



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

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AUDITOR-CONTROLLER

September 14, 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 — LIVING  
ADVANTAGE, INCORPORATED — ADVANTAGE LIVING AND  
SECOND CHANCE GROUP HOMES**

We have completed a review of Advantage Living Group Home and Second Chance Group Home (Group Home or Agency) operated by Living Advantage, Incorporated. Each Group Home contracts with the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and the Probation Department (Probation).

Advantage Living and Second Chance Group Homes are six-bed facilities. Both provide care for boys ages 12-17 years who exhibit behavioral, social, and emotional difficulties. At the time of the monitoring visit, Advantage Living Group Home was providing services for two Los Angeles County DCFS children, two Los Angeles County Probation children and, two San Bernardino County children. Second Chance Group Home was providing services for three Los Angeles County DCFS children and two Los Angeles County Probation children.

Advantage Living Group Home is located in Orange County. Second Chance Group Home is 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,

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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 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**

The review disclosed that both facilities were not complying with a significant number of contract requirements. Additionally, the Agency is not providing the treatment services as outlined in their Program Statement. **The problems noted in this review are significant and do not appear to be new. DCFS is in the process of removing the children from the Group Homes. DCFS management needs to determine why Children's Social Workers who are responsible for visiting the children monthly at both of the Group Homes did not require that the Agency address the numerous deficiencies discussed in this report.**

We noted about seventy deficiencies in both of the Group Homes. Below are examples of the problems noted:

- The exterior and interior of the Group Homes are not well maintained.
- The common quarters are lacking a homelike atmosphere.
- The lighting is inadequate.
- Furnishings are sparse throughout the home and are worn, dirty and mismatched.
- The window coverings are dirty and do not operate.
- The kitchen cabinets are sticky and dirty from a build up of grease.
- There is a faulty electrical plug in the kitchen that exploded during the review creating a safety hazard.
- The stove and refrigerator are dirty.
- The bedrooms are not clean or orderly and they smell of dirty clothes.
- The box springs are sagging in the middle.
- The carpets are stained.
- The children are not provided sufficient recreational activities and there is not sufficient age appropriate recreational equipment.
- The children are not assessed for needed services within thirty days of placement and the Needs and Services Plans are not comprehensive and do not include long and short-term goals.
- Children are not properly supervised at all times.
- Children are not provided with educational support and resources to meet their educational needs.
- Children are not provided with daily living, self-help, and survival skills.
- Children do not have good quality and sufficient quantity of clothing and adequate personal care items.

### **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 submitted a corrective action plan (attached) which indicates that certain improvements have been made.

We also discussed our findings with DCFS management. DCFS management conducted an investigation and placed the Agency on an Administrative Hold. Due to the significance of the continuing problems, DCFS is in the process of removing their children from the Group Homes.

If you have any questions, please contact me, or have your staff contact Mike Pirolo at (626) 293-1110.

JTM:MP:CC:cr

[http://auditor.co.la.ca.us/group\\_home.asp](http://auditor.co.la.ca.us/group_home.asp)

### **Attachments**

c: David E. Janssen, Chief Administrative Officer  
David Sanders, Ph.D., Director, DCFS  
Paul Higa, Chief Probation Officer  
Pamela Clay, Executive Director, Living Advantage Group Homes  
Public Information Office  
Audit Committee

**Living Advantage  
Advantage Living Home  
7961 Poinsettia Drive  
Buena Park, California 90620  
Phone: (323) 731-6471  
License Number: 198203473  
Rate Classification Level: 10**

## **I. Facility and Environment**

### **Method of assessment – Observation**

#### **Comments:**

Advantage Living Group Home is located in a residential community. The exterior of the Group Home is not well maintained. The front and back yards are clean, and adequately landscaped; however, the front window screen is discolored and worn, the screen is missing from the patio door, and several exterior trash cans are missing lids.

The interior of the Group Home is not well maintained. The common quarters are lacking a homelike atmosphere. Throughout the facility the walls are bare and dirty, and the lighting is inadequate. Furnishings are sparse throughout the home, and are worn, dirty, and mismatched. In the den, the carpet is stained, there is a couch that is broken and has a worn, stained cover, and there is broken office equipment being stored in the den. Window coverings in the living room, dining room, den, and office are bent, dirty and do not operate.

In the dining room, children are using stained office chairs at the dining table. In the kitchen, the cabinets are sticky and are dirty from a build up of grease and dirt, and the walls need painting. There is also a faulty electrical plug in the kitchen that exploded during the review; this is a safety hazard. The laundry room needs cleaning to address a strong mildew odor. The staff office, which also serves as the children's therapy room, is dark, cluttered, disorganized, the carpet is stained, and the sofa is worn.

Children's bedrooms are not well maintained. The rooms are not clean or orderly, and do not have age-appropriate personalized decorations. Children's rooms smell of dirty clothes. The bedroom dressers are all scratched and/or broken. The carpets are stained, and window coverings do not operate. The children's bathroom needs painting, and additional lighting.

The garage is full of clutter and has discarded sofas, a mattress, chairs, office supplies, and other discarded items. In addition, the garage also has a broken freezer with spoiled food items inside.

The Group Home does not maintain any age appropriate, accessible or operable recreational equipment. There are games, however, they are disorganized, and there are no resource materials. Computers are available for the children.

