



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

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J. TYLER McCAULEY
AUDITOR-CONTROLLER

August 4, 2005

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

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

SUBJECT: **GROUP HOME PROGRAM MONITORING REPORT – FRED
JEFFERSON MEMORIAL HOME FOR BOYS, DENKER HOUSE AND
COMPTON HOUSE**

We have completed a review of Denker House and Compton House Group Homes operated by Fred Jefferson Memorial Home for Boys. The Agency contracts with the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and the Probation Department (Probation).

Denker House and Compton House Group Homes are six-bed facilities, which provide care for boys ages 11-17 years who exhibit behavioral, social, and emotional difficulties. At the time of the monitoring visit, Denker House Group Home was providing services for six Los Angeles County DCFS children, and Compton House Group Home was providing services for five Los Angeles County DCFS children.

Denker and Compton House are located in the Second District.

Scope of Review

The purpose of the review is to determine whether the Agency is providing the services outlined in their Program Statement. Additionally, the review covers basic child safety and licensing issues, and includes 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

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"

children are designed to obtain their perspectives on the program services provided by the Agency, and to ensure adherence to the Foster Youth Bill of Rights.

Summary of Findings

Generally, the Agency is providing the services as outlined in their Program Statement. However, each Group Home has deficient areas that need to be addressed.

Both Group Homes need to provide children with comfortable mattresses, appropriate size beds, and a full complement of linens; provide additional educational resources to address each child's educational needs; provide fair and reasonable consequences for inappropriate behavior; provide children with a sufficient and satisfying amount of food during meal and snack times; and provide children with the required minimum base allowance.

Denker House Group Home needs to clean and/or replace kitchen cabinets and countertops; ensure that windows are functional throughout the house; ensure that the Agency's population is consistent with the criteria as outlined in their Program Statement; maintain current court authorizations for all children on psychotropic medication; and encourage and assist children in creating and maintaining photo albums/life books.

Compton House Group Home needs to ensure that children are assessed within thirty days of placement; allow children to participate in extra-curricular, enrichment and social activities; and allow children to have private visitors, unless prohibited by their authorized representative or the court.

Attached is a detailed report of the review.

Review of Report

We discussed our report with the Agency's management. In response to the recommendations made in the report, the Agency's management completed a corrective action plan (attached) which we approved. 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:jdh
http://auditor.co.la.ca.us/group_home.asp

Attachments

c: David E. Janssen, Chief Administrative Officer

Board of Supervisors

August 4, 2005

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David Sanders, Ph.D., Director, DCFS

Paul Higa, Chief Probation Officer

Cecelia Jefferson Freeman, Executive Director, Fred Jefferson Memorial Home
for Boys

Public Information Office

Audit Committee

**Fred Jefferson Memorial Home for Boys
Denker House
9156 South Denker Avenue
Los Angeles, California 90047
Phone: (323) 820-1900
License Number: 198201547
Rate Classification Level: 10**

I. Facility and Environment

Method of assessment – Observation

Comments:

Denker House Group Home is located in a residential community. The exterior of the Group Home is moderately maintained. The front and back yards are clean, and adequately landscaped.

The interior of the Group Home requires improvement. The windows do not function properly, and many of the windows are painted shut. The kitchen cabinets are stained and worn. The kitchen countertops have mildew and mold stained grout. There is adequate lighting in the Group Home.

Children's bedrooms are clean and orderly, and have age-appropriate personalized decorations. The dresser drawers, lighting, and storage space are adequate. Window coverings and window screens are in good repair. However, the mattresses lack sufficient padding to provide comfortable sleeping. In addition, the regular size twin beds provided do not appropriately accommodate the children, as several children are near or over six feet tall; and children report difficulty sleeping as the bed size is uncomfortable. The beds are not routinely made with a full complement of linens

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

The Group Home maintains a sufficient supply of perishable and non-perishable foods.

Recommendations

1. Fred Jefferson Memorial Home for Boys management:

- a. Clean and/or replace kitchen cabinets.**
- b. Clean and/or replace kitchen countertops including grout.**
- c. Ensure that windows throughout the house are functional.**

- d. Provide children with comfortable mattresses and appropriate size beds to meet their sleeping needs.
- e. Ensure that all beds have a full complement of linens.

