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

November 15, 2005

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

FROM: J. Tyler McCauley For
Auditor-Controller

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

We have completed a review of Turmont Home for Girls Group Home (Group Home or Agency) operated by Turmont Home for Boys/Girls. The Group Home contracts with the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and the Probation Department (Probation).

Turmont Home for Girls Group Home is a six-bed facility, which provides care for girls ages 13-17 years who exhibit behavioral, social, and emotional difficulties. At the time of the monitoring visit, the Group Home was providing services for four Los Angeles County DCFS children.

Turmont Home for Girls Group Home is located in the Fifth District.

Scope of Review

The purpose of the review is to determine whether the Agency is providing the services as 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 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 was providing the treatment services as outlined in their Program Statement. However, the Agency needs to address several deficient areas.

Turmont Homes for Girls Group Home needs to replace the missing light bulbs in the refrigerator; ensure the Group Home is free from safety hazards at all times; provide on-site physical recreation equipment; provide a sufficient supply of books and resource materials; maintain current and comprehensive Needs and Services Plans; inform all children of their ability to participate in extra-curricular activities; maintain appropriate staff supervision; provide children with the required minimum weekly allowance; and encourage and assist all children in maintaining photo albums/life books.

Attached is a detailed report of the review findings.

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:bg
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
Ora Quaynor, Executive Director, Turmont Home for Boys/Girls
Public Information Office
Audit Committee

Turmont Home for Boys/Girls
Turmont Home for Girls
1519 East Thomas Drive
Lancaster, California 93535
Phone: (661) 948-2634
License Number: 197600325
Rate Classification Level: 8

I. Facility and Environment

Method of assessment – Observation

Comments:

Turmont Home for Girls Group Home is located in a residential community. The exterior of the Group Home is well maintained. The front and back yards are clean, and adequately landscaped.

Overall, the interior of the Group Home is well maintained. The common quarters are neat and clean. There is adequate furniture and lighting in the Group Home. The Group Home provides a home-like environment. However, the light bulbs in the refrigerator are missing. A sharp knife and a bottle of prescription medication were found unsecured in the kitchen, which presented potential safety hazards. The staff secured the knife and medication at the time of the review.

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.

There are board games, a computer, a TV, and a DVD player available for children. However, the Group Home does not maintain a sufficient amount of age appropriate and accessible recreational equipment. There is also an insufficient amount of books and resource materials.

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

Recommendations

1. **Turmont Home for Boys/Girls Management:**

    a. **Replace the missing light bulbs in the refrigerator.**

b. **Ensure the Group Home is free from safety hazards at all times.**

c. **Maintain age appropriate and accessible recreation equipment for the children's use.**

d. **Maintain a sufficient quantity of age-appropriate books and resource materials.**

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. 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 NSP is current for one child; however, it is not comprehensive, and does not include long and short term goals. The other child has not been in placement long enough to require a NSP.

Case files reflect adequate documentation to show that children are receiving treatment services as identified in their NSPs.

Recommendation

2. **Turmont Home for Boys/Girls Management develop comprehensive NSPs that have detailed, measurable and achievable long and short term goals.**

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 to meet their educational needs, and are progressing satisfactorily 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 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: Two

Comments:

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

One child is allowed to participate in extra-curricular, enrichment, and social activities in which she has an interest. However, the other child reports that she has never been informed of her ability to participate in extra-curricular activities that interest her.

The Group Home provides transportation to and from the activities.

Recommendation

3. **Turmont Home for Boys/Girls Management inform all children of their ability to participate in extra-curricular activities in which they have an interest.**

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.

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. Children express satisfaction with the quality of their interactions with staff, and report that staff treats them with respect and dignity. However, children are not always supervised by the required number of staff. There are times when only one staff is supervising four children on a shift requiring two staff.

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 receive voluntary medical, dental, and psychiatric care.

Recommendation

4. **Turmont Home for Boys/Girls Management provide appropriate staff supervision at all 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 the 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.

One child reports she is encouraged and assisted in creating and maintaining a photo album/life book. The other child has a life book; however, she reports that she has not been encouraged or assisted in maintaining it.

