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May 6, 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 – CHILDREN’S
HOMES OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA, BAIRD, RUNNEYMEDE,
SHOUP, VALERIO, AND VICTORY GROUP HOMES**

We have completed a review of the five group homes operated by the Children’s Homes of Southern California, Inc., Baird, Runneymede, Shoup, Valerio, and Victory. Each home contracts with the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and the Probation Department (Probation).

Baird, Runneymede, Shoup, Valerio, and Victory are six-bed facilities, which provide care for boys ages 10-17 years who exhibit severe emotional disturbances. At the time of the monitoring visit, each was providing services for six Los Angeles County DCFS children. One of the DCFS children placed at Runneymede was under joint supervision with Probation. Baird, Runneymede, Shoup, Valerio, and Victory are located in the Third District.

Scope of Review

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

“To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service”

Summary of Findings

Generally, all five homes were providing services outlined in their Program Statements. However, we did note a few areas where improvements are needed.

Baird

Baird needs to make several repairs to its facility, and complete initial diagnostic assessments for each resident.

Runneymede

Runneymede needs to provide sufficient lighting in a resident bedroom, and give each resident at least the required minimum weekly allowance.

Shoup

Shoup should complete initial diagnostic assessments for each resident, and provide each resident with sufficient clothing to meet DCFS' clothing standard for quantity.

Valerio

Valerio should provide sufficient lighting in a resident bedroom, improve its Needs and Services Plans; and include each resident in the planning of activities.

Victory

Victory needs to repair the sliding glass screen door in the living room.

Attached are detailed reports of the review findings.

Review of Report

We discussed our report with the Agency's management. The Agency's management has agreed to provide a corrective action plan within 15 business days from the receipt of this report. We thank the management and staff for their cooperation during our reviews.

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
Jorge Marquez, Executive Director, Children's Homes of Southern California
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**Children's Homes of Southern California
Baird Group Home
7701 Baird Avenue
Reseda, CA 91335
(818) 592-2960
License No.: 191221601
Rate Classification Level: 12**

I. Facility and Environment

(Facility Based - No Sample)

Method of assessment – Observation and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

The Children's Homes of Southern California (CHSC) operates five six-bed facilities, one being the Baird Group Home (Baird). The exterior of the property was nicely landscaped with a large backyard for the residents to use and play. The home was attractive and blended well with the other homes in the neighborhood.

The common rooms and areas in the interior of the home were generally neat and clean. The furnishings were comfortable and the décor presented a home-like environment. However, there were a few items that needed attention. A light fixture in the kitchen was missing the bulbs. The window screen in bathroom number three was missing, as was the screen door on the sliding patio door of the TV room.

The children's bedrooms were comfortable, spacious, and had furnishings in good condition. The residents were able to personalize their rooms with pictures, posters, knick-knacks, and other personal property. However, the lighting in bedroom number one was dim, and not sufficient for reading and studying.

Recreation equipment included a basketball hoop, balls, weight equipment, table games, foosball, and a punching bag. There was an adequate supply of resources and age-appropriate reading materials. The home also had electronic games, cable TV, VCR, DVD, and a computer.

There was a sufficient and accessible supply of frozen food, meat, canned goods, bakery items, and fresh fruit. However, there were open bags of macaroni and rice in the kitchen cabinets, and frozen bulk food items in the freezer, that were not properly labeled.

Recommendations

- 1. CHSC management:**
 - a. Replace the light bulbs in the kitchen ceiling light fixture.**
 - b. Replace the screen on the window in bathroom number three.**
 - c. Replace the screen door on the glass slider in the TV room.**
 - d. Provide sufficient lighting in each resident's bedroom.**
 - e. Properly store and label food.**

II. Program Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

The residents met CHSC's population criteria as outlined in their program statement. One resident received an initial diagnostic assessment after being admitted into the program, but the other resident did not. CHSC administration indicated that the resident was admitted at a time when therapeutic services for the home were in transition and did not have an assigned therapist.