II. Program Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size for interviews: Two

Comments:

Children do not meet the Group Home’s population criteria as outlined in their Program Statement, as some children exhibit behaviors and have needs beyond the scope of services offered and provided by this Agency. This issue was discussed with the Group Home administrator. Children are assessed for needed services within thirty days of placement.

The treatment team develops and implements the Needs and Services Plans (NSPs) with input from the child. The NSPs are current, comprehensive, and include long and short-term goals. Case files reflect adequate documentation to show that children are receiving treatment services as identified in their NSPs.

Recommendation

- 2. Fred Jefferson Memorial Home for Boys management ensure that the Agency’s population is consistent with the criteria as outlined in their Program Statement, and immediately work with the DCFS worker to ensure suitable re-placements for all children whose needs are not being met by the Group Home.

III. Educational and Emancipation Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size for interviews: Two

Comments:

Children are attending school. Children are provided with educational support and resources; however, children do not consistently progress in school. The Group Home’s program includes the development of children’s daily living, self-help, and survival skills.

Children are provided with opportunities to participate in emancipation programs.

Recommendation

3. Fred Jefferson Memorial Home for Boys management provide additional educational resources to address each child's educational needs in order to facilitate educational progress.

IV. Recreation and Activities

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size for interviews: Two

Comments:

The Group Home provides children with sufficient recreational activities, and leisure time. Children are given opportunities to participate in planning activities.

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

The Group Home 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

Sample size for interviews: Two

Comments:

Children do not have current court authorizations for psychotropic medication. Documentation confirms that the prescribing psychiatrist routinely sees children.

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

Medication distribution logs are properly maintained.

Recommendation

- 4. Fred Jefferson Memorial Home for Boys management maintain current court authorizations for all children on psychotropic medication.**

VI. Personal Rights

Method of assessment –Interviews with children

Sample size for interviews: Two

Comments:

Children are informed about the Group Home’s policies and procedures. Children report that they feel safe in the Group Home, 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; however, the children report that consequences for inappropriate behavior are severe because, they are denied earned rewards for only one infraction.

Children are not satisfied with meals and snacks; they report dissatisfaction with the taste of food, and report that there is not enough food for seconds at meal and snack times.

Children receive or reject voluntary medical, dental, and psychiatric care.

Recommendations

5. Fred Jefferson Memorial Home for Boys management:

- a. Provide fair and reasonable consequences for inappropriate behavior.**
- b. Provide children with a sufficient and satisfying amount of food during meal and snack times.**

VII. Clothing and Allowance

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size for interviews: Two

Comments:

The Group Home provides appropriate clothing, items of necessity, and the required \$50 monthly clothing allowance to children. Children are given opportunities to select their own clothes. Clothing provided to children is of good quality and of sufficient quantity.

Children are permitted to spend their allowances as they choose. However, the Group Home does not provide children with the required minimum base allowance.

The Group Home provides children with adequate personal care items.

Children do not have photo albums/life books.

Recommendations

6. Fred Jefferson Memorial Home for Boys management:

- a. Provide children with the required minimum base allowance.**
- b. Encourage and assist children in creating and maintaining photo albums/life books.**

**Fred Jefferson Memorial Home for Boys
Compton House
1000 West 152nd Street
Compton, California 90220
Phone: (310) 609-1166
License Number: 198200050
Rate Classification Level: 10**

I. Facility and Environment

Method of assessment – Observation

Comments:

Compton House Group Home is located in a residential community. The exterior of the Group Home is moderately maintained. The front and back yards are clean, and adequately landscaped.

The interior of the Group Home is moderately maintained. The common quarters are neat and clean. There is adequate furniture and lighting in the Group Home.

Children's bedrooms 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. However, the mattresses lack sufficient padding to provide comfortable sleeping. In addition, the regular size twin beds provided do not appropriately accommodate the children, as several children are near or over six feet tall; and children report difficulty sleeping as the bed size is uncomfortable. The beds all have a full complement of linens.

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

The Group Home maintains a sufficient supply of perishable and non-perishable foods.

Recommendation

- 1. Fred Jefferson Memorial Home for Boys management provide children with comfortable mattresses and appropriate size beds to meet their sleeping needs.**

II. Program Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size for interviews: Two

Comments:

Children meet the Group Home's population criteria as outlined in their Program Statement. However, children are not assessed for needed services within thirty days of placement.

