports. The residents reported that they were provided with a sufficient amount of tutoring away from school on a weekly basis.

Development of daily living skills was part of Carlin's program. The residents were involved in the planning and preparation phase of meals and hygiene care was discussed as needed.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

IV. RECREATION AND ACTIVITIES

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

Carlin followed a monthly activity schedule developed by the staff. The residents reported that they were included in the development of activities and allowed to participate in self-selected activities.

Residents have an opportunity to watch television, participate in sports, and read at free times during the day.

Transportation is provided to and from activities.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

V. PSYCHOTROPIC MEDICATION

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents

There are four residents placed in the agency at the time of the review. A review of case files was conducted for the three residents prescribed psychotropic medications.

Comments:

There were current court authorizations for the residents receiving psychotropic medication. Documentation confirmed that the children were routinely seen by the psychiatrist for an evaluation of their medication.

Medication logs were properly maintained.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

VI. PERSONAL RIGHTS

Method of assessment – Resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

The residents were presented with the policies, rules and regulations when arriving in placement. Both reported that staff was respectful and nice to them. The residents stated that they felt safe in the home and that the rules were fair. They stated that there was a sufficient number of staff in the home when residents were present and rated the facility as “good.”

Resident chores included the maintenance of their own rooms and common areas which the residents did not feel were too difficult.

Phone calls and visits were permitted with sufficient privacy and the residents were able to have telephone contact with their social workers and family. The residents stated that they had religious freedom and that their health care needs were being met.

Neither resident was aware of their right to refuse medication.

Recommendations

3. **Carlin management inform all residents of their right to refuse medication.**

VII. CLOTHING AND ALLOWANCE

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

Carlin provides appropriate clothing, items of necessity, and allowances to the residents. Carlin supplies its residents with the required monthly clothing allowance in the amount of fifty dollars, and the residents are given the opportunity to select their own clothes. Clothing provided to the residents is of good quality and of sufficient quantity. However, Carlin did not maintain a monthly clothing expenditure log as required by the Statement of Work.

The residents are provided with a fair minimum weekly allowance that they are able to increase based on the agency's behavioral system.

Carlin provides residents with adequate personal care items and sufficient, secure space to store their personal items.

The residents had life books.

Recommendations

4. **Carlin management maintain a log of monthly clothing expenditures.**

HUDSON LYNDSEY GROUP HOME, INC.
Chouteau Site
2005 North Chouteau Street
Orange, CA 92865
(310) 669-9114
License No.: 306001688
Rate Classification Level: 9

I. FACILITY AND ENVIRONMENT

(Facility Based - No Sample)

Method of assessment – Observation and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

Chouteau is located in a residential neighborhood. The exterior is well maintained and the house blends in with other homes in the neighborhood.

The living and dining rooms were neat and clean as were the kitchen and bathrooms. However, there were tears on the leather sofa and love seat in the TV room.

The bedrooms were spacious and personalized by the residents.

There was age-appropriate play equipment in the home including board games, a TV, VCR, and video games.

There was a sufficient supply of frozen food, meat, canned goods, bakery items, and fresh fruit, properly stored.

Recommendations

1. **Chouteau management repair the sofa and love seat in the TV room.**

II. PROGRAM SERVICES

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

Both residents met Chouteau's population criteria as outlined in their program statement and received an initial diagnostic assessment.

The Needs and Services Plans (NSPs) were realistic, measurable, and time specific. Both residents and their placement workers participated in the development and updating of the NSPs.

The Quarterly Reports were current, comprehensive, timely, and focused on the goals in the NSPs.

Both residents were receiving individual and group therapy.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

III. EDUCATIONAL AND EMANCIPATION SERVICES

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

Both residents were attending school and their records contained report cards and/or progress reports. The residents reported that they were provided with tutoring on a weekly basis and that the staff was supportive of their academic progress.

Development of daily living skills was part of Chouteau's program. The residents were involved in the planning and preparation phase of meals and hygiene care was discussed as needed.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

IV. RECREATION AND ACTIVITIES

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

Chouteau followed a monthly activity schedule developed by the staff and residents. Residents were encouraged to participate in activities they desired and had an opportunity to watch television, play games, and read at free times during the day.

Transportation is provided to and from activities.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

V. PSYCHOTROPIC MEDICATION

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents

There were four residents placed in the agency at the time of the review. A review of case files was conducted for the four residents prescribed psychotropic medications.

Comments:

There were current court authorizations for the residents receiving psychotropic medication. Documentation confirmed that the children were routinely seen by the psychiatrist for an evaluation of their medication.

Medication logs were properly maintained.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

VI. PERSONAL RIGHTS

Method of assessment – Resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

The residents were presented with the policies, rules and regulations when arriving in placement. Both reported that the staff treated them with dignity. The residents stated that the rules were fair and that they were satisfied with the home. They felt safe in the home and indicated that a sufficient number of staff was always in the home when residents were present. Both residents rated the facility as “fair” to “good.”

Resident chores included the maintenance of their own rooms and common areas which the residents did not feel were too difficult.

Phone calls and visits were permitted with sufficient privacy and the residents were able to have telephone contact with their social workers.

The residents stated that they had religious freedom and that their health care needs were being met.