The Group Home maintains a sufficient supply of perishable and non perishable foods. However, food items are not properly stored.

**Recommendations**

**1. Living Advantage Group Home management:**

- a. Repair the electrical plug in the kitchen.**
- b. Replace the stained exterior window screen in the front of the house.**
- c. Replace the missing patio screen in the back yard.**
- d. Provide fitting lids for all outdoor trash cans.**
- e. Provide children with a home-like environment throughout the Group Home.**
- f. Paint the common areas of the home and the walls of the children's bedrooms.**
- g. Provide adequate lighting throughout the home.**
- h. Replace worn and broken furniture in the den, living room, office, and children's bedrooms.**
- i. Replace the worn, stained office chairs with appropriate dining chairs for the dining table.**
- j. Remove stains or replace stained carpet throughout the home including the office.**
- k. Replace window coverings that are bent, dirty and do not operate.**
- l. Remove all unused office equipment from the home including computers and copy machines.**
- m. Remove the build up of grease and dirt from the inside and outside of the kitchen cabinets.**
- n. Clean the laundry room to address the mildew odor.**

- o. Remove the clutter and organize the office.**
- p. Remove and wash dirty clothes in the children’s bedrooms, and assist children with maintaining clean clothes.**
- q. Clean and remove clutter, discarded furniture and office equipment from the garage.**
- r. Remove the broken freezer from the garage.**
- s. Provide children with sufficient inside and outside recreational equipment.**
- t. Provide children with adequate resource materials.**
- u. Properly store all foods.**

**II. Program Services**

**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents**

**Sample size for interviews: Children were not available for interview at the time of the review.**

**Comments:**

Children meet the Group Home’s population criteria as outlined in their Program Statement. Children are assessed for needed services within thirty days of placement. One NSP was developed and implemented by the treatment team with input from the child. However, the other child’s NSP did not include the child’s authorized placement worker in the development and implementation of the plan. The NSPs are current, comprehensive, and include long and short-term goals.

Case files do not reflect adequate documentation to show that children are receiving treatment services as identified in their NSPs.

**Recommendations**

**2. Living Advantage Group Home management:**

- a. Include the authorized placement worker as part of the treatment team in the development and implementation of the Needs and Services Plans.**

- b. Provide all children with treatment services as identified in their Needs and Services Plans, and maintain documentation in the case files.

### **III. Educational and Emancipation Services**

**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents**

**Sample size for interviews: Children were not available for interview at the time of the review**

**Comments:**

Children are attending school. Children are progressing satisfactorily in school; however, there is no documentation to show that children are provided with sufficient educational support and resources to meet their educational needs.

There is no documentation to support that the Group Home's program includes the development of children's daily living, self-help, and survival skills, or that children are provided with opportunities to participate in emancipation and vocational programs as appropriate.

#### **Recommendations**

##### **3. Living Advantage Group Home management:**

- a. Provide children with educational support and resources to meet their educational needs, and maintain documentation in the case files.
- b. Provide children with daily living, self-help, and survival skills, and maintain documentation in the case files.
- c. Provide children with opportunities to participate in emancipation and vocational programs as appropriate, and maintain documentation in the case files.

### **IV. Recreation and Activities**

**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents**

**Sample size for interviews: Children were not available for interview at the time of the review**

**Comments:**

There is no documentation to show that children are provided with sufficient recreational activities, or are given opportunities to participate in planning activities, and to participate in extra-curricular, enrichment, and social activities.

The Group Home was unable to provide documentation to show that transportation is provided to and from activities.

**Recommendations**

**4. Living Advantage Group Home management:**

- a. Provide children with sufficient recreational activities, and maintain documentation in the case files.**
- b. Provide children with opportunities to participate in planning activities, and maintain documentation in the case files.**
- c. Allow children to participate in extra-curricular, enrichment, and social activities in which they have an interest, and maintain documentation in the case files.**
- d. Provide transportation to and from activities, and maintain documentation in the case files.**

**V. Psychotropic Medication**

**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents**

**Comments:**

According to the Agency’s management, there are currently no children receiving psychotropic medications. This information is appropriately documented. However, there was no documentation to show that children are aware of their right to refuse medication.

**Recommendation**

- 5. Living Advantage Group Home management maintain documentation to show that children are aware of their right to refuse medication.**



## **VI. Personal Rights**

### **Comments:**

Children were not available for interview at the time of the review. Therefore, this section could not be completed.

### **Recommendations**

**There are no recommendations for this section.**

## **VII. Clothing and Allowance**

**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and observation**

**Sample size for interviews: Children were not available for interview at the time of the review**

### **Comments:**

There is no documentation to show that the Group Home provides appropriate clothing, items of necessity, or the required \$50 monthly clothing allowances to children. Upon inspection, children's clothing was observed to be of poor quality and of insufficient quantity, as children were missing many needed clothing items.

There is no documentation to show that the Group Home provides children with the required minimum base allowance.

The Group Home does not provide children with adequate personal care items.

There is no documentation to show that the Group Home is encouraging or assisting children in creating and maintaining photo albums/life books.

