



**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
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March 3, 2004

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

FROM: J. Tyler McCauley 
Auditor-Controller

SUBJECT: **GROUP HOME PROGRAM MONITORING REPORT – TURMONT
HOME FOR BOYS/GIRLS-TURMONT HOME FOR GIRLS**

We have completed a review of the group home operated by the Turmont Home for Boys/Girls, Turmont Home for Girls. Turmont Home for Girls contracts with the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and the Probation Department (Probation). Turmont Home for Girls is a six-bed facility located in the Fifth Supervisorial District, which provides care for girls ages 13-17 years who exhibit behavioral, social, and emotional difficulties. At the time of the monitoring visit, Turmont Home for Girls was providing services for five Los Angeles County DCFS children.

Scope of Review

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

Summary of Findings

Generally, Turmont Home for Girls is providing the services outlined in its Program Statement. However, we noted that the Agency needed to make substantial repairs to its facility; clean walls, carpet, rugs, and the bath and shower areas; and include each resident and their placement worker in the development and modification of the Needs and Services Plan.

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"

Attached is a detailed report of the review 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 15 business days from the receipt of this report. 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 DeWitt Roberts at (626) 293-1101.

JTM:DR:CC

c: David E. Janssen, Chief Administrative Officer
David Sanders, Ph.D., Director, DCFS
Richard Shumsky, Chief Probation Officer
Ora Quayor, Executive Director, Turmont Home for Boys/Girls
Violet Varona-Lukens, Executive Officer
Public Information Office
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TURMONT HOME FOR BOYS/GIRLS

**Turmont Home for Girls
1519 East Thomas Drive**

Lancaster, CA 93535

661-948-2634

License No.: 197600325

Rate Classification Level: 8

I. FACILITY AND ENVIRONMENT

(Facility Based - No Sample)

Method of assessment – Observation

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

Turmont is a two-story home located in a residential neighborhood in Lancaster. The home was nicely maintained and blended in with other homes in the neighborhood. However, there were only patches of dirt and weeds in the large backyard.

The interior of the home was adequately maintained with nicely furnished and decorated common rooms. The bedrooms were spacious and personalized by the residents. However, some areas needed improvement.

In the kitchen, the porcelain finish of the sink was worn. In the dining and TV area, the chaise lounge, the leather sofa, chair, and the dining chairs were dirty, and the wall was scratched and dented.

In the residents' bathroom, the vanity light fixture over the sink was rusted, the light bulbs were burned out, and the bathtub, shower tile, and grout were dirty. In the staff bathroom, the toilet seat was worn.

In bedroom number one, there was a broken electrical outlet cover, one dresser was broken, and both dressers had drawers that were cracked. In addition, the carpet and walls were dirty. In bedroom number two, the carpet and area rug were dirty and the dressers were broken. In bedroom number three, the lamp shade was missing and graffiti writing was on the bulletin boards.

Turmont had board games, video games, a TV, and DVD for the residents' use. There was a limited selection of books and no computer.

There was a sufficient supply of food properly stored.

Recommendations

1. Turmont management:

- a. **Reseed the backyard and maintain the area.**
- b. **Repair/replace the kitchen sink.**
- c. **Repair/clean the walls throughout the facility as needed.**
- d. **Clean the furniture in the dining and TV area.**
- e. **Replace the rusted vanity light fixture and light bulbs in the residents' bathroom.**
- f. **Clean the bathtub and shower areas in the residents' bathroom.**
- g. **Replace the toilet seat in the staff bathroom.**
- h. **Replace the electrical outlet cover in bedroom number one.**
- i. **Repair/replace the broken dressers in bedrooms number one and two.**
- j. **Clean the carpeting in bedrooms number one and two.**
- k. **Clean the area rug in bedroom number two.**
- l. **Replace the bulletin boards in bedroom number three.**
- m. **Replace the missing lampshade in bedroom number three.**
- n. **Provide an adequate amount of age-appropriate books and a computer for the residents.**

II. PROGRAM SERVICES

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

The residents met Turmont’s population criteria as outlined in their program statement and had initial diagnostic assessments.

The Needs and Services Plans (NSP) were realistic, measurable, and time specific. However, the NSPs were not signed by the residents. This was discussed with management who stated that the Agency never had residents sign their NSP. Only one resident’s placement worker participated in the development and modification of the NSP. Management stated that NSPs were usually given to placement workers for their review and signature, during their monthly visits. However, the resident’s placement worker was not given a copy of the resident’s NSP at the last visit.

The residents’ Quarterly Reports were current, comprehensive, and focused on the goals of their NSP.

The residents received individual and group therapy.

Recommendation

- 2. Turmont management include each resident and their placement worker in the development and modification of the Needs and Services Plan as required by the Statement of Work.**

III. EDUCATIONAL AND EMANCIPATION SERVICES

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

The residents were enrolled in public school and their records contained report cards and progress reports. Each resident required and had a current Individualized Educational Plan. The residents reported that they were assisted with their school work and that staff was supportive of their academic progress.

The residents reported that they received daily living skills training and emancipation services. Both residents were also Regional Center clients. The residents did not work and were able to spend their allowances as they wanted.

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:

Turmont followed a monthly activity schedule developed by staff and residents. The residents reported that they were allowed to participate in self-selected activities and had the opportunity to watch television, play games, and read at free times during the day.

Transportation was provided to and from activities.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

V. PSYCHOTROPIC MEDICATION

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

There were five residents placed in Turmont Home for Girls at the time of the review. A review of case files was not conducted as there were no residents prescribed psychotropic medications.

Comments:

A review of documentation revealed that there were no residents receiving psychotropic medications. This was confirmed by management.

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 facility’s policies, rules, and regulations when placed and felt that the rules were fair. They reported satisfaction with the home and stated that the staff was “cool” and “alright.”

Both residents felt safe in the home and reported that there was a sufficient number of staff in the home when residents were present. Both residents reported satisfaction with the food and rated the physical facility as “good.”

Resident chores included the upkeep of their bedrooms and bathroom, which the residents did not feel were too demanding.

Both residents were able to have telephone contact with their social workers and families, and reported that there was privacy during visits and telephone calls. Both indicated that they had religious freedom and that their health care needs were met.

Both residents were aware of the 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:

Turmont provided appropriate clothing, items of necessity, and allowances to the residents. Turmont supplied its residents with the required monthly clothing allowance in the amount of fifty dollars, and the residents were given the opportunity to select their own clothes. Clothing provided to the residents was of good quality and sufficient quantity.

The residents received at least the required minimum weekly allowance that they were able to increase based on the Agency’s behavioral system.

Turmont provided residents with adequate personal care items and sufficient, secure storage space.

The residents had life books.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.