Recommendations

5. **Turmont Home for Boys/Girls Management:**

   a. **Provide children with the required weekly minimum allowance.**

   b. **Encourage and assist each child in creating and maintaining a photo album/life book.**

TURMONT HOME FOR BOYS/GIRLS

A HOME FOR CHILD NURTURE, CARE & DEVELOPMENT
COMMITTED TO AN EXCELLENT HOME ENVIRONMENT

October 1, 2005

County of Los Angeles
Dept. of Audit - Controller
ATTN: Candace Rhue
500 W. Temple Street - Room 515-A
Los Angeles, Ca. 90012

REF; **TURMONT HOME FOR BOYS/GIRLS**
1519 EAST Thomas Drive
Lancaster, Ca. 93535
License No. 197600325
Rate Level 8
CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN (GIRLS SITE)

1. FACILITIES AND ENVIRONMENT

Turmont Group Home will assure that regular routine maintenance is provided to all areas of the facility not limited to but including:

A. The missing light bulb in the refrigerator has been replaced.
B. All hazardous items will remain secured at all times. Sharp Items such as knifes and all medicines will remain in a secure area at all times.
C. The facility will provided age appropriate recreation equipment such as balls, and exercise equipment within 90 days of this CAP.
D. The facility will also provide a sufficient amount of books and resource materials for residents within 90 days of this CAP.

All needed repairs and maintenance will be immediately completed and maintained appropriately. The facility will also remain free of safety hazards at all times. The Facility Manager will do daily routine checks, and any concerns or problems will be documented and repaired, replaced or secured immediately.

The Administrator will be responsible for quality assurance and will perform daily periodic checks to assure the system is working and that a safe, secure and well maintained environment is provided at all times.

II. PROGRAM SERVICES

2. Turmont Group Home will assure that the Needs and Service plan will be developed with both the resident and his/her's placement workers participation, and that this participation be documented for review. Residents at Turmont Group Home will meet on a weekly basis with our Therapist. Information obtained during these meetings will be used to determined the residents specific needs. Once the therapist feels he can make a reasonable and professional decision regarding the individualized treatment plan of each resident. The child's placement worker will be notified via telephone or monthly visit to discuss the child's current treatment status. Any information or recommendation from the CSW will be addressed at this time and implemented in the NSP. All treatment plans will be clearly defined and detailed with measurable achievable long and short-term goals. The needs of the child will be specific as to how they relate to the objective. All needs and service plans will be updated at least every three months; a copy of NSPs and quarterly reports will be mailed to the client's placement worker and maintained in the clients file.

Ora Quaynor, Administrator and Robbie Bennett, Facility Manager will assure that Treatment Services are provided according to the Program Statement the was Designed for Turmont Home for Girls.

IV. RECREATION AND ACTIVITIES

3. All residents will have the opportunity to participate and/or the planning of all recreational and extra curricular activities of their interest. All residents will be able to suggest ideals and make comments concerning planning and participation in recreational and extra curricular activities of their choice. Their participation will be documented and kept for future reference.

The facility Manager will be responsible for meeting with the residents and implementing ideals and suggestions. The Administrator will monitor the process to ensure that it remains implemented and is working as intended.

VI. PERSONAL RIGHTS

4. Turmont home for girls will maintain the appropriate client to staff ratio of, Three (3) clients to One (1) staff at all times.

The Facility Manager will be responsible for assuring appropriate staff supervision at all times. The Administrator will monitor all staff scheduling to assure that the process is working and implemented and is working as planned.

VII. CLOTHING AND ALLOWANCE

A. All residents will be given the required age appropriate minimum weekly allowance of $5.00 (9-13 years) and $7.00 (14-17 years), starting with the first full week of placement. This allowance may be increased beyond the base amount according to a point behavioral management system, which is currently in place.

B. All residents will be encouraged and assisted in creating and maintaining a photo album /life book.

The Administrator and Facility Manager will be responsible for monitoring the allowance behavior management system on a weekly basis and to make sure that the system is working properly. The Facility Manager will also monitor the progress of assuring that all residents receive encouragement and assistance in maintaining a photo/life book.

Ora Quaynor

Ora Quaynor, Administrator