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

Recommendation

- 2. Fred Jefferson Memorial Home for Boys management ensure that children are assessed within thirty days of placement.**

III. Educational and Emancipation Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size for interviews: Two

Comments:

Children are attending school. Children are provided with educational support and resources; however, children do not consistently progress in school. The Group Home's program includes the development of children's daily living, self-help, and survival skills.

Children are provided with opportunities to participate in emancipation programs.

Recommendations

- 3. Fred Jefferson Memorial Home for Boys management provide additional educational resources to address each child's educational needs in order to facilitate educational progress.**

IV. Recreation and Activities

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size for interviews: Two

Comments:

The Group Home provides children with sufficient recreational activities, and leisure time. Children are given opportunities to participate in planning activities. The Group Home provides transportation to and from the activities.

Children are not given sufficient opportunities to participate in extra-curricular, enrichment, and social activities in which they have an interest.

Recommendation

- 4. Fred Jefferson Memorial Home for Boys management provide children with sufficient opportunities to participate in extra-curricular, enrichment and social activities.**

V. Psychotropic Medication

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents

Sample size for interviews: Two

Comments:

According to the Agency's administrator, there are currently no children receiving psychotropic medications. This information is appropriately documented.

Children are aware of their right to refuse medication.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

VI. Personal Rights

Method of assessment –Interviews with children

Sample size for interviews: Two

Comments:

Children are informed about the Group Home's policies and procedures. Children report that they feel safe in the Group Home, 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 permitted to make and receive personal telephone calls, to send and receive unopened correspondence and mail. Children are able to attend religious services of their choice. However, children are not informed of visitation policies, and are not permitted to have private visitors.

Children report that the discipline policies are consistently enforced; however, the children report that consequences for inappropriate behavior are severe because, they are denied earned rewards for one infraction.

Children are not satisfied with meals and snacks; they report dissatisfaction with the taste of food, and report that there is not enough food for seconds at meal and snack times.

Children receive or reject voluntary medical, dental, and psychiatric care.

Recommendations

5. Fred Jefferson Memorial Home for Boys management:

- a. **Ensure children are aware of all visitation policies, and allow them to have visitors accordingly.**
- b. **Provide fair and reasonable consequences for inappropriate behavior.**
- c. **Provide children with a sufficient and satisfying amount of food during meal and snack times.**

VII. Clothing and Allowance

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size for interviews:

Comments:

The Group Home provides appropriate clothing, items of necessity, and the required \$50 monthly clothing allowance to children. Children are given opportunities to select their own clothes. Clothing provided to children is of good quality and of sufficient quantity.

Children are permitted to spend their allowances as they choose. However, the Group Home does not provide children with the required minimum base allowance.

The Group Home provides children with adequate personal care items.

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

Recommendation

- 6. Fred Jefferson Memorial Home for Boys management provide children with the required minimum base allowance.**



Fred Jefferson Memorial Homes For Boys
1330 S. Long Beach Blvd.
Compton, Ca. 90221

Phone # (310) 763-1660

Fax # (310) 763-0357

May 25, 2005


Carla Carr, Group Home Ombudsman
Department of Auditor-Controller
Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 W. Temple Street, Room 515-A
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Ms. Carr,

Please find attached the Correction Action Plan for the Auditor's Controller's program audit report dated May 18, 2005.

If you need additional information please feel free to contact me at 310. 763.1660.

Respectfully Submitted,


Cecilia Jefferson, Ph.D.
CEO

FRED JEFFERSON MEMORIAL HOME FOR BOYS

DENKER HOUSE

FACILITY AND ENVIRONMENT

The kitchen cabinets have been cleaned and painted. New kitchen cabinets will be ordered at the end of the summer. The facility manager will continue to ensure the maintenance of the cabinets and the administrator will monitor the facility manager.

A work order for the kitchen countertops including the grout will be implemented in thirty days. The countertops will be cleaned and regouted. The facility manager will ensure the job is done and the administrator will monitor the assurance of the job being completed.

All windows will be functional throughout the house. The facility manager will request a work order from the handyman and ensure the job is completed. The administrator will monitor the facility manager for job completion.

