



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

KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION
500 WEST TEMPLE STREET, ROOM 525
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012-2766
PHONE: (213) 974-8301 FAX: (213) 626-5427

J. TYLER McCaULEY
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 MONITORING REPORT – POSITIVE PATH YOUTH
DEVELOPMENT CENTER**

We have completed a review of Positive Path Youth Development Center (Positive Path). Positive Path is contracted with the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and Probation Department. Positive Path is a six-bed facility located in the Second Supervisorial District that provides care for males ages 13-17 years who exhibit behavioral, social, and emotional difficulties. At the time of the monitoring visit, Positive Path was providing services for six Los Angeles County Probation children.

Scope of Review

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

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"

Summary of Findings

Generally, Positive Path is providing the services outlined in its Program Statement. However, Positive Path needs to make several repairs to its facility and improve its Needs and Services Plans.

Attached is a detailed report of the 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 receipt of this report. We thank Positive Path'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

POSITIVE PATH YOUTH DEVELOPMENT CENTER
801 Radbard Street
Carson, California 90746
Phone: (310) 715-1173
License No.: 191600317
Rate Classification Level: 9

I. FACILITY AND ENVIRONMENT

(Facility Based - No Sample)

Method of assessment – Observation and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

Positive Path Youth Development Center is located in a residential neighborhood of well maintained homes. There was no safety hazards noted during the facility inspection.

The interior of the home was bright and airy. Furnishings throughout the house were in very good condition. The bedrooms were clean, neat, comfortable, and personalized to each resident's desire. The bathrooms were clean with all fixtures in good working condition. However, there were some areas in need of improvement.

The screen door in the upstairs staff room was missing and the railing leading up the stairs was loose.

The insides of the kitchen cabinets and the stove/oven were dirty. Under the kitchen sink there was an opening around the pipes, and the kitchen counter tops were worn and chipped.

There was age-appropriate recreational equipment in the home, including electronic games and weightlifting equipment. There were also reference books and a VCR available to the residents for educational purposes. However, the computer was not operational.

There was a sufficient supply of frozen foods, meat, canned goods, bakery items, and fresh fruit. Food was stored and dated in a safe and appropriate manner.

Recommendations

- 1. Positive Path management:**
 - a. Replace the missing door screen in the upstairs staff room.**

- b. Tighten the railing leading up stairs.
- c. Clean the inside of the kitchen cabinets.
- d. Clean the stove and oven.
- e. Patch the holes under the kitchen sink.
- f. Replace the kitchen counter.
- g. Provide a computer for the residents' use.

II. PROGRAM SERVICES

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

Both residents met Positive Path's population criteria as outlined in their program statement and received a complete initial diagnostic assessment.

The Needs and Services Plans (NSPs) were not comprehensive because there was no information on the residents in the areas of physical and mental health or an assessment of their individual needs.

The Quarterly Reports were timely, comprehensive, and provided detailed information as to the progress of each resident.

The residents received individual and group therapy and the services of a tutor on a weekly basis.

Recommendations

- 2. Positive Path management develop comprehensive Needs and Services Plans.

III. EDUCATIONAL AND EMANCIPATION SERVICES

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

Both residents attend school and their files contained current report cards. The residents reported that they were provided a sufficient amount of educational stimulation away from school on a daily basis.

There was an in-house independent living program that taught self-help and survival skills. As part of the development of daily living skills, the residents were involved in meal preparation, doing their laundry, and personal care training.

Neither resident was employed.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

IV. RECREATION AND ACTIVITIES

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

Positive Path follows a monthly activity schedule developed by the staff and residents. During group sessions and honor nights the residents can suggest outings and activities.

Residents are encouraged to participate in activities that they desire and are able to play table games and read at free times during the day.

Transportation is provided to and from 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 six residents placed in the agency at the time of the review. A review of case files was not conducted as there were no residents prescribed psychotropic medications.

Comments:

According to management, none of the residents were 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:

The residents were presented with the policies, rules and regulations when arriving in placement. The home had an appropriate discipline system of levels and points which the residents felt was fair and fairly implemented.

The residents reported that living at the facility was good and that staff tried to help if they had problems. The residents stated that staff was respectful towards all residents. Both residents reported that they felt safe in the home and rated the facility as “very good.”

Both residents reported that their rights were respected with regard to privacy during telephone calls and visits and that they were able to call their Deputy Probation Officers, attorneys, or parents without any restriction. Both indicated that they could follow the religion of their choice or choose not to.

Both residents were aware of their 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:

Positive Path provides appropriate clothing, items of necessity, and allowances to the residents. Positive Path supplies its residents with the required monthly clothing allowance in the amount of fifty dollars, and the residents are given the opportunity to select their own clothes. Clothing provided to the residents is of good quality and of sufficient quantity.

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

Positive Path provides residents with adequate personal care items and sufficient, secure space to store their personal items.

The residents had life books.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.