



**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

May 3, 2005

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

FROM: J. Tyler McCauley 
Auditor-Controller

SUBJECT: GROUP HOME PROGRAM MONITORING REPORT – MARYVALE

We have completed a review of Maryvale Group Home (Group Home or Agency). The Group Home contracts with the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and the Probation Department (Probation).

Maryvale Group Home is an 85-bed facility, which provides care for girls ages 6-17 years who exhibit behavioral, social, and emotional difficulties. At the time of the monitoring visit, Maryvale Group Home was providing services for 59 Los Angeles County DCFS children, one Los Angeles County Department of Probation child, three Kern County probation children, three Riverside County children, five San Bernardino County children, one Tulare County child, and two privately placed children. Maryvale Group Home is located in the First District.

Scope of Review

The purpose of the review was to determine whether the Agency was providing the services outlined in their Program Statement. 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, a facility inspection, and interviews with children placed in the Group Home at the time of the review. Interviews with children were designed to obtain their perspectives on the program services provided by the Agency, and to ensure adherence to the Foster Youth Bill of Rights.

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"

Summary of Findings

The Agency was providing the services outlined in its Program Statement.

Attached is a detailed report of the review.

Review of Report

We discussed our report with the Agency's management. 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 Mike Pirolo at (626) 293-1110.

JTM:MP:CC:gfw

c: David E. Janssen, Chief Administrative Officer
David Sanders, Ph.D., Director, DCFS
Paul Higa, Chief Probation Officer
Sister Linda Cahill, Executive Director, Maryvale
Violet Varona-Lukens, Executive Officer
Public Information Office
Audit Committee

Maryvale
7600 East Graves Avenue
Rosemead, California 91770
Phone: (626) 280-6510
License: 191500468
Rate Classification Level: 12

I. Facility and Environment

Method of assessment – Observation

Comments:

Maryvale Group Home is located in a residential community. The exterior of the Agency is well maintained. The grounds are clean, well landscaped, and secure.

Children reside in six separate units; St. Cecelia, St. Catherine, St. Maria Goretti, St. Christopher, St. Agnes and Seton Cottage, based on the child's age and individual needs. The interior of each unit is well maintained. The common quarters of the units are neat and clean. There is adequate furniture and lighting in each unit. The Agency provides a home-like environment.

Children's bedrooms are well maintained. The rooms are clean and orderly, and have age-appropriate personalized decorations. There is adequate furniture, lighting, and storage space. Window coverings and window screens are in good repair. The mattresses are comfortable, and the beds all have a full complement of linens. Children's sleeping arrangements are appropriate.

The Group Home maintains age-appropriate and accessible recreational equipment. There are also board games, a TV, and a VCR/DVD player. Books and resource materials, including a computer with a variety of programs, are also available.

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

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

II. Program Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size for interviews: Seven

Comments:

Children meet the Group Home’s population criteria as outlined in their Program Statement. Children were assessed for needed services within thirty days of placement.

The treatment team developed and implemented the Needs and Services Plan (NSP) with input from the child. The NSP is current, comprehensive, and includes long and short-term goals. Case files reflect adequate documentation to show that children are receiving treatment services as identified in their NSP.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

III. Educational and Emancipation Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size for interviews: Seven

Comments:

Children are attending school. Children are provided with educational support and resources to meet their educational needs, and are progressing satisfactorily in school. The Agency’s program includes the development of children’s daily living, self-help, and survival skills.

Children are provided with the opportunity to participate in emancipation and vocational programs as appropriate.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

IV. Recreation and Activities

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size for interviews: Seven

Comments:

The Agency provides children with sufficient recreational activities, and leisure time. Children are given the opportunity to participate in planning activities.

Children are allowed to participate in extra-curricular, enrichment, and social activities in which they have an interest.

The Agency provides transportation to and from the activities.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

V. Psychotropic Medication

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents for 44 case files

Sample size for interviews: 44

Comments:

Children have current court authorizations for psychotropic medication. Documentation confirms that children are routinely seen by the prescribing psychiatrist.

Children are informed about their psychotropic medication, and are aware of their right to refuse medication.

Medication distribution logs are properly maintained.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

VI. Personal Rights

Method of assessment –Interviews with children

Sample size for interviews: Seven

Comments:

Children are informed about the Agency's policies and procedures. Children report that they feel safe in the Agency, and are provided with appropriate staff supervision. Children expressed satisfaction with the quality of their interactions with staff, and report that staff treats them with respect and dignity.

Children report that they are assigned chores that are reasonable and not too demanding. Children are allowed to have private visitors, to make and receive personal telephone calls, and to send and receive unopened correspondence and mail. Children are able to attend religious services of their choice.

Children report that the discipline policies are consistently enforced and that there are fair and appropriate consequences for inappropriate behavior.

Children report satisfaction with meals and snacks.

Children are given the opportunity to receive or reject voluntary medical, dental, and psychiatric care.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

VII. Clothing and Allowance

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size for interviews: Seven

Comments:

The Agency provides appropriate clothing, items of necessity, and allowances to the children. The Agency supplies children with the required \$50 monthly clothing allowance, and children are given the opportunity to select their own clothes. Clothing provided to children is of good quality and of sufficient quantity.

The Agency provides children with the required minimum base allowance. Children are permitted to spend their allowances as they choose.

The Agency provides children with adequate personal care items.

Children are encouraged and assisted in creating and maintaining photo albums/life books.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.