### **Recommendations**

#### **6. Living Advantage Group Home management:**

- a. Provide children with the required \$50 monthly clothing allowance, and maintain documentation in appropriate logs.**
- b. Provide children with clothing that is of good quality and of sufficient quantity, and maintain documentation in appropriate logs.**
- c. Provide children with the required minimum base allowance, and maintain documentation in appropriate logs.**

- d. Provide children with adequate personal care items, and maintain documentation in appropriate logs.**
- e. Encourage and assist children in creating and maintaining photo albums/life books.**

**Living Advantage  
Second Chance Group Home  
17506 Wellfleet Street  
Carson, California 90746  
Phone: (310- ) 632-2920  
License Number: 198203473  
Rate Classification Level: 10**

**I. Facility and Environment**

**Method of assessment – Observation**

**Comments:**

Second Chance Group Home is located in a residential community. The exterior of the Group Home is not well maintained. The front and back yards are not clean, or adequately landscaped. Grass and shrubs are overgrown, and rain gutters around the house are bent and unattached. The exterior walls and garage of the Group Home are dirty and the paint is peeling, chipped and faded. The driveway is cracked and broken.

The garage is being used as a recreation room for the children; however, there is discarded furniture, a broken pool table, and other items cluttered throughout.

The interior of the Group Home is not well maintained. The common quarters lack a homelike atmosphere. Throughout the facility the walls are bare and dirty, and the lighting is inadequate. Furnishings are sparse throughout the home, and are worn, dirty, and mismatched. Window coverings in the living room, dining room, office and den are bent, dirty and do not operate.

In the living room, the sofa is worn and sagging in the center, the stair railing is loose, and the light over the stairway is broken. The stair rail and broken light are safety hazards.

In the kitchen, the interior and exterior of the stove and refrigerator are dirty. There is a hole under the kitchen sink, and knobs are missing from cabinet drawers.

Children's bedrooms are not well maintained. The rooms are not clean or orderly, and do not have age-appropriate personalized decorations. The children's bedrooms smell of dirty clothes, and there are clothes piled in dirty clothes baskets. The children's mattresses have unstable bed frames, and the dressers are broken. In addition, two box springs were sagging in the middle. The window coverings do not operate, and the children's bathroom needs painting, and additional lighting.

There are board games, and a TV. Books and resource materials including a computer with a variety of programs are also available. However the group Home does not maintain any operable age appropriate recreational equipment.

The Group Home does not maintain a sufficient supply of perishable and non perishable foods. Food items are not properly stored, and some dry goods are being stored in dirty containers.

**Recommendations**

**1. Living Advantage Group Homes management:**

- a. Provide children with a home-like environment throughout the Group Home.
- b. Paint the common areas of the home.
- c. Provide adequate lighting throughout the home.
- d. Replace worn and broken furniture in the den, living room, and children's bedrooms.
- e. Replace window coverings that are bent, dirty and do not operate.
- f. Repair the hole under the kitchen sink.
- g. Clean the interior and exterior of the refrigerator and stove.
- h. Replace missing knobs on the kitchen cabinet.
- i. Remove and wash dirty clothes in the children's bedrooms, and assist children with maintaining clean clothes.
- j. Replace the sagging box springs in the children's bedroom.
- k. Provide children with sufficient inside and outside recreational equipment.
- l. Maintain a sufficient supply of perishable and non perishable foods to include frozen food, meat, canned goods, bakery items, and fresh fruit.
- m. Properly store all foods.

**II. Program Services**

**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents**

**Sample size for interviews: Two**

**Comments:**

Children meet the Group Home’s population criteria as outlined in their Program Statement. One child was assessed for needed services within thirty days of placement; however, one child was not.

The treatment team does not develop and implement the Needs and Services Plans (NSPs), or include input from the child. The NSPs are current, but they are not comprehensive, and do not include long and short-term goals.

Case files do not reflect adequate documentation to show that children are receiving treatment services as identified in their Needs and Services Plans.

**Recommendations**

**2. Living Advantage Group Home, management:**

- a. Assess all children for needed services within thirty days of placement.**
- b. Ensure Needs and Services Plans are developed by the treatment team.**
- c. Ensure Needs and Services Plans are developed with input from the child.**
- d. Develop and maintain comprehensive Needs and Services Plans that are specific, measurable, attainable, realistic, time limited, and include short term and long term goals for all children.**
- e. Provide all children with treatment services as identified in their Needs and Services Plans, and maintain documentation in the case files.**

**III. Educational and Emancipation Services**

**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents**

**Sample size for interviews: Two**

**Comments:**

Children are attending school, and are progressing satisfactorily in school. One child is provided with educational support and resources to meet his educational needs. However, one child reports that he is not. The Group Home’s program includes the development of one child’s daily living, self-help, and survival skills. However, one child

reports that he does not receive daily living skills training from the group home staff.

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

**Recommendations**

**3. Living Advantage Group Home management:**

- a. Provide all children with educational support and resources to meet their educational needs.**
- b. Provide all children with the development of daily living, self-help, and survival skills training.**

**IV. Recreation and Activities**

**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents**

**Sample size for interviews: Two**

**Comments:**

The Group Home provides children with sufficient leisure time. However, children are not provided with sufficient recreational activities. Children are not given sufficient opportunities to participate in planning activities, and are not allowed to participate in extra-curricular, enrichment, or social activities.

