



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

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AUDITOR-CONTROLLER

September 19, 2005

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

FROM: J. Tyler McCauley 
Auditor-Controller

SUBJECT: **GROUP HOME PROGRAM MONITORING REPORT – HUDSON
LYNDSEY GROUP HOME – CHOUTEAU AND LUGO GROUP HOMES**

We have completed a review of Chouteau and Lugo Group Homes (Group Home or Agency) operated by Hudson Lyndsey Group Home. Each Group Home contracts with the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and the Probation Department (Probation).

Chouteau and Lugo Group Homes are six-bed facilities, which provide care for girls ages 7-15 years who exhibit behavioral, social, and emotional difficulties. At the time of the monitoring visit, Chouteau and Lugo Group Homes were each providing services for three Los Angeles County DCFS children.

Chouteau Group Home is located in Orange County. Lugo Group Home is located in the Second District.

Scope of Review

The purpose of the review is to determine whether the Agency is providing the services as outlined in their Program Statement. Additionally, the review covers basic child safety and licensing issues, and includes an evaluation of the Agency's Program Statement, internal policies and procedures, child case records, a facility inspection, and interviews with children placed in the Group Home at the time of the review. Interviews with children are 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 is providing the services as outlined in their Program Statement. However, each Group Home has deficient areas that need to be addressed.

Chouteau Group Home needs to repair or replace the carpeting in the hallway and in bedroom two; repair the shower tile grout and bathtub finish in the bathroom; provide children with a computer; and include the authorized placement worker as part of the treatment team in the development and implementation of the Needs and Services Plans.

Lugo Group Home needs to repair the driveway, patio and brick wall; replace the kitchen counter veneer; clean the living and dining room walls; clean and repair the bathtub in bathroom one; repair/replace the plaster and baseboards in bathroom one; replace the shower rod in bathroom two; clean or replace the dayroom couch; clean the dayroom ceiling; replace the dressers in all of the children's bedrooms; provide a desk in bedroom two; provide children with a computer; and provide all children with the required minimum base allowance.

Attached is a detailed report of the review.

Review of Report

We discussed our report with the Agency's management. In response to the recommendations made in the report, the Agency's management completed a corrective action plan (attached) which we approved. 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 Mike Pirolo at (626) 293-1110.

JTM:MP:CC:gw

http://auditor.co.la.ca.us/group_home.asp

Attachments

c: David E. Janssen, Chief Administrative Officer
David Sanders, Ph.D., Director, DCFS
Paul Higa, Chief Probation Officer
Diana Mitchell, Executive Director, Hudson Lyndsey Group Home
Public Information Office
Audit Committee

**Hudson Lyndsey Group Home
Chouteau
2005 North Chouteau Street
Orange, California 92865
Phone: (310) 660-9114
License Number: 306001688
Rate Classification Level: 9**

I. Facility and Environment

Method of assessment – Observation

Comments:

Chouteau is located in a residential community. The exterior of the Group Home is well maintained. The front and back yards are clean, and adequately landscaped.

Overall, the interior of the Group Home is well maintained. The common quarters are neat. There is adequate furniture and lighting in the Group Home. The Group Home provides a home-like environment. However, there are stains on the hallway carpet, and the shower tile grout and the bathtub finish are worn in the children's bathroom.

Overall, children's bedrooms are well maintained. The rooms are clean and orderly, and have age-appropriate personalized decorations. There is adequate furniture, lighting, and storage space. Window coverings and window screens are in good repair. The mattresses are comfortable, and the beds all have a full complement of linens. Children's sleeping arrangements are appropriate. However, in bedroom two, there are stains on the carpet.

The Group Home maintains age appropriate and accessible recreational equipment. There are board games, a TV, and a DVD player. Books and resource materials are also available; however, a computer is not readily available to children.

The Group Home maintains a sufficient supply of perishable and non perishable foods.

Recommendations

1. Hudson Lyndsey management:

- a. Repair or replace the carpeting in the hallway and in bedroom two.**

- b. Repair the shower tile grout and bathtub finish in the bathroom.**
- c. Provide children with a computer.**

II. Program Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size for interviews: Two

Comments:

Children meet the Group Home’s population criteria as outlined in their Program Statement. Children are assessed for needed services within thirty days of placement.

Needs and Services Plans are current and comprehensive, and include long and short-term goals. One NSP was developed and implemented by the treatment team with input from the child; however, the other child’s NSP did not include the child’s authorized placement worker in the development and implementation of the plan.