The Needs and Services Plans (NSPs) were current, realistic, measurable, and time specific. Both residents and their placement workers participated in developing and updating the NSPs.

The Quarterly Reports were current, comprehensive, timely, and focused on the goals in each resident's NSP.

The residents received individual and group therapy.

Recommendation

- 2. CHSC management provide initial diagnostic assessments for each resident within the first 30 days of placement.**

III. Educational and Emancipation Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

The interviewed residents attended school. Both residents required, and had current Individualized Education Plans, and their case records contained semester report cards and/or progress reports. The residents reported that they were provided with a sufficient amount of educational stimulation away from school on a daily basis and that staff was supportive of their academic progress.

Development of daily living skills was a part of Baird's program. The residents were involved in daily chores, including doing their laundry, and personal care.

Neither resident was age-appropriate for emancipation services or vocational training programs. The residents were not employed, but 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:

Baird followed a monthly activity schedule. Input into the activities was available during group sessions, and the residents could ask staff for specific activities at any time.

Residents were encouraged to participate in activities that they desired. Many of the outings occurred on weekends.

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

There were five residents placed in Baird at the time of the review. A review of case files was conducted for the three residents prescribed psychotropic medications.

Comments:

The residents receiving psychotropic medications had current court authorizations, or the authorizations had been submitted for approval. Documentation confirmed that the residents were routinely seen by the psychiatrist for a review of their medication.

Medication logs were properly maintained.

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 participated in an initial orientation, and Baird's policies and procedures were posted in the facility. The residents stated that the rules were generally fair, as were the consequences for not following them. They liked and felt safe in the home, and felt they were treated with respect. The children indicated that a sufficient number of staff were always in the home when residents were present, and rated the facility as "good" and "very good."

Resident chores included the maintenance of their own rooms and common areas. These involved daily upkeep and cleaning, and were rotated weekly. The residents did not feel they were too demanding or hard.

The residents were able to have telephone contact with their placement worker as they wished, and felt that their phone calls and visits were permitted with sufficient privacy.

Each resident indicated that they had religious freedom, and felt that the staff was culturally sensitive to each resident's background and ethnicity.

The residents expressed overall satisfaction with the food and described it as "good."

The residents felt that their health care needs were being met. They had been informed about medication administered and 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:

Baird provided appropriate clothing, items of necessity, and allowances to the residents. Baird 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 were provided with at least the required minimum allowance, and were able to earn an increase, based on the Agency's behavioral system.

Baird provided 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.

**Children's Homes of Southern California
Runneymede Group Home
15352 Runneymede Street
Van Nuys, CA 91405
(818) 592-2960
License No.: 191221595
Rate Classification Level: 12**

I. Facility and Environment

(Facility Based - No Sample)

Method of assessment – Observation and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

The Children's Homes of Southern California (CHSC) operates five six-bed facilities, one being the Runneymede Group Home (Runneymede). Located on a cul-de-sac in a pleasant neighborhood, the home was nicely landscaped and blended well with the other homes in the area. There was a secured, fenced swimming pool for the residents' use in the backyard.

Overall, the common rooms and areas in the interior of the home were neat and clean. The furnishings were comfortable and the décor presented a home-like environment.

The children's bedrooms were comfortable, spacious, and had furnishings in good condition. The residents were able to personalize their rooms with pictures, posters, knick-knacks, and other personal property. However, the lighting in bedroom number one was dim, and not sufficient for reading and studying.

Recreation equipment included a basketball hoop, balls, weight equipment, table games, and a punching bag. There was an adequate supply of resource and age-appropriate reading materials. The home also had electronic games, stereo, cable TV, VCR, DVD, and a computer.

There was a sufficient and accessible supply of frozen food, meat, canned goods, bakery items, and fresh fruit. Food items were properly stored, and met standards for freshness and quality.