The Group Home provides transportation to and from the activities.

**Recommendations**

**4. Living Advantage Group Home management:**

- a. Provide children with sufficient recreational activities.**
- b. Provide children with sufficient opportunities to participate in planning activities.**
- c. Allow children to participate in extra-curricular, enrichment, or social activities in which they have an interest.**

**V. Psychotropic Medication**

**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents**

**Comments:**

Documentation confirms that children are routinely seen by the prescribing psychiatrist. However, children do not have current court authorizations for psychotropic medication.

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

Medication distribution logs are properly maintained.

**Recommendation**

- 5. Living Advantage Group Home management maintain current court authorizations for children taking psychotropic medications.**

**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 express satisfaction with the quality of their interactions with staff, and report that staff treats them with respect and dignity. Children are not provided with appropriate staff supervision, and one child reports that he does not feel safe in the home. Children report that when they arrive home from school, staff is not always present. Therefore, the children must wait outside the Group Home until staff arrives, sometimes for over two hours. Children report overall dissatisfaction with the facility stating that “it’s a poor place to live, its boring with nothing to do.”

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 not consistently enforced and that there are unfair and inappropriate consequences for inappropriate behavior. Children report that punishments are sometimes too severe and that staff do not allow children to redeem themselves after a reasonable amount of time with acceptable behavior.

Children also report that their required minimum weekly allowances per the contract, are reduced as a punitive action for inappropriate behavior.

Children report dissatisfaction with meals and snacks. Children report that there is usually not enough variety of food in the house to make a complete meal, and there is not always a sufficient quantity of food at meal times.

Children receive voluntary medical, dental, and psychiatric care.

**Recommendations**

**6. Living Advantage Group Home management:**

- a. Provide supervision for the children at all times.**
- b. Provide children with a safe and secure environment.**
- c. Provide children with consistent, fair and appropriate consequences for inappropriate behavior.**
- d. Provide children with sufficient meals and snacks that are both satisfying and nutritious.**

**VII. Clothing and Allowance**

**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents**

**Sample size for interviews: Two**

**Comments:**

The Group Home does not provide appropriate clothing, items of necessity, or the required \$50 monthly clothing allowances to children. Children are not given opportunities to select their own clothes. Clothing provided to children is not of good quality or of sufficient quantity. Clothing logs do not reflect adequate documentation, and are not properly maintained.

The Group Home does not provide children with the required minimum base allowance, and children are not permitted to spend their allowances as they choose. Allowance logs lack documentation, and are not properly maintained.

The Group Home provides children with adequate personal care items.

Children are not encouraged or assisted in creating and maintaining photo albums/life books.



**Recommendations**

**7. Living Advantage Group Homes management:**

- a. Provide appropriate clothing, items of necessity, and allowances to the children, and maintain documentation in appropriate logs
- b. Provide children with the required \$50 monthly clothing allowance, and maintain documentation in appropriate logs.
- c. Allow children to select their own clothes.
- d. Provide children with clothing that is of good quality and of sufficient quantity, and maintain documentation in appropriate logs.
- e. Provide children with the required minimum base allowance, and maintain documentation in appropriate logs.
- f. Allow children to spend their allowances as they choose.
- g. Encourage and assist children in creating and maintaining photo albums/life books.

Living Advantage, Inc. a non-profit

July 27, 2005

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

Dear Ms. Carr:

This letter is in response to the group home monitoring process, exit conference, for Advantage Living Home and Second Chance Group Home. To begin, I want to state that our organization values the recommendations of the Group Home Ombudsman and wants to adhere to your recommendations.

**I. Facility and Environment**

**Recommendation**

**1. Living Advantage Group Home management:**

- a. The faulty electrical plug was immediately replaced
- b. We have replaced new screens. 5.17.05
- c. The back door patio screen has been replaced. 5.17.05
- d. Purchased new lids for the trashcans. 5.12.05
- e. Have provided children with a home-like environment with more pictures, plants and more participation form the children on what they want in the home. 6.05
- f. We have repainted the interior of the group home. 5.05
- g. We have provided adequate lighting throughout the home 5.18.05
- h. Have replaced worn and broken furniture in the den, living room, office and children's room. 5.2.05
- i. Have replaced worn, stained office chairs with appropriate dining chairs for the dining table. 5.24.05
- j. Removed stains and will replace carpet throughout the common rooms including office. 5.14.05

*Where living is an advantage!!!!* . . . . .