Case files reflect adequate documentation to show that children are receiving treatment services as identified in their Needs and Services Plans (NSPs).

Recommendation

- 2. Hudson Lyndsey management include the authorized placement worker as part of the treatment team in the development and implementation of the NSPs.**

III. Educational and Emancipation Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size for interviews: Two

Comments:

Children are attending school. Children are provided with educational support and resources to meet their educational needs, and are progressing satisfactorily in school. The Group Home’s program includes the development of children’s daily living, self-help, and survival skills.

Children are provided with opportunities to participate in emancipation and

vocational programs as appropriate.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

IV. Recreation and Activities

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size for interviews: Two

Comments:

The Group Home provides children with sufficient recreational activities, and leisure time. Children are given opportunities to participate in planning activities.

Children are allowed to participate in extra-curricular, enrichment, and social activities in which they have an interest.

The Group Home provides transportation to and from the activities.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

V. Psychotropic Medication

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents

Comments:

Children have current court authorizations for psychotropic medication. Documentation confirms that children are routinely seen by the prescribing psychiatrist.

Children are informed about their psychotropic medication, and are aware of their right to refuse medication.

Medication distribution logs are properly maintained.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

VI. Personal Rights

Method of assessment –Interviews with children

Sample size for interviews: Two

Comments:

Children are informed about the Group Home’s policies and procedures. Children report that they feel safe in the Group Home, and are provided with appropriate staff supervision. Children express satisfaction with the quality of their interactions with staff, and report that staff treats them with respect and dignity.

Children report that they are assigned chores that are reasonable and not too demanding. Children are allowed to have private visitors, to make and receive personal telephone calls, and to send and receive unopened correspondence and mail. Children are able to attend religious services of their choice.

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

Children report satisfaction with meals and snacks.

Children receive voluntary medical, dental, and psychiatric care.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

VII. Clothing and Allowance

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size for interviews: Two

Comments:

The Group Home provides appropriate clothing, items of necessity, and the required \$50 monthly clothing allowance to children. Children are given opportunities to select their own clothes. Clothing provided to children is of good quality and of sufficient quantity.

The Group Home provides children with the required minimum base allowance. Children are permitted to spend their allowances as they choose.

The Group Home provides children with adequate personal care items.

Children are encouraged and assisted in creating and maintaining photo albums/life books.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

**Hudson Lyndsey Group Home
Lugo Site
3876 Lugo Avenue
Lynwood, CA 90262
310-669-9114
License Number: 191592045
Rate Classification Level: 9**

I. Facility and Environment

Method of assessment – Observation

Comments:

Lugo Group Home is located in a residential community. The exterior of the Group Home is not well maintained. There are cracks in the driveway and patio, and the brick wall around the front of the house has fallen in places. The front and back yards are poorly landscaped.

Overall, the interior of the Group Home is well maintained. The common quarters are neat. There is adequate furniture and lighting in the Group Home. The Group Home provides a home-like environment. However, there are areas in need of improvement. The kitchen counter is missing veneer. The living room and dining room walls are dirty. In bathroom one, the bathtub is not clean, caulking is missing around the bathtub, plaster has been left on the wall, and there are rust stains on the baseboards. In bathroom two, the shower rod is rusty. In the dayroom, the couch is stained and the ceiling is dirty.

Overall, children's bedrooms are well maintained. The rooms are clean and orderly, and have age-appropriate personalized decorations. There is adequate furniture, lighting, and storage space. Window coverings and window screens are in good repair. The mattresses are comfortable, and the beds all have a full complement of linens. Children's sleeping arrangements are appropriate. However, in all three bedrooms the dressers are scratched and very worn. In bedroom two, the children are in need of a desk.

The Group Home maintains age appropriate and accessible recreational equipment. There are board games, a TV, and a DVD player. Books and resource materials are also available; however, a computer is not readily available to children.

The Group Home maintains a sufficient supply of perishable and non perishable foods.

Recommendations

1. Hudson Lyndsey Group Home management:
 - a. Repair the driveway, patio and brick wall.
 - b. Replace the kitchen counter veneer.
 - c. Clean the living and dining room walls.
 - d. Clean and repair the bathtub in bathroom one.
 - e. Repair/replace the plaster and baseboards in bathroom one.
 - f. Replace the shower rod in bathroom two.
 - g. Clean or replace the dayroom couch.
 - h. Clean the dayroom ceiling.
 - i. Replace the dressers in all of the children's bedrooms.
 - j. Provide a desk in bedroom two.
 - k. Provide children with a computer.