Within sixty days children will be provided with comfortable and appropriate size beds. The facility manager will purchase the beds and the CEO will ensure that the appropriate beds are provided. All beds will have a full complement of linens readily available and accessible. This will be monitored by the facility manager and monitored by the administrator.

PROGRAM SERVICES

Fred Jefferson Memorial Home for Boys management will ensure that the agency's population is consistent with the criteria as outlined in their program statement. The intake worker and the social worker will ensure that population consistency is maintained and it will be monitored by the clinical director.

EDUCATIONAL AND EMANCIPATION SERVICES

The facility manager and the child care workers will ensure that the residents access the tutoring services provided in the facility. When necessary the same staff will expose residents to the library and other resources in the community to enhance their educational progress. The administrator will monitor this progress.

Fred Jefferson Memorial Homes For Boys provide emancipation services training every month on various prevalent subjects for three hours and continuously develop

Page 2 – DENKER HOUSE

emancipation skills in residents on a daily basis. The facility manager will ensure that these services continue and it will be monitored by the administrator.

PSYCHOTROPIC MEDICATION

The facility manager will request from the psychiatrist in a timely manner court authorizations for all residents on psychotropic medication. Authorizations will be current and the administrator will ensure that they are always current.

PERSONAL RIGHTS

The clinical director and the treatment team is currently reviewing and assessing the current behavioral management program. The team will develop fair and reasonable consequences for inappropriate behavior. The administrator will ensure the changes are implemented.

Fred Jefferson Memorial Homes For Boys has always and will continue to provide a sufficient and satisfying amount of food during meal and snack times. The facility manager will ensure that this occurs and the administrator will monitor the facility manager.

CLOTHING AND ALLOWANCE

Fred Jefferson Memorial Homes For Boys will provide residents with the minimum base allowance of \$3.50. The facility manager will ensure this occurs and the administrator will monitor the facility manager.

The child care workers will encourage and assist residents in maintaining life books. The facility manager will monitor this activity.

FRED JEFFERSON MEMORIAL HOME FOR BOYS

COMPTON HOUSE

FACILITY AND ENVIRONMENT

Within sixty days children will be provided with comfortable and appropriate size beds. The facility manager will purchase the beds and the CEO will ensure that the appropriate beds are provided.

PROGRAM SERVICES

Fred Jefferson Memorial Homes for Boys management will ensure that children are assessed within thirty days of placement. The facility manager will immediately ensure that this occurs and the administrator will monitor the facility manager.

EDUCATIONAL AND EMANCIPATION SERVICES

The facility manager and the child care workers will ensure that the residents access the tutoring services provided in the facility. When necessary the same staff will expose residents to the library and other resources in the community to enhance their educational progress. The administrator will monitor this progress.

Fred Jefferson Memorial Homes For Boys provide emancipation services training every month on various prevalent subjects for three hours in a structured environment. The agency continuously develop emancipation skills in residents on a daily basis. The facility manager will monitor this activity.

RECREATION AND ACTIVITIES

Fred Jefferson Memorial Homes For Boys have always will and will continue to encourage residents to participate in extra-curricular, enrichment, and social activities. The staff will survey and allow residents to voice their desires in these areas and facility manager will enforce implementation of activities whenever possible and appropriate.

Page 2 – Compton House

PERSONAL RIGHTS

Children are allowed to have private visitors unless prohibited by their authorized representative or the court. However, the boys will not be able to entertain females in their rooms. This has been a problem with the boys wanting to entertain in their bedrooms with the doors shut. This will not be allowed. Appropriate visits will be allowed and encouraged by the child care staff and monitored by the facility manager.

The clinical director and the treatment team is currently reviewing and assessing the current behavioral management program. The team will develop fair and reasonable consequences for inappropriate behavior. The administrator will ensure the changes are implemented.

Fred Jefferson Memorial Homes For Boys has always and will continue to provide a sufficient and satisfying amount of food during meal and snack times. The facility manager will ensure that this occurs and the administrator will monitor the facility manager.

CLOTHING AND ALLOWANCE

Fred Jefferson Memorial Homes For Boys will provide residents with the minimum base allowance of \$3.50. The facility manager will ensure this occurs and the administrator will monitor the facility manager.