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- k. Individual bent window blinds replaced and missing turn sticks for blinds replaced where needed. 5.24.04
- l. Removed all unused equipment from home. All computers work so did not remove. 5.14.05
- m. All kitchen cabinets were cleaned and grease removed. 5.14.05
- n. Cleaned laundry room. 5.24.05
- o. Removed clutter from office. 5.14.05
- p. Have replaced sofa in office. 6.05
- q. Replaced window coverings in office. 5.24.05
- r. Replaced light bulb with higher voltage in office. 6.05
- s. Removed stains in office. 6.05
- t. Exterior of whole house painted and stucco. 5.05
- u. Replaced dressers. 6.05
- v. Immediately washed clothes in children's bedroom. Done daily
- w. Bed frames replaced. 5.24.05
- x. Removed stains in children's bedroom. 5.24.05
- y. Replaced light bulb with higher voltage in office. 6.05
- z. Cleaned garage out of clutter. 5.14.05
- aa. Removed broken freezer from garage. 5.14.05
- bb. To provide children with additional recreational equipment by. 6.05
- cc. Will provide children with school supplies. Will be marked Residents Supplies. 6.05
- dd. Food is properly stored. 5.14.05

**As of 5.14.2005:**

We have repainted the interior of the group home as well as the exterior. The dining area has new chairs, kitchen cabinets cleaned, the faulty electrical plug was immediately replaced once discovered, the laundry room was re dry walled and painted. All bedrooms have been painted. The broken dresser has been replaced. Residents have always been given an opportunity to put up whatever personal decorations they want as long as it's appropriate. We have encouraged residents and have taken them to home furnishing stores to purchase pictures or whatever. In staff trainings management repeatedly instructs staff to assist residents with keeping their laundry clean along with other areas of their room. Staff will continue to work with residents to ensure their clothing is cleaned. The garage was for storage of new furnishing such as bed frames and mattresses, as well as items that our maintenance staff takes to the dump when not in proper operating condition. Our maintenance repair crew will be at the group homes once a week or more if needed to follow up on repairs and follow up with Administrator that house is well maintained.

Residents have access to a basketball court and basketball, football, golf clubs, tennis balls, a bicycle with helmets. There has always been an excess of school supplies for resident's there's binders, pens, pencils, markers, paper, backpacks, etc. We also have educational workbooks, puzzles, math workbooks, writing workbooks, etc. Our organization is very big on education. Our organization has access to several gifts in kind programs that provide so many of these items that we sometimes have to give them to other needy organizations.

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Administrator will follow up with Facility Manager to insure that there is sufficient inside and outside recreational equipment.

## II. Program Services

### Recommendations

#### 2. Living Advantage Group Home management:

- a. **Each student receives an individual session and participates along with the authorized placement worker which will also be part of the treatment team in the development and implementation of a completed needs and services plan within 30 days of entry into program. All plans identify measurable long term and short term goals, action steps to achieve said goals, time frames within which each goal is targeted for completion, Psychiatric diagnosis codes and signature of student and all relative parties. The group home Facility Manager is the person authorized by the group home to participate in all team meetings.**
- b. **All children will be provided with treatment services as identified in their Needs and Services Plans. All children's records are maintained according to California State confidentiality rules and regulations and all forms and notes regarding student program are filed into student folders and kept in a locked cabinet with access by appropriate personnel only. The group home facility manager is to facilitate the transport of confidential documents regarding the student's program.**

As of 6.23.05:

All students referred by Advantage Living Home participated in an orientation of the American Health and Education Clinics, (AMHEC) program, which included the viewing of a video outlining the history of this program and what they can expect to receive while in attendance. They also received information in a group setting delivered by the Executive Director and Founder of the program to assist them to make a conscious decision to fully participate in their own education and therapy.

Once students completed the orientation and assessment phase of the program they were assigned to a case manager who began conducting one-on-one interviews to review their test results, history and to conduct a comprehensive needs assessment. This information was utilized in a team case planning meeting involving the therapist, case manager, educational and drug counselors and group home staff to create an appropriate needs and services plan.

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### III. Educational and Emancipation Services

#### Recommendations

#### 3. Living Advantage Group Home management:

- a. To provide children with educational support and resources to meet their educational needs, they are receiving assistance with homework from staffing and if child is having a hard time in a subject they receive tutoring from school. We also work with title I who has provided tutoring to our facility for over 5 years. Will maintain documentation in the case files by getting school progress reports and get documentation from tutors showing they are helping to meet the needs of the children. Also Staff will document in the ILP book when they have worked with children. Administrator to check documentation twice a week. As of 5.24.05
- b. To provide children with daily living, self help and survival skills, Staff and some outside agencies like local ILP and vocational trainings assist children with cooking, doing their laundry, budget grocery, clothing, household shopping, the importance of hygiene, medical and dental check ups. As of July 15<sup>th</sup> or sooner we will maintain documentation in the case files and emancipation book. We will attach ILP class brochures, copy of budget shopping receipts, medical and dental check ups, etc. Administrator to check documentation twice a week. As of 5.24.05
- c. To provide children with opportunities to participate in emancipation and vocational programs as appropriate, they will attend ILP and vocational classes like from Work Source. The residents are taken on job searches and shown the proper way to fill out job applications. They are encouraged to find out who the manager is so they can do a follow up on their applications. They go to career work -shops when available. How to apply for and fill out ID cards applications. We will maintain documentation in the case files and emancipation book plus enclose business cards from employment searches, copy of job applications, etc. Administrator to check documentation twice a week. As of 5.24.05

As of 5.24.05:

If children need to do library research they are taken to the library and assisted. We make every effort to ensure residents receive the support and resources necessary. We meet with teachers and school officials if needed to ensure not only are their educational needs being met, but to ensure that any behavioral problems are address, so that it does not continue to interfere with their schooling or anyone else.

