COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF AUDITOR-CONTROLLER

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J. TYLER McCAULEY
AUDITOR-CONTROLLER

July 13, 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 – TURMONT GROUP HOME**

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

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

Turmont 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 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 is providing the services as outlined in their Program Statement. However, the Agency needs to include the children's placement workers in the development and update of the Needs and Services Plans (NSPs); and maintain comprehensive NSPs that include short and long-term goals.

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:bg
http://auditor.co.la.ca.us/group_home.asp

Attachments

c: David E. Janssen, Chief Administrative Officer
David Sanders, Ph.D., Director, DCFS
Robert B. Taylor, Chief Probation Officer
Ora Quaynor, Executive Director, Turmont Home for Boys
Public Information Office
Audit Committee

Turmont Home for Boys
741 East Turmont Street
Carson, California 90746
Phone: (310) 532-5606
License Number: 191600783
Rate Classification Level: 8

I. Facility and Environment

Method of assessment – Observation

Comments:

Turmont 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.

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.

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

The Group Home maintains age appropriate and accessible recreational equipment. There are also board games, a TV, and a 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

There are no recommendations for this section.

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 placement workers are not included in the development or the update of the Needs and Services Plans (NSPs). NSPs are current; however, they are not comprehensive, and do not include short and long term goals.

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

Recommendations

1. **Turmont Group Home management:**

   a. **Include input from the placement workers in the development and update of the NSPs.**

   b. **Maintain NSPs that are comprehensive; specific, measurable, attainable, realistic, time limited and include short and long 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 provided with 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 children taking psychotropic medication. 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 express 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 able to make and receive personal telephone calls, send and receive unopened mail, and have private visitors. 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.

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:

Comments:

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

The Group Home provides children with the required minimum weekly allowance. Children spend their allowances as they choose.

The Group Home provides children with adequate personal care items.

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

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

TURMONT HOME FOR BOYS/GIRLS

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

April 3, 2006

County of Los Angeles
Department of Audit-Controller
Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
Attn: Candace Rhue, Group Home Audit Supervisor
500 W. Temple St., Room 515-A
Los Angeles, Ca. 90012

REF; **TURMONT HOME FOR BOYS/GIRLS**
741 E. Turmont St.
Carson, Ca. 90746
License No. 191600783
Rate Level 8
CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN **(BOYS SITE)**

II. PROGRAM SERVICES

1a,b. Each resident will be provided with a complete initial diagnostic after being admitted into the group home. A copy of this evaluation will be maintained in each client's case file.

All Needs and Service plan will be developed with both the resident and child's placement workers participation. Residents at Turmont Group Home 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 comprehensive, specific, measurable, attainable, realistic, time limited and include short term and long-term goals. The treatment plan will also be clearly defined and 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 month's, a copy of NSPs and quarterly reports will be maintained in all clients file.

Ora Quaynor, Administrator and Victor Bradley, Program Director will assure that Treatment Services are provided according the Program Statement that was designed for Turmont Home for Boys.

Ora Quaynor

Ora Quaynor, Administrator