Recommendation

- 1. CHSC management provide sufficient lighting in each resident's bedroom.**

II. Program Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

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

The Needs and Services Plans (NSPs) were current, realistic, measurable, and time specific. Both residents and their placement workers participated in developing and updating the NSPs.

The Quarterly Reports were current, comprehensive, timely, and focused on the goals in each resident's NSP.

The residents received individual and group therapy.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

III. Educational and Emancipation Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

The interviewed residents attended school. One resident required, and had a current Individualized Education Plan. Both residents' case records contained semester report cards, and/or progress reports. The residents reported that they were provided a sufficient amount of educational stimulation away from school on a daily basis, and that staff was supportive of their academic progress.

Development of daily living skills was a part of Runneymede's program. The residents were involved in daily chores, including doing their laundry, and personal care.

Both residents had been offered the opportunity to participate in emancipation programs; however, were not age-appropriate for vocational training programs. The residents were not employed, but 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:

Runneymede followed a monthly activity schedule. Input into the activities was available during group sessions, and the residents could ask staff for specific activities at any time.

Residents were encouraged to participate in activities that they desired. Many of the outings occurred on weekends.

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

There were six residents placed in Runneymede at the time of the review. A review of case files was conducted for the five residents prescribed psychotropic medications.

Comments:

The residents receiving psychotropic medications had current court authorizations. Documentation confirmed that the residents were routinely seen by the psychiatrist for a review of their medication.

Medication logs were properly maintained.

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 residents stated that the rules were generally fair, as were the consequences for not following them. They liked the staff, and felt safe in the home. The children felt they were treated fairly and with respect. They indicated that a sufficient number of staff were always in the home when residents were present, and rated the facility as “fair” and “good.”

Resident chores included the maintenance of their own rooms and common areas. These involved daily upkeep and cleaning, and were rotated weekly. The residents did not feel they were too demanding or hard.

The residents were able to have telephone contact with their placement worker as they wished, and felt that their phone calls and visits were permitted with sufficient privacy. Each resident indicated that they had religious freedom, and felt that the staff was culturally sensitive to each resident’s background and ethnicity.

The residents expressed overall satisfaction with the food, and rated it as “good.”

The residents felt that their health care needs were being met. They had been informed about medication administered and 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:

Runnymede provided appropriate clothing and items of necessity to the residents. Runnymede 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 were able to increase their weekly allowance based on the Agency's behavioral system. However, the children reported, and records confirmed, that they were not receiving the required minimum weekly allowance for their age. This was discussed with CHSC administration at the exit conference, who reported that the minimum allowance had been based on a younger population that had previously resided in the home, and this error would be corrected immediately.

Runneymede provided residents with adequate personal care items and sufficient secure space to store their personal items.

Both residents had life books.

Recommendation

- 2. CHSC management provide residents with at least the required minimum weekly allowance.**

**Children's Homes of Southern California
Shoup Group Home
6450 Shoup Avenue
West Hills, CA 91307
(818) 592-2960
License No.: 197601995
Rate Classification Level: 12**

I. Facility and Environment

(Facility Based - No Sample)

Method of assessment – Observation and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

The Children's Homes of Southern California (CHSC) operates five six-bed facilities, one being the Shoup Group Home (Shoup). The home was attractive, nicely landscaped, and blended well with other houses on the block. The exterior of the property was well maintained and the backyard had a covered patio.

Overall, the common rooms and areas in the interior of the house were neat and clean. The furnishings were comfortable, and the décor presented a home-like environment.

The children's bedrooms were comfortable, spacious, and had furnishings in good condition. The residents were able to personalize their rooms with pictures, posters, knick-knacks, and other personal property.

Recreation equipment included balls, weight equipment, table games, Ping-Pong table, a punching bag, and basketball court. There were encyclopedias, and age-appropriate reading materials. The home also had Nintendo, cable TV, VCR, DVD, and a computer.

