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AUDITOR-CONTROLLER

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

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July 20, 2004

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

FROM: J. Tyler McCauley 
Auditor-Controller

SUBJECT: **GROUP HOME PROGRAM MONITORING REPORT – FRED
JEFFERSON MEMORIAL HOME FOR BOYS, COMPTON AND
DENKER HOUSES**

We have completed a review of Fred Jefferson Memorial Home Group Homes, Compton and Denker Houses (Group Home or Agency) operated by the Fred Jefferson Memorial Home for Boys. The Group Home contracts with the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and the Probation Department (Probation).

Compton House and Denker House Group Homes are six-bed facilities, which provide care for boys ages 7-14 who exhibit behavioral, social, and emotional difficulties. At the time of the monitoring visit, Compton House Group/ Home was providing services for six Los Angeles County DCFS children. Denker House Group Home was providing services for four DCFS children. Both Group Homes are located in the Second District.

Scope of Review

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

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"

Summary of Findings

Generally, the Agency was providing the services outlined in their Program Statement. However, we did note areas where improvements are needed.

Compton House Group Home

Compton House Group Home needs to make repairs to its facility; replace worn pillows on the residents' beds; provide sufficient age appropriate reading books; teach residents basic living skills; provide a sufficient amount of age appropriate recreational activities; train and encourage staff to increase positive interactions with residents; and provide residents with at least the required minimum base allowance.

Denker House Group Home

Denker House Group Home needs to clean the stained carpet throughout its facility; provide sufficient age appropriate reading books; maintain current quarterly reports that are comprehensive and focused on the goals in the Needs and Services Plans.; teach residents basic living skills; provide a sufficient amount of age appropriate recreational activities; train and encourage staff to increase positive interactions with residents; and provide residents with at least the required minimum base allowance.

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 is required to provide a corrective action plan to the Children's Group Home Ombudsman 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:asl

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

**Fred Jefferson Memorial Home for Boys
Compton House
1000 West 152nd St.
Compton, CA 90220
Phone: (310) 609-1166
License No.: 198200050
Rate Classification Level: 10**

I. Facility and Environment

(Facility Based - No Sample)

Method of assessment – Observation and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

Compton House Group Home (Group Home or Agency) is located in a suburban neighborhood and blends in well with the other homes on the street. The exterior of the Group Home and the surrounding grounds are rundown and unkempt. The house has patchy paint of different colors on the exterior. The yard is not landscaped, the chain link fence surrounding the yard is broken, and the cement is stained and cracked presenting a safety hazard. The trash cans are kept in a play area. There is a broken down gazebo structure in the back yard. In addition, the water heater cover is broken with weeds growing around it.

The interior of the Group Home is generally neat and clean. The residents are able to personalize their bedrooms by posting pictures and personal items on the walls. However, there are two areas that need improvement.

The hallway carpet is stained and some of the pillows on the residents' beds are worn and flat.

The Group Home maintains age-appropriate and accessible recreational equipment. There are also video games, board games, and a computer. However, there is an insufficient amount of age appropriate books.

There is a sufficient amount of food that is appropriately dated and properly stored.

Recommendations

- 1. Fred Jefferson Memorial Group Home for Boys management:**
 - a. Paint the exterior of the house the same color.**
 - b. Improve the landscaping of the yard.**

- c. **Repair the chain link fence surrounding the yard.**
- d. **Repair or replace the stained and broken cement in the yard.**
- e. **Remove the trash cans from the play areas.**
- f. **Repair or remove the gazebo structure.**
- g. **Replace the water heater cover and remove the surrounding weeds.**
- h. **Clean the hallway carpet.**
- i. **Replace the worn pillows on the residents' beds.**
- j. **Provide sufficient age-appropriate books 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 meet the Agency's population as outlined in their Program Statement. Residents received a complete initial diagnostic assessment after being admitted into the Agency's program.

The Needs and Services Plans (NSPs) are current, detailed, measurable, and achievable. There is documentation to support that the residents and their authorized representatives participate in the development and update of the NSPs.

The quarterly reports for residents are current, comprehensive, and appropriately focus on the goals of the NSPs.