Both residents were aware of their right to refuse medication.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

VII. CLOTHING AND ALLOWANCE

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

Chouteau provides appropriate clothing, items of necessity, and allowances to the residents. Chouteau supplies its residents with the required monthly clothing allowance in the amount of fifty dollars, and the residents are given the opportunity to select their own clothes. Clothing provided to the residents is of good quality and of sufficient quantity.

The residents are provided with a fair minimum weekly allowance that they are able to increase based on the agency's behavioral system.

Chouteau provides residents with adequate personal care items and sufficient, secure space to store their personal items.

The residents had life books.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

HUDSON LYNDSEY GROUP HOME, INC.
Lugo Site
3876 Lugo Avenue
Lynwood, CA 90262
310-669-9114
License No.: 191592045
Rate Classification Level: 9

I. FACILITY AND ENVIRONMENT

(Facility Based - No Sample)

Method of assessment – Observation and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

Lugo is located in a residential neighborhood and has a moderately maintained exterior.

The interior of the facility was moderately maintained with bedrooms personalized by the residents. However, there were areas noted in need of improvement.

In the kitchen, the porcelain on the sink was chipped and the kitchen drawers and cabinets needed painting.

In bathroom number one, there were rust stains in the bathtub and the grout in the shower needed cleaning. In bathroom number two, the shower door would not stay shut.

In bedroom number one, the bedroom door was missing and the dresser was missing handles and was covered with old stickers. In bedroom number three, the bedroom door was missing, the dresser had scratches, and there was a burn mark on the carpet.

There was age-appropriate play equipment, including board games, video games, a TV, VCR, a variety of books, and resource material. However, the computer was inoperable.

There was a sufficient supply of properly stored food.

Recommendations

- 1. Lugo management:**
 - a. Repair/Replace the kitchen sink.**
 - b. Paint the kitchen drawers and cabinets.**

- c. Remove rust stains in the bathtub in bathroom number one.
- d. Clean the grout in the shower in bathroom number one.
- e. Repair the shower door in bathroom number one.
- f. Replace the doors in bedrooms number one and three.
- g. Repair the dresser in bedrooms number one and three.
- h. Repair/Replace the carpeting in bedroom number three.
- i. Provide a computer for the residents' use.

II. PROGRAM SERVICES

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

The residents met Lugo's population criteria as outlined in their program statement, but neither resident had an initial diagnostic assessment in their file.

The Needs and Services Plans (NSPs) were current, realistic, measurable, and time specific. The residents and their placement workers participated in the developing and updating of the NSPs.

The Quarterly Reports were current, comprehensive, timely, and focused on the goals in the NSPs.

The residents were receiving individual and group therapy.

Recommendations

2. **Lugo management complete initial diagnostic assessments for each resident within the first thirty days of placement.**

III. EDUCATIONAL AND EMANCIPATION SERVICES

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

Both residents were attending school and their files contained Individualized Education Plans and current report cards or progress reports. The residents reported that they were provided with a sufficient amount of tutoring away from school on a weekly basis.

Development of daily living skills was part of Lugo's program. The residents were involved in the planning and preparation phase of meals, hygiene care was discussed as needed, and employment preparation encouraged.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

IV. RECREATION AND ACTIVITIES

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

Lugo followed a monthly activity schedule developed by the staff. The residents reported that they are included in the development of activities and allowed to participate in self-selected activities.

The children have an opportunity to watch television, participate in sports, and read at free times during the day.

Transportation is provided to and from activities.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

V. PSYCHOTROPIC MEDICATION

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents

There are three residents placed in the agency at the time of the review. A review of case files was conducted for the three residents prescribed psychotropic medications.

Comments:

There were current court authorizations for the residents receiving psychotropic medication. Documentation confirmed that the children were routinely seen by the psychiatrist for an evaluation of their medication.

Medication logs were properly maintained.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

VI. PERSONAL RIGHTS

Method of assessment – Resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

The residents were presented with the policies, rules and regulations when arriving in placement. Both reported that staff was respectful and nice to them. The residents stated that they felt safe in the home and that the rules were fair. They stated that there was a sufficient number of staff in the home when residents were present and rated the facility as “good.”

Resident chores included the maintenance of their own rooms and common areas which the residents did not feel were too difficult.

Phone calls and visits were permitted with sufficient privacy and the residents were able to have telephone contact with their social workers and family. The residents stated that they had religious freedom and felt that their health care needs were being met.

One resident was not aware of her right to refuse medication.

Recommendations

- 3. Lugo management inform all residents of their right to refuse medication.**

VII. CLOTHING AND ALLOWANCE

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

Lugo provides appropriate clothing, items of necessity, and allowances to the residents. Lugo supplies its residents with the required monthly clothing allowance in the amount of fifty dollars, and the residents are given the opportunity to select their own clothes. Clothing provided to the residents is of good quality and of sufficient quantity. However, Lugo did not maintain a monthly clothing expenditure log as required by the Statement of Work.

The residents are provided with a fair minimum weekly allowance that they are able to increase based on the agency's behavioral system.

Lugo provides residents with adequate personal care items and sufficient, secure space to store their personal items.

The residents had life books.

Recommendations

- 4. Lugo management maintain a log for the monthly clothing expenditures.**