There was a sufficient and accessible supply of frozen food, meat, canned goods, bakery items, and fresh fruit. Food items were properly stored, and met standards for freshness and quality.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

II. Program Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

The residents met CHSC's population criteria as outlined in their program statement. One resident received an initial diagnostic assessment after being admitted into the program, but the other resident did not. CHSC administration indicated that the resident was admitted at a time when therapeutic services for the home were in transition and did not have an assigned therapist.

The Needs and Services Plans (NSPs) were current, realistic, measurable, and time specific. Both residents, and their placement workers participated in developing and updating the NSPs.

The quarterly reports were current, comprehensive, timely, and focused on the goals in each resident's NSP.

The residents received individual and group therapy.

Recommendation

- 1. CHSC management provide initial diagnostic assessments for each resident within the first 30 days of placement.**

III. Educational and Emancipation Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

Both residents attended school. One resident required, and had a current Individualized Education Plan. Both residents' case records contained semester report cards, and/or progress reports. The residents reported that they were provided a sufficient amount of educational stimulation away from school on a daily basis, and that staff was supportive of their academic progress.

Development of daily living skills was a part of Shoup's program. The residents were involved in daily chores, including doing their laundry, and personal care.

Neither resident was age-appropriate for emancipation services, or vocational training programs. The residents were not employed, but 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:

Shoup followed a monthly activity schedule. Input into the activities was available during group sessions, and the residents could ask staff for specific activities at any time.

Residents were encouraged to participate in activities that they desired. Many of the outings occurred on weekends.

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

There were six residents placed in Shoup at the time of the review. A review of case files was conducted for the four residents prescribed psychotropic medications.

Comments:

The residents receiving psychotropic medications had current court authorizations or the authorizations had been submitted for approval. Documentation confirmed that the residents were routinely seen by the psychiatrist for a review of their medication.

Medication logs were properly maintained.

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 residents reported that the rules were generally fair, as were the consequences for not following them. The residents liked and felt safe in the home. The children felt they were treated well and with respect. They indicated that a sufficient number of staff were always in the home when residents were present, and rated the facility as “good.”

Resident chores included the maintenance of their own rooms and common areas. These involved daily upkeep and cleaning, and were rotated weekly. The residents did not feel they were too demanding or hard.

The residents were able to have telephone contact with their placement worker as they wished, and felt that their phone calls and visits were permitted with sufficient privacy. Each resident indicated that they had religious freedom, and felt that the staff was culturally sensitive to each resident’s background and ethnicity.

The residents expressed overall satisfaction with the food, and described it as “fair” and “good.”

The residents felt that their health care needs were being met. They had been informed about medication administered, and 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:

The residents met DCFS' clothing standards for quality, but did not meet standards for quantity. One resident needed slippers and a bathrobe. The other resident needed a sufficient amount of pants, underwear, pajamas, socks, and slippers. Shoup supplied its residents with the required monthly clothing allowance in the amount of fifty dollars, and the residents were able to select their own clothes.

The residents were provided with at least the required minimum allowance, and were able to earn an increase, based on the Agency's behavioral system.

Shoup provided residents with adequate personal care items and sufficient secure space to store their personal items.

Both residents had life books.

Recommendation

- 2. CHSC management provide each child with sufficient clothes to meet DCFS' clothing standards for quantity.**

**Children's Homes of Southern California
Valerio Group Home
14239 Valerio Street
Van Nuys, CA 91405
(818) 592-2960
License No.: 191221575
Rate Classification Level: 12**

I. Facility and Environment

(Facility Based - No Sample)

Method of assessment – Observation and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

The Children's Homes of Southern California (CHSC) operates five six-bed facilities, one being the Valerio Group Home (Valerio). The attractive, ranch-style home blended well with the other homes in the area. The exterior of the property was properly maintained, and had a large backyard.

Overall, the common rooms and areas in the interior of the home were neat and clean. The furnishings were comfortable and the décor presented a home-like environment.