The residents are provided with psychological testing, and emotional and developmental counseling as required by the Program Statement. Case files reflect adequate documentation to show evidence of residents receiving regular weekly individual and/or 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:

Residents are attending school. Both records contain current semester report cards and/or progress reports for the residents. Residents reported that they are provided with a sufficient amount of daily educational stimulation away from school and feel that the Group Home is supportive of their academic progress.

The Agency's program does not include the development of residents' daily living skills.

Residents are offered the opportunity to participate in emancipation and vocational programs as appropriate.

Residents have the opportunity to work and manage their own money.

Recommendation

- 2. Fred Jefferson Memorial Group Home for Boys management teach residents basic daily living skills.**

IV. Recreation and Activities

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

The Agency is not providing sufficient or appropriate recreational activities to its residents. The residents expressed dissatisfaction with the variety and the quantity of activities provided. The residents reported that they are exposed to a limited number of organized, age appropriate outings and events. This was confirmed by a review of the recreation schedules.

The Group Home utilizes local community organizations for recreation and program resources. The residents reported that they sometimes participate in the planning of the activities. The residents have free time and are able to participate in self-selected activities.

Transportation is provided to and from some of the activities.

Recommendation

- 3. Fred Jefferson Memorial Group Home for Boys management provide a sufficient amount of age-appropriate recreational activities.**

V. Psychotropic Medication

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents

Comments:

According to Group Home management, there are no residents receiving psychotropic medication. This was appropriately documented.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

VI. Personal Rights

Method of assessment – Resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

Residents expressed satisfaction with the Agency and its staff. Residents participate in an initial orientation and the Group Home's policies and procedures are posted. Residents reported that they feel safe in the Group Home and that there is no interference with their daily living functions.

Residents expressed satisfaction with the Agency. Residents reported that they feel safe in the Group Home and that there is no interference with their daily living functions.

Residents reported a general level of satisfaction with the taste of the food. They reported that there is sufficient staff supervision and expressed some level of satisfaction with the quality of their interactions with staff. Although residents stated that most of the staff are fair and respectful, there is very little interaction between the residents and the staff. Residents expressed that this makes them feel that the staff does not care about them.

Residents reported that they are assigned chores to complete on a daily basis that are reasonable and not too demanding. Residents are able to have visitors and make and receive personal telephone calls. They are permitted to contact their social workers, attorneys, and family members as needed. Residents are able to attend weekly

religious services of their choice and feel that the Agency is respectful of their cultural lifestyles. The Agency allows the residents to celebrate holidays.

Residents reported that the discipline policies are consistently enforced and that there are fair and appropriate consequences for inappropriate behavior.

Residents are aware of their right to refuse medication.

Recommendation

- 4. Fred Jefferson Memorial Group Home for Boys management train and encourage staff to increase positive interactions with the residents.**

VII. Clothing and Allowance

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

The Agency provides appropriate clothing, items of necessity, and allowances to the residents. The Group Home supplies its residents with the required \$50 monthly clothing allowance 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 Agency does not provide residents with the required minimum base allowance. Residents are able to increase their allowance according to the Agency's behavioral system. Residents are permitted to spend their allowances as they choose.

The Agency provides residents with adequate personal care items and adequate storage.

The residents have life books.

Recommendation

- 5. Fred Jefferson Memorial Group Home for Boys management provide residents with at least the required minimum base allowance.**

**Fred Jefferson Memorial Home for Boys
Denker House
9156 S. Denker Ave.
Los Angeles, CA 90047
Phone: (323) 820-1900
License No.: 198201547
Rate Classification Level: 10**

I. Facility and Environment

(Facility Based - No Sample)

Method of assessment – Observation and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

Denker House Group Home (Group Home or Agency) is located in a suburban neighborhood and blends in well with the other homes on the street. The exterior of the Group Home and the surrounding grounds are clean and comfortable.

The interior of the Group Home is generally neat and clean. Residents are able to personalize their bedrooms by posting pictures and personal items on the walls. However, the carpet throughout the Group Home is stained.

The Group Home maintains age-appropriate and accessible recreational equipment. There are also video games, board games, and a computer. However, there is an insufficient amount of age appropriate books.