II. Program Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size for interviews: Two

Comments:

Children meet the Group Home's population criteria as outlined in their Program Statement. Children are assessed for needed services within thirty days of placement.

The treatment team develops and implements the Needs and Services Plans (NSPs) with input from the child. The NSPs are current, comprehensive, and include long and short-term goals.

Case files reflect adequate documentation to show that children are receiving treatment services as identified in their NSPs.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

III. Educational and Emancipation Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size for interviews: Two

Comments:

Children are attending school. Children are provided with educational support and resources to meet their educational needs, and are progressing satisfactorily in school. The Group Home’s program includes the development of children’s daily living, self-help, and survival skills.

Children are too young to participate in emancipation or vocational programs.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

IV. Recreation and Activities

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size for interviews: Two

Comments:

The Group Home provides children with sufficient recreational activities, and leisure time. Children are given opportunities to participate in planning activities.

Children are allowed to participate in extra-curricular, enrichment, and social activities in which they have an interest.

The Group Home provides transportation to and from the activities.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

V. Psychotropic Medication

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents

Comments:

Children have current court authorizations for psychotropic medication. Documentation confirms that children are routinely seen by the prescribing psychiatrist.

Children are informed about their psychotropic medication, and are aware of their right to refuse medication.

Medication distribution logs are properly maintained.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

VI. Personal Rights

Method of assessment –Interviews with children

Sample size for interviews: Two

Comments:

Children are informed about the Group Home's policies and procedures. Children report that they feel safe in the Group Home, and are provided with appropriate staff supervision. The children express satisfaction with the quality of their interactions with staff, and report that staff treats them with respect and dignity.

Children report that they are assigned chores that are reasonable and not too demanding. Children are allowed to have private visitors, to make and receive personal telephone calls, and to send and receive unopened correspondence and mail. Children are able to attend religious services of their choice.

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

Children report satisfaction with meals and snacks.

Children receive voluntary medical, dental, and psychiatric care.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

VII. Clothing and Allowance

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size for interviews: Two

Comments:

The Group Home provides appropriate clothing, items of necessity, and the required \$50 monthly clothing allowance to children. Children are given opportunities to select their own clothes. Clothing provided to children is of good quality and of sufficient quantity.

Children are permitted to spend their allowances as they choose. However, the Group Home does not provide children with the required minimum base allowance.

The Group Home provides children with adequate personal care items.

Children are encouraged and assisted in creating and maintaining photo albums/life books.

Recommendation

- 2. Hudson Lyndsey management provide all children with the required minimum base allowance.**

**Hudson-Lyndsey Group Home
Chouteau
2005 North Chouteau Street
Orange, California 92865
Phone: (310) 669-9114
License Number: 306001688
Rate Classification Level: 9
Corrective Action Plan**

I. Facility and Environment

1. Hudson Lyndsey management

- a. The carpeting in the hallway and in bedroom two shall be replaced by 7/30/05. To ensure a clean and healthy environment, the staff shall inspect and clean facility daily. All repairs noted shall be forwarded to the Facility Manager within one week. The Facility Manager shall submit it to the Administrator who will submit it to the Executive Director to commission the maintenance crew.**
- b. The shower tile grout and bathtub finish in the bathroom will be completed by 7/30/05. To ensure all repairs are done, the child care staff is responsible for submitting them to the Facility Manager who will submit them to the Administrator, within a week to be finally submitted to the Executive Director to forward the matter to a maintenance crew for repairs.**
- c. The children will be provided with a computer by 8/30/05. The computer and all equipment and furniture will be submitted to the Administrator and on to the Executive Director for review for the dispersing of funds to acquire what furniture is needed. This shall be done on a monthly basis.**

II. Program Services

- a. All Needs and Service Plans shall be conducted to include the authorized placement worker as part of the**

treatment team in its development and implementation. All Needs and Service Plans shall include a written invitation to the authorize worker, along to any other authorized interested parties in the treatment of the resident. Upon their inability to physically participate in the meeting, the invitation shall include a signature sheet to provide them with an ability to read and accept or reject the treatment plan, as well as any input. This shall be the responsibility of the in house therapist who will reevaluate this treatment every three months. The Administrator will follow up monthly to ensure that all residents have a treatment plan and the status thereof.