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Residents are given opportunity to participate in emancipation and vocational programs and planning. Some fight it and some don't but either way we have a lot available to our residents and we always encourage them to work with us, so that it can work for THEM. CCW's will better document our efforts and the resident's results. More staff training will take place in this area. Staff must fax over daily, the emancipation log of what proactive measures they have taken to work with children in these areas. To keep documentation in file in facility office and at the administrative office. Administrative staff & Executive Director to monitor its progress.

#### **IV. Recreation and Activities**

##### **Recommendations**

#### **4. Living Advantage Group Home management:**

- a. Will provide children with more sufficient recreational activities and will maintain documentation in case files by July 15<sup>th</sup> or sooner. Facility Manager to oversee and insure more detailed documentation is being implemented. Monthly calendar will be posted.**
- b. Will provide children with more opportunities to participate in planning activities and will maintain documentation in the case files by July 15<sup>th</sup> or sooner. Facility Manager to oversee and insure more detailed documentation is being implemented. A weekly meeting with staff and children will be documented.**
- c. Will provide opportunities children to participate in extra-curricular, enrichment and social activities in which they have interest and to maintain documentation in case files by July 15<sup>th</sup> or sooner. Administrator to follow up with Facility Manager to oversee and insure that more detailed documentation is being implemented.**
- d. Will provide transportation to and from activities and will maintain documentation in case files. Administrator to follow up with Facility Manager to oversee and insure that more detailed documentation is being implemented.**

As of 5.24.05:

Residents have always been encourage and given opportunity to participate in extra-curricular. We've had residents play school sports and some have played for the boys and girls club. None of our residents have been denied outside social activities if appropriate. Management will continue to ensure transportation is provided. Resident will continue to participate in the development of the activities calendar and Administrator will insure once a week that it's followed.

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Psychotropic Medication

**Recommendation**

**5. Living Advantage Group Home Management:**

5. **As of 7.05 All client records are reviewed to determine court ordered medication requirements. All court ordered medication requirements shall be followed without deviation. All clients shall be notified in writing of their right to refuse medications. A personal rights form will be signed by both the resident and staff during residence orientation into program. A sign copy will be maintained in residents file. Staff that intake children will insure this is done. Administrator to review children's files weekly.**

**VI. Personal Rights**

**No recommendations**

**VII. Clothing and Allowance**

**Recommendations**

**7. Living Advantage Group Home management:**

- a. **To provide appropriate clothing, items of necessity and allowances to the children to meet DCFS's standards. Will maintain documentation in appropriate logs. Children are supervised during shopping to purchase items that are within the guidelines of current regulations. As of 5.24.05**
- b. **To provide the required \$50.00 monthly clothing allowance and will maintain documentation in appropriate logs. Facility Managers submits weekly budget with children who receives clothing allowance for that week. As of 5.24.05**
- c. **To provide children with clothing that is of good quality and of sufficient quantity. Will maintain documentation in appropriate logs by attaching tag of what was purchased. As of 5.24.05**
- d. **To provide the required minimum and maximum allowance. Will maintain documentation in appropriate logs. Facility Managers will be informed on the new age appropriate allowance amounts as of 7.15.05. A memo has been issued reflecting this change.**
- e. **To provide children with adequate personal care items and will maintain documentation on the allowance sheet. As of 5.24.05**
- f. **Will encourage and assist children in creating and maintaining photo**

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**albums/life books. A monthly meeting will bring up the issue of the life books and staff will be instructed on the importance of encouraging children to use their life books to keep mementos, memorabilia and documents. 7.22.05**

As of 6.05:

The Facility Manager writes out a weekly budget and includes the personal items that a Resident would need as well as the clothing allowance needed for each child. It is faxed to corporate office. Every week on Fridays, all Resident get their allocated allowance by the point system we have in place.

Management has repeatedly encouraged staff and tried to assist Residents in creating and maintaining photo albums/life books. Cameras and photo albums has been given to staff to implement in the beginning of July 2005. CCW's will again follow up in Residents meeting.



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## SECOND CHANCE GROUP HOME

### I. Facility and Environment

#### Recommendations

##### 1. Living Advantage Group Home management:

- a. Will provide children with a home like environment throughout the Group Home by hanging more pictures and insuring all furniture is matching and in good working order. 6.05
- b. Completed interior of home painting. 5.3.05
- c. Bought additional lamps and added additional voltage to bulbs. 6.05
- d. Replaced all worn and broken furniture in the den, living room, and children's bedroom. 5.2.05
- e. Replaced window coverings that are bent, dirty and do not operate. 6.24.05
- f. Repaired hole under kitchen sink. 5.24.05
- g. Cleaned interior and exterior of the refrigerator and stove. 5.05 (Nightly)
- h. Replace all kitchen knobs on the kitchen cabinet. 5.24.05
- i. Replaced all broken and scratched dressers. 5.17.05
- j. Immediately washed all dirty clothes and assist children to maintain clean clothes. Done daily 6.05
- k. Added higher voltage bulbs in children's bedroom. 6.05
- l. Replaced box springs in children's bedroom. 5.24.05
- m. Will provide more inside and outside recreational equipment. 6.05
- n. Will maintain sufficient supply of perishable and non perishable foods to include frozen food, meat, canned goods, bakery items and fresh fruit. Checked daily
- o. Will properly store all foods. Done daily

As of 5.24.05

Management has instructed on a daily basis that Staff is to follow up with Residents duty of keeping grounds clean. If Resident's do not follow through on their duty Staff is to ensure it gets done. Interior has been painted. Estimate on driveways repair 6.05. To be done by August 20<sup>th</sup>. All furniture and clutter in garage area removed. 5.14.05. The pool table is not broke, maintenance done 6.05.

