



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

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

FROM: J. Tyler McCauley 
Auditor-Controller

SUBJECT: **GROUP HOME PROGRAM MONITORING REPORT – LADORA’S
FAMILY SERVICES**

We have completed a review of Ladora’s Family Services (Ladora’s). Ladora’s is a licensed Group Home with Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and the Probation Department (Probation). Ladora’s is a six-bed facility located in the Second Supervisorial District that provides care for children, ages 10 to 17 years who exhibit social and emotional difficulties. At the time of the monitoring visit, Ladora’s was providing services for four Los Angeles County DCFS children.

Scope of Review

The purpose of the review was to verify that Ladora’s was providing the services outlined in its Program Statement. Additionally, the review covers basic child safety and licensing issues. The review included an evaluation of Ladora’s Program Statement, internal policies and procedures, child case records, a facility inspection, and interviews with two children placed with Ladora’s at the time of the review. The interviews with the residents were designed to obtain their perspectives on the program services provided by Ladora’s, and to ensure its adherence to the Foster Youth Bill of Rights.

Summary of Findings

Overall, Ladora's is providing the services outlined in its Program Statement. However, the agency needs to make a few facility repairs; furnish residents with a computer; improve its Quarterly Reports; and provide daily living skills training for age-appropriate residents.

Attached is a detailed report of the monitoring findings.

Review of Report

We discussed our report with the Agency's management. The Agency's management has agreed to provide DCFS with a written corrective action plan within fifteen business days from the receipt of this report. We thank Ladora's management and staff for their cooperation during our review.

If you have any questions, please contact me, or have your staff contact Patrick McMahon at (213) 974-0729.

JTM:PM:CC

Attachment

- c: David E. Janssen, Chief Administrative Officer
- Violet Varona-Lukens, Executive Officer
- Public Information Office
- Audit Committee
- David Sanders, Ph.D., Director, DCFS
- Richard Shumsky, Chief Probation Officer

**Ladora's Family Services
2003 W. 159th Street
Compton, CA 90220
(310) 669-3211
License No.: 198200453
Rate Classification Level: 8**

I. FACILITY AND ENVIRONMENT

(Facility Based - No Sample)

Method of assessment – Observation and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

Ladora's Family Services, Inc., is located in an attractive community in Compton. The facility is attractive, pleasingly landscaped, and blends well with other homes in the area. However, the exterior trim of the home needed painting and the wood at the top of the front porch post was rotted.

The interior of the home was neat and clean. The common rooms were nicely decorated and maintained. Resident bedrooms were comfortable and personalized with pictures and knick-knacks. Ladora's maintains an abundant supply of linens, toiletries and items for school.

There was age-appropriate recreation equipment in the home, resource material, and books. However, there was not a computer for residents to use.

Ladora's maintains a variety of frozen meats, vegetables and dry goods. Fresh snacks were available for residents and opened foods properly stored.

Recommendations

- 1. Ladora's Family Services management:**
 - a. Paint exterior trim around the house.**
 - b. Repair post on the front porch.**
 - c. Provide residents with a computer.**

PROGRAM SERVICES

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

The residents met Ladora's population criteria as outlined in their program statement and each received an initial diagnostic assessment after being admitted into the program.

The Needs and Service Plans (NSPs) were specific, measurable, attainable, realistic, and time limited.

One resident's Quarterly Report was not comprehensive in that reassessment of the child's adjustment to the group home, unmet needs, and progress towards objectives were not included in the report.

Both residents were receiving individual and group therapy sessions once a week.

Recommendations

- 2. Ladora's Family Services management develop comprehensive Quarterly Reports for each resident.**

III. EDUCATIONAL AND EMANCIPATION SERVICES

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

Both residents were enrolled in school and their records contained semester report cards and/or progress reports. The residents reported that they are provided with a sufficient amount of educational stimulation away from school on a daily basis and that the staff was supportive of their academic progress.

Development of daily living skills was not a part of the agency's program. The resident's stated that they were not involved in daily living skills, self-help, or survival skills training on a daily basis. Age-appropriate residents were offered the opportunity to participate in emancipation and vocational programs.

Recommendations

- 3. Ladora's Family Services management provide daily living, self-help, and survival skills training for age-appropriate residents.**

IV. RECREATION AND ACTIVITIES

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

Ladora's provided its residents with sufficient opportunities to participate in both on-site and off-site recreational activities. The residents expressed satisfaction with the quantity and variety of recreation and activities provided by the agency. The residents reported that they were able to participate in the selection of activities.

Local community organizations were utilized for recreation and program resources. According to the residents, they had plenty of free time and opportunities to participate in self-selected activities. Transportation is provided to and from all activities.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

V. PSYCHOTROPIC/OTHER MEDICATION

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: There were four residents placed in the agency at the time of the review. A review of case files was not conducted as there were no residents on psychotropic medication.

Comments:

According to Ladora's management, there were no residents receiving psychotropic medication.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

VI. PERSONAL RIGHTS

Method of assessment – Resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

Both residents reported satisfaction with the group home and stated that the house was always clean, well maintained, and safe. According to the residents they were always supervised in the home and staff treated them with respect and dignity.

The residents stated that they received an orientation upon placement which included a review of the group home's policies and procedures. Ladora's had an appropriate system of discipline that consisted of points and levels both residents felt was fair.

Both residents indicated that they could follow the religion of their choice or choose not to. They felt that their health care needs were being met and that staff was culturally sensitive to each resident's background and ethnicity.

Both residents felt their rights were respected with regard to health services, privacy during telephone calls or visits, and the right to contact their social workers, attorneys, and family. Both reported that household chores were fair. The residents were aware of their legal right to refuse medication.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

VII. CLOTHING AND ALLOWANCE

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

Ladora's provides appropriate clothing, items of necessity, and allowances to the residents. Ladora's supplies its residents with the required fifty dollar monthly clothing allowance, and the opportunity to select their own clothes. Clothing provided to the residents is of good quality and of sufficient quantity.

The residents were provided with a fair minimum weekly allowance that they were able to increase based on the agency's behavioral system.

Ladora's provides residents with adequate personal care items and sufficient, secure space to store their personal items.

Both residents had life books.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.