III. Education and Emancipation Services

No Recommendations

IV. Recreation and Activities

No Recommendations

V. Psychotropic Medication

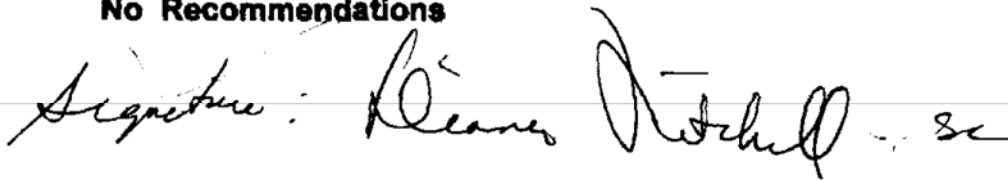
No Recommendations

VI. Personal Rights

No Recommendations

VII. Clothing and Allowance

No Recommendations

Signature:  Renee Mitchell, SC

**Hudson-Lyndsey Group Home
Lugo Site
3876 Lugo Avenue
Lynwood, CA. 90262
310 669-9114
License Number: 191592045
Rate Classification Level: 9
Corrective Action Plan**

I. Facility and Environment

- a. Hudson-Lyndsey shall repair the driveway, patio and brick wall by 7/30/2005. To ensure that all repairs are done, all child care workers shall submit them to the Administrator within one week and on to the Executive Director who shall contact the maintenance crew to be handled.
- b. The veneer on the kitchen counter shall be repaired by 7/10/2005. The facility shall be inspected daily for repairs by the Administrator and forwarded within a week to the Executive Director who shall contact the maintenance crew to execute the repairs.
- c. All dining room walls have been cleaned. To ensure that the Facility shall remain clean, child care staff shall general clean (walls, baseboards, window and window sills) weekly. The Facility Manager shall see that this is executed by the child care staff. The Administrator shall check behind the Facility Manager to see that the facility meets high standards of cleanliness.
- d. The bathtub in bathroom one shall be glazed by 7/30/2005. The Facility Manager shall take all repairs noted by the child care workers once per week and forward them to the Administrator, who in turn shall forward them to the Executive Director who shall contact the maintenance crew for repairs.
- e. Plaster in bathroom one shall be repaired/replaced by 7/30/2005. To ensure that all repairs are made the Facility Manager shall compile all repairs from child care staff and forward it within the week to the Administrator who shall in turn contact the Executive Director who shall contact the maintenance crew for repair service.
- f. The shower rod in bathroom two has been repaired. All repairs shall be noted and compiled weekly to be forwarded to the Administrator who shall forward it to the Executive Director to contact the maintenance crew for repair services.
- g. The dayroom couch has been replaced. The Facility Manager shall ensure that the facility and its furniture and equipment shall be in

working and clean order. If not, repairs or replacements shall be submitted to the Administrator who shall contact the Executive Director to make the necessary arrangements for repairs.

- h. The dayroom ceiling was clean, and shall be cleaned weekly during general cleanup by staff. To ensure that this is done, general cleanup and all of its components shall be done weekly and checked by the Facility Manager.
- i. All new dressers shall be replaced by 7/30/2005. The Administrator shall inspect the facility behind the Facility Manager to see what needs to be replaced. She shall then forward to the Executive Director to provide replacement and or repairs and forward it to the maintenance crew.
- j. There is a new desk in bedroom two. All furniture needs shall be forward to the Executive Director by the Administrator within a week of discovery.
- k. A computer shall be provided for the residents by 8/30/2005. In the interim, residents shall be able to use the computers at the library or the youth center, both 2 blocks away. All furniture needs shall be compiled by the staff and delivered weekly to the Administrator who shall contact Executive Director to execute the needs.

All major and hazardous repairs shall be implemented for repairs within the month of submission by staff. This includes roofing, carpeting, and glazing of bathrooms, painting, and major purchases. All minor repairs shall be implemented for repairs within the week.

II. Program Services

No Recommendations

III. Education and Emancipation Services

No Recommendations

IV. Recreation and Activities

No Recommendations

V. Psychotropic Medication

No Recommendations

VI. Personal Rights

No Recommendations

VII. Clothing and Allowance

Hudson-Lyndsey provides all of its residents with a minimum allowance base of \$7.00. Residents can earn more than the base provided. To ensure that they are given their allowance, the Facility Manager submits, based upon the monitored behavior of the residents and earned monies. This is submitted to the Administrator for acceptance and forwarded to the Executive Director for expenditures.

*Signature - Susan Campbell
Administrator*