More pictures were put on the wall, bookshelves with books, TV's, DVD's, VCR's, computers, etc. Every room has a light fixture, which will be ensured that works at all times. Interior painting was done. Some furniture was replaced, individual bent window blinds replaced or removed and curtains put in place. 6.05. Living room sofa was replaced. Stair railing was immediately tightened and bulb replaced in light over stairway. Interior and Exterior stove and refrigerator cleaned. Hole from prior repair under kitchen sink repaired. Two missing knobs replaced on cabinet drawers.

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All rooms are kept clean and orderly. Staff is to insure daily. In staff trainings, management repeatedly instructs staff to assist residents with keeping their laundry clean along with other areas of their room. All mattresses, box springs and bed frames are stable. Small broken dresser replaced. Window coverings all work All bedrooms have been painted. Light fixtures have bulbs and work. More recreational equipment has been provided 6.05. Has sufficient supply of perishable and non-perishable food. Food is properly stored. Our maintenance repair crew will be at the group homes once a week or more if needed to follow up on repairs and follow up with Administrator that house is well maintained. Administrator will follow up with Facility Manager to insure that there is sufficient inside and outside recreational equipment.

## II. Program Services

### Recommendations

#### 2. Living Advantage Group Home management:

- a. All clients will be assessed within thirty days of placement by House Social worker from American Health and Education Clinics, (AMHEC). As of 7.18.05
- b. Develop and implement NSPs by the treatment team with American Health and Education Clinics, (AMHEC). As of 7.18.05
- c. Develop and implementation NSP with input from the child. As of 7.18.05
- d. Develop and maintain comprehensive Needs and Services Plans that are specific, measurable and attainable, realistic, time limited, and includes short term and long term goals for all children. AMHEC will insure it's done properly with full documentation. As of 7.18.05
- e. Will provide all children with treatment services as identified in their Needs and Services Plans, and maintain documentation in the case file. AMHEC will insure it's done properly with full documentation. As of 7.18.05

As of 7.18.05:

We have contracted our services with a new mental health agency, American Health and Education Clinics, (AMHEC) I will give them the CAP so they can insure program services follow your guidelines. Our house social worker will communicate with each placement social worker regarding a residents needs. The home will ensure that each worker signs NSP and Quarterly Reports. Management agrees everyone needs to be on same page not only verbally, but also in writing.

Each student receives an individual session and participates with the authorized placement worker who will be part of the treatment team in the development and implementation of a completed needs and services plan within 30 days of entry into program. All plans identify measurable long term and short term goals, action steps to achieve said goals, time frames within which each goal is targeted for completion, Psychiatric diagnosis codes and signature of student and all relative parties. These

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plans are in the development stage currently and will be all completed by the end of next week, (8-5-05).

### **III. Educational and Emancipation Services**

#### **Recommendations**

#### **3. Living Advantage Group Home management:**

- a. **To provide children with educational support and resources to meet their educational needs, they are receiving assistance with homework from staffing and if child is having a hard time in a subject they receive tutoring from school. LA County also provides in home tutoring services to our home twice a week. As of 5.05**
- b. **To provide children with daily living, self help and survival skills, Staff and some outside agencies like local ILP and vocational trainings assist children with cooking, doing their laundry, budget grocery, clothing, household shopping, the importance of hygiene, medical and dental check ups. As of 5.05**

#### **As of 5.24.05:**

Each child is given the same opportunities, rather or not each takes advantage of it. It is offered and encouraged to every individual. Resident's are receiving assistance with homework from staffing and if one is having a hard time in a subject they receive tutoring from school. We make every effort to ensure residents receive the support and resources necessary. We meet with teachers and school officials if needed to ensure not only are their educational needs being met, but to ensure that any behavioral problems are address, so that it does not continue to interfere with their schooling or anyone else. Administrator to insure that process is taking place. To have documentation faxed to Corporate office daily.

Residents are given opportunity to participate in emancipation and vocational programs and planning. They attend ILP classes, they learn how to cook, and they learn how to do their laundry, budget shopping, grocery shopping, the importance of hygiene and so much more. The residents are taken on job searches and shown the proper way to fill out job applications and the importance of keeping a copy. They are encouraged to find out who the manager is so they can do a follow up on their applications. They go to career work -shops when available. They are taught the importance of medical and dental check ups. How to apply for and fill out ID cards applications. Our residents are taught emancipation skills and survival skills. Management does agree we need to better document our efforts and the resident's results. More staff training will take place in this area. Staff must fax over daily the emancipation log of what proactive measures they have taken to work with children in these areas. To keep in file at the facility office as well as administration office for Administrative staff & Executive Director to monitor.