There is a sufficient amount of food that is appropriately dated and properly stored.

Recommendations

- 1. Fred Jefferson Memorial Group Home for Boys management:**
 - a. Clean the stained carpet throughout the Group Home.**
 - b. Provide sufficient age appropriate books 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 meet the Agency's population criteria as outlined in their Program Statement. Residents received a complete initial diagnostic assessment after being admitted into the Agency's program.

The Needs and Services Plans (NSPs) are current, realistic, measurable, and time specific. There was appropriate documentation to support the placement worker's participation in the development and update of the NSPs.

The quarterly reports for residents are not current, comprehensive, and appropriately focus on the goals of the NSPs.

The residents are provided with psychological testing, and emotional and developmental counseling as required by the Program Statement. Case files reflect adequate documentation to show evidence of residents receiving regular weekly individual and/or group therapy.

Recommendations

2. **Fred Jefferson Memorial Group Home for Boys management maintain current quarterly reports for the residents that are comprehensive, and appropriately focus on the goals of the NSPs.**

III. Educational and Emancipation Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

Residents are attending school. Both records contain current semester report cards and/or progress reports for the residents. Residents reported that they are provided with a sufficient amount of daily educational stimulation away from school and feel that the Group Home is supportive of their academic progress.

The Agency's program does not include the development of residents' daily living skills.

Residents are offered the opportunity to participate in emancipation and vocational programs as appropriate.

Residents have the opportunity to work and manage their own money.

Recommendation

3. Fred Jefferson Memorial Group Home for Boys management teach the residents basic daily living skills.

IV. Recreation and Activities

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

The Agency is not providing sufficient recreational activities to its residents. The residents expressed dissatisfaction with the variety and the quantity of activities provided. The residents reported that they are exposed to a limited number of organized, age appropriate outings and events. This was confirmed by a review of the recreation schedules.

The Group Home utilizes some of the local community organizations for recreation and program resources. The children reported that they have free time and are able to participate in self-selected activities.

Transportation is provided to and from some of the activities.

Recommendation

4. Fred Jefferson Memorial Group Home for Boys management provide a sufficient number of age appropriate recreational activities.

V. Psychotropic Medication

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents

Comments:

According to Group Home management, there are no residents receiving psychotropic medication. This was appropriately documented.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

VI. Personal Rights

Method of assessment – Resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

Residents expressed satisfaction with the Agency and its staff. Residents participate in an initial orientation and the Group Home's policies and procedures are posted. Residents reported that they feel safe in the Group Home and that there is no interference with their daily living functions.

Residents expressed satisfaction with the Agency. Residents reported that they feel safe in the Group Home and that there is no interference with their daily living functions.

Residents reported a general level of satisfaction with the taste of the food. They reported that there is sufficient staff supervision and expressed some level of satisfaction with the quality of their interactions with staff. Although residents stated that most of the staff are fair and respectful, there is very little interaction between the residents and the staff. Residents expressed that this makes them feel that the staff does not care about them.

Residents reported that they are assigned chores to complete on a daily basis that are reasonable and not too demanding. Residents are able to have visitors and make and receive personal telephone calls. They are permitted to contact their social workers, attorneys, and family members as needed. Residents are able to attend weekly religious services of their choice and feel that the Agency is respectful of their cultural lifestyles. The Agency allows the residents to celebrate holidays.

Residents reported that the discipline policies are consistently enforced and that there are fair and appropriate consequences for inappropriate behavior.

Residents are aware of their right to refuse medication.

Recommendation

- 5. Fred Jefferson Memorial Group Home for Boys management train and encourage staff to increase positive interactions with the residents.**

VII. Clothing and Allowance

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

The Agency provides appropriate clothing, items of necessity and allowances to the residents. The Group Home supplies its residents with the required \$50 monthly clothing allowance 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 Agency does not provide residents with the required minimum base allowance. Residents are able to increase their allowance according to the Agency's behavioral system. Residents are permitted to spend their allowances as they choose.

The Agency provides residents with adequate personal care items and adequate storage.

The residents have life books.

Recommendation

- 6. Fred Jefferson Memorial Group Home for Boys management provide residents with at least the required minimum base allowance.**