



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

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

J. TYLER McCaULEY  
AUDITOR-CONTROLLER

September 16, 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 – BOYS  
REPUBLIC, SILVERLAKE GROUP HOME**

We have completed a review of Silverlake Group Home (Group Home or Agency) operated by Boys Republic. The Group Home contracts with the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and the Probation Department (Probation).

Silverlake Group Home is a twenty-bed facility, which provides care for boys ages 14-18 years who exhibit behavioral, social, and emotional difficulties. At the time of the monitoring visit, Boys Republic Silverlake Group Home was providing services for nine Los Angeles County Probation children, one Riverside County child and one San Francisco County Probation child.

Boys Republic, Silverlake 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

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services provided by the Agency, and to ensure adherence to the Foster Youth Bill of Rights.

### **Summary of Findings**

Generally, the Agency is providing the services as outlined in their Program Statement. Boys Republic, Silverlake Group Home needs to clean the mold and mildew from the bathroom tile; repair the light fixture in bedroom one; and develop comprehensive Needs and Services Plans.

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:bg

[http://auditor.co.la.ca.us/group\\_home.asp](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  
Max Scott, Executive Director, Boys Republic Group Home  
Public Information Office  
Audit Committee

**Boys Republic Group Home  
Silverlake  
1815 Redcliff Street  
Los Angeles, California 90026  
Phone: (323) 661-6905  
License Number: 191800953  
Rate Classification Level: 4**

**I. Facility and Environment**

**Method of assessment – Observation**

**Comments:**

Boys Republic Silverlake Group Home 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 and clean. There is adequate furniture and lighting in the Group Home. The Group Home provides a home-like environment. However in the children's bathroom, there is mold and mildew around the shower tiles.

Overall, the 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 one, the light is not working.

The Group Home maintains age appropriate and accessible recreational equipment. There are also board games, a TV, and a DVD player. Books and resource materials, including a computer with a variety of programs, are also available.

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

**Recommendations**

**1. Boys Republic management:**

- a. Clean mold and mildew from the shower tiles in the children's bathroom.**
- b. Repair and/or replace the light fixture in bedroom one.**

## **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; however, the NSPs are not comprehensive, and do not include long and short-term goals.

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

### **Recommendation**

- 2. Boys Republic management develop comprehensive Needs and Services Plans that are specific, measurable, attainable, realistic, time limited, and include long and short-term goals.**

## **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:**

According to the Agency’s management, there are no residents receiving psychotropic medications. This information is appropriately documented.

Children are aware of their right to refuse medication.

**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 expressed 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.**

# Boys Republic

3493 Grand Ave., Chino Hills, CA 91709  
(909) 628-1217

June 30, 2005

Carla Carr, Group Home Ombudsman  
Department of Controller, Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
500 W. Temple Street., Room 515-A  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Ms. Carr,

Consistent with your department's instructions dated June 13, 2005 pertaining to the group home monitoring report completed by the Auditor-Controller's Office on the Boys Republic-**Silverlake Residence**, we have made the identified corrections and implemented a Corrective Action Plan as follows:

- The mold and mildew has been removed from the children's bathroom.
- The light fixture in bedroom one has been replaced and is working properly.
- Comprehensive Needs and Services Plans have been developed that are specific, measurable, attainable, realistic, time limited and include long and short term goals.

The needs and Services Plans will be reviewed regularly to ensure that all such plans meet the stated requirements. In addition, regular staff inspections will be conducted during clean up evaluations to ensure any cleaning and repairs will occur in a timely manner. Lisa Denbo, Assistant Residence Director will be responsible to implement this plan. Steve Mejico, Residence Director, will act as the quality assurance person responsible for monitoring to ensure that the corrective action remains implemented and is working as intended.

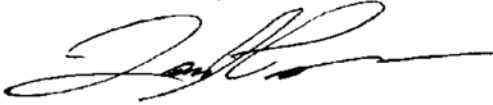


-Benjamin Disraeli



We are grateful for the visit and express appreciation for the recommendations made. It is helpful to have individuals walk through our facility and view things we perhaps fail to notice in our day-to-day work environment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lance Parks', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Lance Parks  
Associate Director

LP/lm