



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

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July 27, 2007

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

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

SUBJECT: **GROUP HOME PROGRAM MONITORING REPORT – JEAN LORES
GROUP HOME, INCORPORATED - VERNON AVENUE GROUP HOME**

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

Vernon Avenue Group Home is a six-bed facility, which provides care for girls ages 11-17 years who exhibit behavioral, social, and emotional difficulties. At the time of the monitoring visit, Vernon Avenue Group Home was providing services for six DCFS children.

Vernon Avenue 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. The Agency needs to replace the bed comforters and maintain current authorizations for all children taking psychotropic medications.

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 Don Chadwick at (626) 293-1102.

JTM:DC:CC;jdh

Attachments

c: William T Fujioka, Chief Executive Officer
Patricia S. Ploehn, Director, DCFS
Susan Kerr, Chief Deputy, Director, DCFS
Robert B. Taylor, Chief Probation Officer
Delores Miguel, Executive Director, Jean Loes Group Home, Incorporated
Public Information Office
Audit Committee

**Jean Lores Group Home, Incorporated
Vernon Avenue Group Home
1867 West Vernon Avenue
Los Angeles, California 90062
Telephone: 323.294.3041
License Number: 191801275
Rate Classification Level: 8**

I. Facility and Environment

Method of assessment – Observation

Comments:

Vernon Avenue 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.

Overall, 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. However, the comforters on the beds are flat and worn. 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.

Recommendation

- 1. Jean Lores Group Home management replace the comforters on the children's beds.**

II. Program Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size: 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 NSPs are current, comprehensive, and include short and long term goals.

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

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

III. Educational and Emancipation Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size: 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: 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 also 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:

Documentation confirms that children are routinely seen by the prescribing psychiatrist. However, the Group Home does not have a current court authorization for the psychotropic medication that one child is taking.

Children are informed about their psychotropic medications and are aware of their right to refuse medication. Medication distribution logs are properly maintained.

Recommendation

2. Jean Lores Group Home management maintain current court authorizations for all children taking psychotropic medications.

VI. Personal Rights

Method of assessment – Interviews with children

Sample size: 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 the staff treats them with respect and dignity.

Children report that the discipline policies are consistently enforced and that there are fair and appropriate consequences for inappropriate behavior. Children also 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 also receive voluntary medical, dental, and psychiatric care.

Children report satisfaction with meals and snacks.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

VII. Clothing and Allowance

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size: Two

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

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

JEAN LORES GROUP HOME, INC.

1867 W. Vernon Ave, Los Angeles, CA 90062
(323) 294-3041 - Ph, (323) 295-4323 - Fax

June 12, 2007

FAXED to (213) 346-9020

Candace Rhue, GH Audit Supervisor
L A County Department of Audit Controller
Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 W. Temple Street, Room 515-A
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN

Ms. Rhue:

Attached please find the CAP in response to the March 2007 audit conducted by your office. I have since met with our staffs to address the concerns and establish a course of action to prevent any subsequent violations. Regarding facility and environment, all comforters have been replaced. Comforters will be routinely replaced each quarter, and more often or less as needed. The Facility Manager, Maggie Williams, is required to complete a monthly checklist which now includes comforters, to identify and request repairs/replacements of all deficits.

Regarding psychotropic medication authorization records, we are requiring back-up maintenance records by, myself - Dolores Miguel, the director. The Facility Manager who now completes both the appointments and the monthly checklist should be able to eliminate the risk of any missing records.

We apologize for the delay in getting the CAP to you. Feel free to contact me at the above number or my cell phone (310) 728-9059. I'm available at your request.

Respectfully,



Dolores J. Miguel, LCSW
Executive Director

CC: Maggie Williams, Facility Manager

Attachment/Items faxed on 06/14/07

JEAN LORES GROUP HOME
CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN

SITE LOCATION: 1867 W. Vernon Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90062
Facility Lic.# 191801275

I. Facility and Environment

1. Management complies as follows

All comforters in the children's bedrooms are immediately replaced. Comforters will be replaced routinely on a 4 - 6 month basis.

V. Psychotropic Medications

1. Management complies as follows:

All current authorizations for all children who are prescribed psychotropic medication are retained and will be maintained by routine monthly monitoring. A separate binder with authorizations will be maintained administratively by the director.



djr

05/11/2007