



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

KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION
500 WEST TEMPLE STREET, ROOM 525
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012-2706
PHONE: (213) 974-8301 FAX: (213) 626-5427

J. TYLER McCAULEY
AUDITOR-CONTROLLER

WENDY L. WATANABE
CHIEF DEPUTY

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 *tns*
Auditor-Controller

SUBJECT: **GROUP HOME PROGRAM MONITORING REPORT – POSITIVE PATH
YOUTH DEVELOPMENT CENTER, INCORPORATED - POSITIVE PATH
GROUP HOME**

We have completed a review of Positive Path Group Home (Group Home or Agency) operated by Positive Path Youth Development Center, Incorporated. The Group Home contracts with the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and the Probation Department (Probation).

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

Positive Path 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.

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"

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 address a few deficient areas.

Positive Path Group Home needs to repair the back yard gate and rain gutters, remove all debris from the back yard, replace the broken patio screen door, and repair the crack in the hall wall. The Group Home also needs to include the treatment team in the development and implementation of the Needs and Services Plans.

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
Violeta Houston, Executive Director, Positive Path Youth Development Center
Public Information Office
Audit Committee

**Positive Path Youth Development Center, Incorporated
Positive Path Group Home
801 East Radbard Street
Carson, California 90746
Telephone: 310.715.1173
License Number: 191600319
Rate Classification Level: 9**

I. Facility and Environment

Method of assessment – Observation

Comments:

Positive Path Group Home is located in a residential community. The exterior of the Group Home is well maintained and the front yard is clean. However, the back yard gate is off the hinges, the rain gutters are damaged, there is debris in the back yard, and the sliding patio screen door is broken.

Generally, the interior of the Group Home is well maintained. There is adequate furniture and lighting in the Group Home. The Group Home provides a home-like environment. The common quarters are neat and clean. However, there is a crack in the hall wall.

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

1. Positive Path Group Home management:

- a. Repair the back yard gate.**
- b. Repair or replace the rain gutters.**
- c. Remove all debris from the backyard.**

- d. Replace the sliding patio screen door.
- e. Repair the crack in the hall wall.

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 Needs and Services Plans (NSPs) are current, comprehensive, include short and long term goals, and input from the child. However, the treatment team is not included in the development or implementation of the NSPs.

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

Recommendation

2. **Positive Path Group Home management include input from the treatment team in the development and implementation of the Needs and Services Plans.**

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:

Children have current court authorizations for psychotropic medication. Documentation confirms that children are routinely seen by the prescribing psychiatrist.

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

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

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.

Positive Path Youth Development Center
801 E. Radbard St.
Carson Ca 90746
(310) 715-1173 (310) 851-4997

June 16, 2007

To: Group Home Audit Supervisor
County of Los Angeles
Department of Auditor-Controller
500 W. Temple Street, Room 515-A
Los Angeles, California 90012

After reviewing the report dated May 16, 2007 from the Department of Auditor-Controller, Positive Path Youth Development Center is in agreement with the findings and appreciates the following six recommendations.

***Facility and Environment**

Recommendations

Please Note: All items listed below had work orders on file except the crack in the hall wall.

Positive Path Group Home management:

- A. Repair the backyard gate.
- B. Repair or replace the rain gutters.
- C. Remove all debris from the backyard.
- D. Replace the sliding patio screen door.
- E. Repair the crack in the interior hall wall.

*The above recommendations were corrected on the following dates:

- A. The outside gate was repaired on April 30, 2007
- B. The rain gutters were repaired on April 30, 2007
- C. The debris in the backyard was removed on June 13, 2007
- D. The sliding patio screen door was repaired on April 30, 2007
- E. The crack in the interior hallway was repaired June 13, 2007

The Administrator will conduct weekly site inspections and complete the Group Home Self-Assessment Form to ensure routine maintenance; repairs and upkeep are completed in a timely manner. The Quality Improvement Controller will conduct quarterly inspections of the site to ensure repairs are properly completed and maintained.

***Program Services**

Recommendations

Positive Path Group Home management:

- A. Positive Path Group Home management includes input from the treatment team in the development and implementation of the Needs and Services Plan.

*A corrective action was implemented immediately.

A signature line was added to the Needs and Service Plan for the authorized representative to sign to ensure and show the participation in the development and implementation of our residents Need and Services Plans.

The LCSW will be using the new Needs and Services form (from DCFS) template as of July 19, 2007 to ensure and show the participation in the development and implementation of our residents Needs and Services Plans. The Administrator will review the plan upon completion to ensure participation of the entire treatment team.

We thank you for your recommendation noted above which will help us continuously improve the lives of our residents.

Respectfully,



Violeta Houston
Executive Director
Positive Path Youth Development Center