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#### **IV. Recreation and Activities**

##### **Recommendations**

#### **4. Living Advantage Group Home management:**

- a. **Will provide children with more sufficient recreational activities. Facility Manager to oversee and document this is being done. Administrator to check on weekly. As of 6.05**
- a. **Will provide children with more opportunities to participate in planning activities. Facility Manager to oversee and document this is being done. Administrator to check on weekly. As of 6.05**
- b. **Will allow children to participate in extra-curricular, enrichment and social activities in which they have interest. Facility Manager to oversee and document this is being done. Administrator to check on weekly. As of 6.05**

#### **As of 5.24.05:**

Residents are always encouraged to give in put on planned activities with the understanding that educational activities are also part of the calendar. Residents have been encouraged to play organized sports at school or at the local parks and recreations. They have an opportunity to attended Compton airport where they can learn about becoming a pilot. The program also provides youth with tutoring, computer skills and other interesting things. We take steps to get residents involved in community activities rather educational or recreational. The group home will provide transportation to different events and will continue to. Staff must fax over daily the emancipation log of what proactive measures they have taken to work with children in these areas. To keep in file in facility office as well as administration office for Administrative staff & Executive Director to monitor.

#### **V. Psychotropic Medication**

##### **Recommendation**

4. **Living Advantage Group Home management shall maintain current court authorizations for all the children that are taking psychotropic medications. As of 6.05**

Medication consent forms are on grounds and current. Administrator will insure medication consents forms are updated when necessary in a timely manner and that all medication given is consistent with court order.

#### **VI. Personal Rights**

##### **Recommendations**

#### **6. Living Advantage Group Home management:**

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- a. **Will provide supervision for the children at all times. Staff and client ratio will be followed at all times to ensure proper supervision. Staff trainings will be held twice a month enforcing policy and procedures. AS of 5.25.05 Administration will do surprise checks to ensure supervision procedures are being followed.**
- b. **Will provide children with a safe and secure environment. As of 5.25.05 all staffing are made aware of appropriate support systems in time of emergencies. Contact numbers posted.**
- c. **Will provide children with consistent fair and appropriate consequences for inappropriate behavior by using the level system. In addition the level system will show progress in behavior, social and living skills. As of 5.25.05 Facility Managers oversees. Melinda Avventino from O.C. DCFS is assisting with procedures.**
- d. **Sufficient meals and snacks will be prepared and available on a daily basis that will consist of both satisfying and nutritious. As of 5.25.05 residents will participate in decision making for meals.**

**As of 5.25.05:**

Allowance is determined by residents total points earned throughout the week and added up every Friday morning. We have been working on a more consistent and appropriate behavioral system which has been working for the program.

Residents are given the opportunity to decide what the meals are going to be for the month and they help to prepare the meals. They receive a hot breakfast Monday through Friday and the weekend is open. Their dinners consist of salads, varies meats, vegetables, rice, pasta or potatoes. There is always ample food for seconds. No one has ever complained of not having enough to eat.

## **VII. Clothing and Allowance**

### **Recommendations**

#### **7. Living Advantage Group Home management:**

- a. **Will provide appropriate clothing, items of necessity and allowances to the children to meet DCFS's standards. Will maintain documentation in appropriate logs. Children are supervised during shopping to purchase items that are within the guidelines of current regulations. As of 5.24.05**
- b. **Will provide the required \$50.00 monthly clothing allowance and will continue to maintain documentation in appropriate logs. Facility Managers submits weekly budget with children who receives clothing allowance for that week. As of 5.24.05**

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- c. Will allow children to select their own clothes. Staff will insure that clothing is appropriate. As of 5.24.05
- d. To provide children with clothing that is of good quality and of sufficient quantity. Will maintain documentation in appropriate logs by attaching tag of what was purchased. As of 5.24.05
- e. To provide the required minimum and maximum allowance. Will maintain documentation in appropriate logs. Facility Managers will be informed on the new age appropriate allowance amounts. A memo will be issued reflecting this change. As of 7.15.05
- f. Will allow children to spend their allowances as they choose. We have never regulated how they spend their allowance. We do encourage savings. As of 5.24.05
- g. Will encourage and assist children in creating and maintaining photo albums/life books. A monthly meeting will bring up the issue of the life books and staff will be instructed on the importance of encouraging children to use their life books to keep mementos, memorabilia and documents. As of 7.22.05

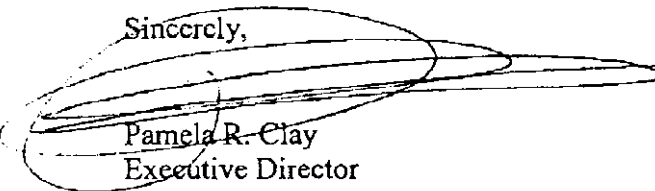
As of 6.05:

Residents will select whatever clothes they want. As long as it is not gang related or too baggy. Clothing is in good quality and quantity. The Facility Manager writes out a weekly budget and includes the personal items that a Resident would need. In the past we have not documented personal items necessity. We will now include on allowance sheet.

Second Chance Group home will provide Residents with required minimum allowance. Enclosed are a couple of money allowance sheets that Residents sign when they receive allowance and a copy of our petty cash log showing they have received monies out of petty cash. Residents have always spent their money as they wish. Administrator to follow up once a week in files for proper documentation.

I hope this suffices your recommendations and the next time you come out and do a monitoring we can be of same accord.

Sincerely,



Pamela R. Clay  
Executive Director