



**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

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

FROM: J. Tyler McCauley 
Auditor-Controller

SUBJECT: **GROUP HOME PROGRAM MONITORING REPORT – CHILDREN’S
THERAPEUTIC COMMUNITIES, INC., BETA HOUSE, GAMMA HOUSE
AND RHO HOUSE**

We have completed a review of three group homes operated by the Children’s Therapeutic Communities, Inc., Beta House, Gamma House, and Rho House. Each home contracts with the Probation Department (Probation).

Beta House is a six-bed facility located in Riverside County, which provides care for boys ages 12-17 years who are on probation due to sexual offenses. At the time of the monitoring visit, Beta House provided services to one child from each of the following Counties: Riverside, Orange, San Bernardino, San Diego, Contra Costa, and Sacramento.

Gamma House is a six-bed facility located in Riverside County, which provides care for boys ages 12-17 years who are on probation due to sexual offenses. At the time of the monitoring visit, Gamma House provided services to two children from San Diego County and one child from each of the following Counties: San Luis Obispo, San Bernardino, Contra Costa, and Riverside.

Rho House (or Agency) is a six-bed facility located in Riverside County, which provides care for boys ages 12–17 years who are on probation due to sexual offenses. At the time of the monitoring visit, Rho House provided services to one child from each Los Angeles and Contra Costa Counties and two children from each Orange and Riverside Counties.

“To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service”

Scope of Review

The purpose of the review was to verify that the Agency was providing the services outlined in their Program Statements. Additionally, the review covered basic child safety and licensing issues and included an evaluation of the Agency's Program Statement, internal policies and procedures, child case records, facility inspections, and an interview with the Los Angeles County child placed in the Agency at the time of the review. The interview with the resident was designed to obtain his perspective on the program services provided by the facility, and to ensure adherence to the Foster Youth Bill of Rights.

Because there were no Los Angeles County children placed in the Beta and Gamma homes, the review of these homes consisted of a facility inspection of each home covering basic child safety and licensing issues.

Summary of Findings

Beta House, Gamma House, and Rho House were providing the services outlined in their Program Statements. There were no areas that needed improvement.

Attached are detailed reports of the review findings.

Review of Report

We discussed our report with the Agency's management. 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 DeWitt Roberts at (626) 293-1101.

JTM:DR:CC

- c: David E. Janssen, Chief Administrative Officer
- David Sanders, Ph.D., Director, DCFS
- Richard Shumsky, Chief Probation Officer
- Donald Botic, Executive Director, Children's Therapeutic Communities
- Violet Varona-Lukens, Executive Officer
- Public Information Office
- Audit Committee

**Children's Therapeutic Communities Group Home
Beta House
15700 Russell
Riverside, CA 92504
(909) 789-4410
License No.: 330908272
Rate Classification Level: 12**

I. Facility and Environment

(Facility Based - No Sample)

Method of assessment – Observation and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: None

Comments:

Children's Therapeutic Communities (CTC) operates ten group home (GH) facilities, one being Beta House located in Riverside County. The exterior of the home was very attractive and well maintained. The front and back yards were attractive and provided the residents with a nice place to play, socialize, or relax. No safety hazards were observed.

The interior of the home was immaculately maintained. Furniture, carpets, and window coverings were in good condition and coordinated to give the facility a home-like atmosphere. Bedrooms were spacious, neat, and comfortable. The residents were permitted to personalize their bedrooms with various items, including photographs, artwork, and collectible pokemon cards.

There was age-appropriate recreational equipment in the home. The recreational items included a punching bag, a variety of balls, board games, TV, VCR, movie videos, and video games. There were resource materials, including books and a computer with a variety of programs.

The kitchen was clean and neat. Beta House had a variety of fresh nutritious foods and a supply of frozen meats, vegetables, and dry goods. Opened foods were properly dated and appropriately wrapped. Snacks and water were available for the residents. The weekly menu reflected a variety of balanced meals.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

**Children's Therapeutic Communities Group Home
Gamma House
16430 Tamra Lane
Riverside, CA 92504
(909) 789-4410
License No.: 330908482
Rate Classification Level: 12**

I. Facility and Environment

(Facility Based - No Sample)

Method of assessment – Observation and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: None

Comments:

Children's Therapeutic Communities (CTC) operates ten group home (GH) facilities, one being Gamma House located in Riverside County. The exterior of the home was very attractive and well maintained. The front and back yards were attractive and provided the residents with a nice place to play, socialize, or relax. No safety hazards were observed.

The interior of the home was immaculately maintained. Furniture, carpets, and window coverings were in good condition and coordinated to give the facility a home-like atmosphere. Bedrooms were spacious, neat, and comfortable. The residents were permitted to personalize their bedrooms with various items, including photographs, artwork, collectible baseball cards, and model cars.

There was age-appropriate recreational equipment in the home. The recreational items included a punching bag, a variety of balls, board games, TV, VCR, movie videos, and video games. There were resource materials, including books and a computer with a variety of programs.

The kitchen was clean and neat. Gamma House had a variety of fresh nutritious foods and a supply of frozen meats, vegetables, and dry goods. Opened foods were properly dated and appropriately wrapped. Snacks and water were available for the residents. The weekly menu reflected a variety of balanced meals.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

**Children's Therapeutic Communities Group Home
Rho House
15709 Washington Court
Riverside, CA 92504
(909) 789-4410
License No.: 336403782
Rate Classification Level: 12**

I. Facility and Environment

(Facility Based - No Sample)

Method of assessment – Observation and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: None

Comments:

Children's Therapeutic Communities (CTC) operates ten group home (GH) facilities, one being Rho House located in Riverside County. The exterior of the home was very attractive and well maintained. The front and back yards were attractive and provided the residents with a nice place to play, socialize, or relax. No safety hazards were observed.