The children's bedrooms were comfortable, spacious, and had furnishings in good condition. The residents were able to personalize their rooms with pictures, posters, knick-knacks, and other personal property. However, the lighting in bedroom number two was dim, and not sufficient for reading and studying.

Recreation equipment included balls, foosball, weight equipment, table games, a kick bag, and basketball court. There were encyclopedias and age-appropriate reading materials. The home also had a Play Station II, cable TV, VCR, and a computer.

There was a sufficient and accessible supply of frozen food, meat, canned goods, bakery items, and fresh fruit. Food items were properly stored, and met standards for freshness and quality.

Recommendation

- 1. CHSC management provide sufficient lighting in each resident's bedroom.**

II. Program Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

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

The residents and their placement workers participated in development and update of the Needs and Services Plans. One resident's Needs and Services Plan (NSP) was current, realistic, measurable, and time specific. The other resident's NSP was current; however, it did not have goals that were specific or measurable.

One resident's quarterly report was current, comprehensive, timely, and focused on the goals noted in the NSP. The other quarterly report was deficient, as it could not focus on the goals that were insufficiently stated in the Needs and Services Plan.

The residents received individual and group therapy.

Recommendations

2. CHSC management:

- a. Ensure that each resident's Needs and Services Plan contains goals that are specific and measurable.**
- b. Ensure that each resident's quarterly report focuses on goals noted in the Needs and Services Plan.**

III. Educational and Emancipation Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

Both residents attended school. One resident required, and had a current Individualized Education Plan. Both residents' case records contained semester report cards, and/or progress reports. The residents reported they were provided a sufficient amount of educational stimulation away from school on a daily basis, and that staff was supportive of their academic progress.

Development of daily living skills was a part of Valerio's program. The residents were involved in daily chores, including doing their laundry, and personal care.

Both residents had been offered the opportunity to participate in emancipation programs. One age-appropriate resident had been offered vocational training programs. The residents were not employed, but 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:

Valerio followed a monthly activity schedule. Input into the activities was available during group sessions. However, both residents felt that the staff was not responsive to their requests, and only selected activities based on the staff choices. This was discussed with CHSC administration who was unaware of the children's perspective, and would address the issue with staff.

Transportation was provided to and from activities.

Recommendation

- 3. CHSC ensure that activities requested and suggested by the children are reasonably and fairly considered by the staff and used whenever possible.**

V. Psychotropic Medication

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents

There were six residents placed in Valerio at the time of the review. A review of one case file was conducted for the resident prescribed psychotropic medication.

Comments:

The resident receiving psychotropic medication had a current court authorization. Documentation confirmed that the resident was routinely seen by the psychiatrist for a review of his medication.

Medication logs were properly maintained.

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 participated in an initial orientation, and Valerio's policies and procedures were posted in the facility. Both residents felt that there was appropriate discipline and rewards system in place. However, one resident felt the enforcement of a ten minute limit on telephone calls was not long enough, especially with family members. The resident's concern was discussed with the CHSC administration during the exit conference, who explained that according to the "House Rules" in CHSC's Program Statement, phone calls were limited to two 10-15 minute calls daily, with exceptions of calls to family members, or authorized representatives. The residents were able to have telephone contact with their placement worker as they wished, and felt that their visits were permitted with sufficient privacy.

The residents stated that they felt safe in the home, and that they were generally treated with respect. They indicated that a sufficient number of staff were always in the home when residents were present, and rated the facility as "fair" to "good."

Resident chores included the maintenance of their own rooms, and common areas. These involved daily upkeep and cleaning, and were rotated weekly. The residents did not feel they were too demanding or hard.

The residents indicated they had religious freedom, and felt that the staff was culturally sensitive to each resident's background and ethnicity.

Recommendation

- 4. CHSC ensure that staff are permitting residents sufficient time for approved phone calls with family members, per the policy within the CHSC's Program Statement.**

VII. Clothing and Allowance

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

Valerio provided appropriate clothing, items of necessity, and allowances to the residents. Valerio 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 were provided with at least the required minimum allowance, and were able to earn increases based on the Agency's behavioral system.

