



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 McCUALEY
AUDITOR-CONTROLLER

May 19, 2004

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

FROM: J. Tyler McCauley *JM*
Auditor-Controller

SUBJECT: **GROUP HOME PROGRAM MONITORING REPORT – TURMONT HOME FOR BOYS**

We have completed a review of Turmont Home for Boys (Turmont or Agency). Turmont contracts with the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and the Probation Department (Probation). Turmont is a six-bed facility, which provides care for boys ages 13-17 years who exhibit behavioral, social, and emotional difficulties. At the time of the monitoring visit, Turmont was providing services for six Los Angeles County DCFS children. Turmont is located in the Second District.

The purpose of the review was to verify that the Agency was providing the services outlined in its Program Statement. Additionally, the review covered basic child safety and licensing issues, and included an evaluation of Turmont's Program Statement, internal policies and procedures, child case records, a facility inspection, and interviews with two children placed with Turmont at the time of the review. 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, Turmont was providing the services outlined in its Program Statement. However, Turmont needs to repair a bedroom closet door; provide each resident with an initial diagnostic assessment; develop comprehensive Needs and Services Plans; provide all residents with the opportunity to participate in planning activities; inform each resident of their right to refuse medication; and incorporate a behavioral system that provides residents with the opportunity to increase their base allowance.

Attached is a detailed report of the review findings.

Review of Report

We discussed our report with the Agency's management. The Agency's management is required to provide a corrective action plan within 15 business days from the receipt of this report. We thank the management and staff for their cooperation during our review.

If you have any questions, please contact me or have your staff contact DeWitt Roberts at (626) 293-1101.

JTM:BG:CC

c: David E. Janssen, Chief Administrative Officer
 David Sanders, Ph.D., Director, DCFS
 Richard Shumsky, Chief Probation Officer
 Ora Quaynor, Executive Director, Turmont Group Home
 Violet Varona-Lukens, Executive Officer
 Public Information Office
 Audit Committee

**Turmont Home for Boys
741 E. Turmont Street
Carson, CA 90746
(310) 532-5606
License No.: 191600783
Rate Classification Level: 8**

I. Facility and Environment

(Facility Based - No Sample)

Method of assessment – Observation and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

Turmont Home for Boys (Turmont) is a large home located on a quiet residential street. The exterior of the home was well maintained, nicely landscaped, and blended in with the other homes on the block. There were no observable safety hazards noted.

The interior of the home was generally neat and clean, and the décor gave a sense of a home-like atmosphere. The common rooms were decorated and adequately maintained. Resident bedrooms were comfortable and personalized to each child's desire with posters, pictures, and knick-knacks.

The Agency had age-appropriate play equipment, including table games, TV, VCR, weights, and a gated pool. There was also a computer with a variety of programs, books, and resource material.

Turmont had a sufficient supply of frozen food, meat, canned goods, bakery items, and fresh fruit. The food was accessible, appropriately dated, and properly stored.

However, there were two areas needing improvement. In the front bedroom, the sliding closet doors were not operating properly. In the resident bathroom, the toilet bowl had a thick rust stain/ring around the top inside area.

Recommendations

1. Turmont management:

- a. Repair the sliding closet door in the front bedroom.**
- b. Remove the thick, rust stain/ring around the top inside of the toilet bowl in the resident bathroom.**

II. Program Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

Both residents met Turmont's population criteria as outlined in their Program Statement. One resident received a complete initial diagnostic assessment after being admitted into Turmont's program, but the other resident did not.

One resident's Needs and Services Plan (NSP) was current, realistic, measurable, and time specific. However, the other resident's NSP had been duplicated from the previous NSP and did not contain updated information. We discussed the issue with management who stated that the matter would be addressed with the Agency's social worker.

One resident's Quarterly Report was current, comprehensive, timely, and focused on the goals of the NSP. The other resident had not been in the facility long enough to require a Quarterly Report.

Both residents received individual and group therapy.

Recommendations

2. Turmont management:

- a. **Provide each resident with an initial diagnostic assessment.**
- b. **Provide each resident with Needs and Services Plans that are current, realistic, measurable, and time specific.**

III. Educational and Emancipation Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

Neither resident was enrolled in school at the time of the review. Both residents had been out of school a week and were in the process of being transferred to a school closer to the facility. The Agency had documented their efforts to get the residents enrolled in school and was being assisted by a child advocate from the Carson school

district. The residents' records contained semester report cards and/or progress reports from their previous schools. The residents reported that they were provided with a sufficient amount of daily educational stimulation, such as tutoring and study groups, and that staff was supportive of their academic progress.

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

Age-appropriate residents were offered the opportunity to participate in emancipation and vocational programs. The residents did not work and both were able to spend their allowances as they wanted.

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:

Turmont provided its residents with on-ground and off-ground recreational activities. The residents expressed satisfaction with the variety and the quantity of activities provided by Turmont and stated that the recreation schedules were followed and implemented. However, both residents reported that they did not always have an opportunity to participate in the planning of recreational activities. We discussed this issue with management who stated that the residents were asked what they wanted to do but their responses were not documented. Management stated that in the future, residents' requests would be documented and incorporated into the activity schedule as appropriate.

Turmont utilized local community organizations for recreation and program resources. Both residents reported that they had free time and were able to participate in self-selected activities.

Turmont provides residents with transportation to and from activities.

Recommendation

- 3. Turmont management provide residents with the opportunity to participate in planning recreational activities.**

V. Psychotropic Medication

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents

Comments:

There were six residents placed in Turmont at the time of the review. According to Turmont's management, none of the Agency's residents received psychotropic medication. The Agency appropriately documented this information in its medication log.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

VI. Personal Rights

Method of assessment – Resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

One resident expressed satisfaction with the facility and staff, and stated that the atmosphere was generally good. The residents participated in an initial orientation and Turmont's policies and procedures were posted in the facility. The residents reported that the discipline policies were fair and consistently enforced by staff, including the consequences for inappropriate behavior.

The residents reported that they felt safe in the home and that there was no interference with daily living functions. Both residents reported satisfaction with the taste of the food and with their ability to participate in menu development. They also reported that staff supervised them appropriately and expressed satisfaction with the quality of their interactions with the staff. Both residents felt there was at least one staff member they could easily talk to and trust.

Both residents reported that their daily chores were reasonable and not too demanding. The residents were able to have visitors, make and receive personal telephone calls, and contact their social workers, attorneys, and family members as needed.

Both residents had religious freedom, felt that their health care needs were met, and stated that staff respected their cultural lifestyles by allowing residents to celebrate different holidays.

Only one of the two residents was aware of their right to refuse medication. We discussed the matter with management who stated that, as part of the orientation

process, residents were informed about their right to refuse medication. Turmont management stated that they would ensure this information is reviewed with residents.

Recommendation

- 4. Turmont management ensure that each resident is aware 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:

Turmont provided appropriate clothing, items of necessity, and allowances to the residents. Turmont supplied its residents with the required \$50 monthly clothing allowance and gave them an opportunity to select their own clothes. Clothing provided to the residents was of good quality and sufficient quantity.

Turmont provided its residents with at least the required minimum allowance. However, the residents were not provided an opportunity to increase their allowance based on the Agency's behavioral system. We discussed this issue with Agency management who agreed to modify its behavioral system to allow residents an opportunity to increase their allowance.

Turmont provided residents with an adequate supply of personal care items and sufficient, secure storage space.

Both residents had the opportunity to maintain photo albums/life books.

Recommendation

- 5. Turmont management modify the Agency's behavioral system to allow residents an opportunity to increase their allowance.**