The interior of the home was immaculately maintained. Furniture, carpet, and window coverings were in good condition and coordinated to give the facility a home-like atmosphere. Bedrooms were spacious, neat, and comfortable. The residents were permitted to personalize their bedrooms with various items, including photographs, artwork, collectible baseball cards, and model cars.

There was age-appropriate recreational equipment in the home. The recreational items included a punching bag, fishing poles, a pool table, a variety of balls, board games, TV, VCR, movie videos, and video games. There were resource materials, including books and a computer with a variety of programs.

The kitchen was clean and neat. Rho House had a sufficient quantity of fresh nutritious foods, including frozen meats, fruits, vegetables, dry goods, and bakery items. Opened foods were properly dated and appropriately wrapped. Snacks and water were available for the residents. The weekly menu reflected a variety of balanced meals.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

II. Program Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: One

Comments:

The resident met Rho House's population criteria as outlined in their program statement and received an initial diagnostic assessment after being admitted into the CTC program.

The Needs and Services Plan (NSP) was acceptable, noting specific and measurable goals. The NSP noted task oriented, short term goals, which supported the resident in his effort to achieve the long-term, clinically based goals.

The Quarterly Report was current, comprehensive and timely, discussed various efforts in depth, and focused on goals noted in the NSP.

Rho House provided a variety of services within a supervised environment. The services were primarily therapeutic and included individual and group treatment. In addition, there were vocational opportunities, socialization, recreational, educational, and support services available.

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: One

Comments:

The resident was enrolled in a non-public school that worked closely with Rho House to achieve the goals of rehabilitating and encouraging the healthy emotional development of the residents. In addition, the resident had recently enrolled part time in the local public school. The resident's record contained a current Individualized Education Plan and current report cards from both the non-public and public schools. The resident stated that staff are supportive of his academic progress, maintained consistent contact with his school and assists him in establishing and reaching educational goals.

The resident stated that he was provided with a sufficient amount of educational stimulation away from school on a daily basis.

Rho House's Program includes the development of daily living skills. The resident was required to participate in the planning and preparation phase of the meals and was expected to maintain good personal hygiene. The resident indicated that he planned to obtain a work permit after his next birthday. The resident reported that employment preparation was encouraged and that the facility assisted residents in obtaining employment.

The resident was not of the legal age to obtain employment or to qualify for emancipation or vocational services. He stated that he earned money by completing extra chores around the facility. He stated that he was permitted to manage his own money, which included his weekly allowance and income from the extra chores.

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: One

Comments:

Rho House followed a monthly activity schedule developed during weekly house meetings by the staff and the residents. Recreational activities were scheduled on weekdays and weekends. Residents were encouraged to participate in the scheduled activities, access recreational resources within the home, interact appropriately with peers, and engage in personal activities such as reading, listening to music, and working on the computer.

Self-selected activities were only permitted to the degree allowed by the constraints and terms of the resident's probation. The resident was required to achieve success in "working the program" by exhibiting appropriate behavior and complying with the expectations of the program. At that point, privileges, including opportunities to pursue personal interests and the freedom to go into the community unsupervised, were considered.

The Agency provided residents with transportation to and from activities.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

V. Psychotropic Medication

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents

A review of the case file was not conducted as the one Los Angeles County resident was not prescribed psychotropic medication.

Comments:

According to GH management, the Los Angeles County resident was not receiving psychotropic medication. This information was appropriately documented in the GH's medication log.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

VI. Personal Rights

Method of assessment – Resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: One

Comments:

The resident was presented with the policies, rules and regulations upon arrival to placement. He reported an overall satisfaction with the home and staff. There was an appropriate reward and discipline system in place, which the resident believed was utilized in a fair manner. The resident indicated that rewards were based on their value system and included congratulations, encouragement, and words of support. Behavioral charts were utilized when there was a specific issue that needed to be addressed. The resident recently achieved the opportunity to attend public school on a part-time basis. He indicated that the best reward was achieving "Phase Two" which meant that he had gained a level of trust that permitted him to go into the community without an escort.

The resident was required to complete daily chores, which were rotated on a weekly basis. The resident did not feel the chores were too demanding. The resident reported that there was always at least two staff in the home when residents were present. The resident felt safe in the home and stated that he was treated with respect. The resident

indicated that the facility and staff had “helped him.” He stated that he has learned to communicate, and “he likes himself better.”

The resident reported that he was permitted to have telephone contact with his family and his placement worker. Telephone calls were not monitored. However, the telephone was located in the living room and could not be considered private. Administrators indicated that residents were provided private telephone calls, conducted in the staff office, when there were special situations or emergencies.

The resident indicated that he had religious freedom. He stated that his health care needs were being met, and that staff remained culturally sensitive to his background and ethnicity.

The resident stated that he had not refused any medications, and did not have an opinion with regards to his ability to refuse medications.

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: One

Comments:

Rho House provided appropriate clothing, items of necessity, and allowances to the resident. Rho House supplied the resident with the required \$50 monthly clothing allowance and an opportunity to select his own clothes. Clothing provided to the resident was of good quality and sufficient quantity.

Rho House provided the resident with at least the required minimum weekly allowance and the ability to increase his allowance based on the Agency’s behavioral system. The resident could also earn additional allowance by performing extra chores.

Rho House provided the resident with adequate personal care items and sufficient secure space to store his personal items.

The resident chose not to maintain a life book.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.