Valerio provided 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.

**Children's Homes of Southern California
Victory Group Home
22455 Victory Boulevard
Canoga Park, CA 91307
(818) 592-2960
License No.: 191222471
Rate Classification Level: 12**

I. Facility and Environment

(Facility Based - No Sample)

Method of assessment – Observation and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

The Children's Homes of Southern California (CHSC) operates five six-bed facilities, one being the Victory Group Home (Victory). The attractive ranch-style home blended well with other homes in the area. The exterior of the property was well maintained with a secured, fenced swimming pool, and covered patio in the backyard.

The common rooms and areas in the interior of the home were generally neat and clean. The furnishings were comfortable, and the décor presented a home-like environment. However, the screen door on the living room sliding door was bent and not properly functioning.

The children's bedrooms were comfortable, spacious, and had furnishings in good condition. The residents were able to personalize their rooms with pictures, posters, knick-knacks, and other personal property.

The recreation equipment included balls, weight equipment, table games, a punching bag, and basketball court. There were reference books, and age-appropriate reading materials. The home also had electronic games, cable TV, VCR, and a computer.

There was a sufficient, and accessible supply of frozen food, meat, canned goods, bakery items, and fresh fruit. Food items were properly stored and met standards for freshness and quality.

Recommendation

- 1. CHSC management repair the screen door for the living room sliding glass door.**

II. Program Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

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

The Needs and Services Plans (NSPs) were current, realistic, measurable, and time specific. The residents and their placement workers participated in developing and updating the NSPs.

The Quarterly Reports were current, comprehensive, timely, and focused on the goals in each resident's NSP.

The residents received individual and group therapy.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

III. Educational and Emancipation Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

Both residents attended school. One resident required, and had a current Individualized Education Plan. Both residents' case records contained semester report cards, and/or progress reports. The residents reported that they were provided a sufficient amount of educational stimulation away from school on a daily basis, and that staff was supportive of their academic progress.

Development of daily living skills was a part of Victory's program. The residents were involved in daily chores, including doing their laundry, and personal care.

Both residents had been offered the opportunity to participate in emancipation programs. One age-appropriate resident had been offered vocational training programs. One resident had been employed while in placement, and was able to manage his own money. Both residents 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:

Victory followed a monthly activity schedule. Input into the activities was available during group sessions, and the residents could ask staff for specific activities at any time.

Residents were encouraged to participate in activities that they desired. Many of the outings occurred on weekends.

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

There were six residents placed in Victory at the time of the review. A review of case files was conducted for the three residents prescribed psychotropic medications.

Comments:

The residents receiving psychotropic medications had current court authorizations, or the authorizations had been submitted for approval. Documentation confirmed that the residents were routinely seen by the psychiatrist for a review of their medication.

Medication logs were properly maintained.

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 residents stated that the rules were generally fair, as were the consequences for not following them. Both residents liked and felt safe in the home. The children liked the staff, and felt they were treated well and with respect. They indicated that a sufficient number of staff were always in the home when residents were present, and rated the facility as “very good.”

Resident chores included the maintenance of their own rooms and common areas. These involved daily upkeep and cleaning, and were rotated weekly. The residents did not feel they were too demanding or hard.

The residents were able to have telephone contact with their placement worker as they wished, and felt that their phone calls and visits were permitted with sufficient privacy. Each resident indicated that they had religious freedom, and felt that the staff was culturally sensitive to each resident’s background and ethnicity.

The residents expressed overall satisfaction with the food, and described it as “good.”

The residents felt that their health care needs were being met. They had been informed about medication administered, and 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:

Victory provided appropriate clothing, items of necessity, and allowances to the residents. Victory supplied its residents with the required monthly clothing allowance in the amount of \$50, 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 were provided with at least the required minimum allowance, and were able to earn increases based on the Agency's behavioral system.

Victory provided 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.