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DEPARTMENT OF AUDITOR-CONTROLLER

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J. TYLER McCAULEY
AUDITOR-CONTROLLER

January 31, 2006

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

FROM: J. Tyler McCauley
Auditor-Controller

SUBJECT: **GROUP HOME PROGRAM MONITORING REPORT – FERREE'S GROUP HOME, INCORPORATED: FERREE'S GROUP HOME SITE THREE**

We have completed a review of Ferree's Group Home Site Three (Group Home or Agency) operated by Ferree's Group Homes, Incorporated. The Group Home contracts with the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and the Probation Department (Probation).

Ferree's Group Home Site Three is a six-bed facility, which provides care for boys ages 12-17 years who exhibit behavioral, social, and emotional difficulties. At the time of the monitoring visit, the Group Home was providing services for one Los Angeles County DCFS child, one San Bernardino County child, and four Riverside County children.

Ferree's Group Home Site Three is located in Riverside County.

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 an interview with the one Los Angeles County child placed in the Group Home at the time of the review. The interview with the child is designed to obtain the child's

perspective 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. Ferree's Group Home has deficient areas that need to be addressed.

Ferree's Group Home Site Three needs to repair several window screens; paint kitchen cabinet frames, and replace a broken kitchen cabinet door; repair a burner on the kitchen stove, replace broken molding and paneling near the pantry room; remove a broken glass mirror; refinish the wooden dressers in each bedroom; remove bricks and wooden boards with protruding nails from behind the backyard storage building; maintain current and comprehensive Needs and Services Plans; include the placement workers as part of the treatment team in the development and implementation of the Needs and Services Plans; and provide children with the required minimum weekly allowance.

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:dl
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
Phillip Ferree, Executive Director, Ferree's Group Homes
Public Information Office
Audit Committee

Ferree's Group Homes, Incorporated
Ferree's Group Home Site Three
2269 West Nicolet Street
Banning, California 92220
Phone: (951) 922-3554
License Number: 336400048
Rate Classification Level: 11

I. Facility and Environment

Method of assessment – Observation

Comments:

Ferree's Group Home Site Three is located in a residential community. The front and back yards are clean, and adequately landscaped. However, there are bricks and wooden boards with protruding nails behind the backyard storage building, creating a safety hazard.

The common quarters of the Group Home are neat and clean. There is adequate furniture and lighting in the Group Home. The Group Home provides a home-like environment. However, a burner on the kitchen stove does not light. The frames of the kitchen cabinets are worn, and the cabinet door is cracked. The wall panel near the entry of the pantry is damaged and cracked, and the pantry door molding is broken. The window screens in one bathroom are torn, and the screen frame in the other bathroom is bent.

Children's bedrooms are clean and orderly, and have age-appropriate personalized decorations. There is adequate lighting, and storage space. The mattresses are comfortable, and the beds all have a full complement of linens. Children's sleeping arrangements are appropriate. However, the dressers in each bedroom are worn, lack finish, and are marked. In bedroom two, a mirror in the closet is broken, and the screen frame is bent and does not fit the window frame properly. In bedroom three, the electrical outlet cover is broken.

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. **Ferree's Group Home Management:**

   a. **Remove the bricks and boards from the backyard.**

   b. **Replace the broken panel near the entry of the pantry and repair the molding on the pantry doorway.**

   c. **Repair the burner on the kitchen stove.**

   d. **Paint the kitchen cabinet frames.**

   e. **Replace the damaged kitchen cabinet door.**

   f. **Repair or replace damaged window screens.**

   g. **Refinish the bedroom dressers.**

   h. **Remove the broken mirror from bedroom two.**

   i. **Replace the cover on the electrical outlet in bedroom three.**

II. Program Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size for interviews: One

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 placement workers are not included as part of the treatment team in the development and implementation of the Needs and Services Plans (NSPs). The NSPs are not current or comprehensive, and do not include measurable and achievable long and short-term goals.

Case files reflect adequate documentation to show that children are receiving treatment services.

Recommendations

2. **Ferree's Group Home Management:**

   a. **Include placement workers as part of the treatment team in the development and implementation of the NSPs.**

   b. **Maintain current NSPs for all children.**

   c. **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: One

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: One

Comments:

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

Children 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

Comments:

According to the Agency's management, there are currently no residents 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: One

Comments:

The child is informed about the Group Home's policies and procedures. The child reports that he feels safe in the Group Home, and is provided with appropriate staff supervision. The child expresses satisfaction with the quality of his interactions with staff, and reports that staff treats him with respect and dignity.

The child reports that he is assigned chores that are reasonable and not too demanding. The child is able to have private visitors, make and receive personal telephone calls, and send and receive unopened correspondence and mail. The child is able to attend religious services of his choice.

The child reports that the discipline policies are consistently enforced and that there are fair and appropriate consequences for inappropriate behavior.

The child reports satisfaction with meals and snacks.

The child receives voluntary medical, dental, and psychiatric care.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

VII. Clothing and Allowance

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size for interviews: One

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 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

3. **Ferree's Group Homes management provide children with the required weekly minimum allowance.**

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December 8, 2005

To: Candace Rhue
Group Home Audit Supervisor

From : Alisha Jones
Ferree's Group Home Administrator

Subject: CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN

The current status of Ferree's Group Home Site #3: All recommendation have been implemented as November 30, 2005 or will be implemented before December 31, 2005.

I. Facility and Environment

Recommendations

Site #3 Nicolet

a. The bricks and boards where removed from the backyard on October 12, 2005.
b. The broken panel will be replaced and the molding on the pantry doorway will be repaired before December 31, 2005.
c. The right burner on the stove was repaired as of December 8, 05.
d. Kitchen cabinet frames are scheduled for painting on December 23, 2005.
e. The replacement of the kitchen cabinet door will be done before December 31, 2005.
f. All window screens were replaced on October 16, 2005.
g. Bedroom dressers will be refinished before December 31, 2005.
h. Broken mirror in bedroom two was removed on October 11, 2005.
i. The electrical outlet in bedroom three was replaced on October 16, 2005.
j. The Needs and Services Plan have been incorporated into the three month quarterlies.

CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN CONTINUE:

Ferree's Group Home has implemented all of the recommended corrections. The Director and Administrator implemented the Corrective Action Plan. For quality assurance the facility managers along with the administrator will monitor the maintenance schedule and monthly facility inspections. For any questions please contact me at 951-922-3554.

Very truly yours,

Alisha Jones
Group Home Administrator