



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

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J. TYLER McCAULEY
AUDITOR-CONTROLLER

September 28, 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, GIRLS REPUBLIC GROUP HOME**

We have completed a review of Girls Republic (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).

The Group Home is an eight-bed facility, which provides care for girls ages 13-17 years who exhibit behavioral, social, and emotional difficulties. At the time of the monitoring visit, the Group Home was providing services for one Los Angeles County Probation child, two Santa Barbara County children, two San Bernardino County children one San Mateo County child, one Orange County child, and one Riverside County Probation child.

Girls Republic is located in the Fifth 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 an interview with the one Los Angeles County child placed in the Group Home at

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the time of the review. The interview with the child is designed to obtain her perspectives on the program 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. The Agency needs to remove the rust from the bathroom tile; provide needs and services plans that are comprehensive; and provide the minimum base weekly allowance for children.

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

Attachment

c: David E. Janssen, Chief Administrative Officer
David Sanders, Ph.D., Director, DCFS
Paul Higa, Chief Probation Officer
Max Scott, Executive Director, Boys Republic
Public Information Office
Audit Committee

**Boys Republic
Girls Republic Group Home
184 North Ivy Avenue
Monrovia, California 91016
Phone: (626) 357-0957
License: 191592695
Rate Classification Level: 10**

I. Facility and Environment

Method of assessment – Observation

Comments:

Girls Republic 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, the children's upstairs bathroom has rust around the bottom of the shower tile area.

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.

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.

Recommendation

- 1. Girls Republic management clean the rust from around the shower tile in the children's upstairs bathroom.**

II. Program Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and an interview

Sample size for interviews: One

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Comments:

The child meets the Group Home's population criteria as outlined in her Program Statement. The child is assessed for needed services within thirty days of placement.

The treatment team develops and implements the Needs and Services Plan (NSP) with input from the child. The NSP is current; however, the NSP is not comprehensive, and does not include long and short-term goals.

Case files reflect adequate documentation to show that the child is receiving treatment services as identified in the NSP.

Recommendation

- 2. Girls 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 an interview

Sample size for interviews: One

Comments:

The child is attending school. The Child is provided with educational support and resources to meet her educational needs, and is progressing satisfactorily in school. The Group Home's program includes the development of children's daily living, self-help, and survival skills.

The child is 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 an interview

Sample size for interviews: One

Comments:

The Group Home provides the child with sufficient recreational activities, and leisure time. The child is given opportunities to participate in planning activities.

The child is allowed to participate in extra-curricular, enrichment, and social activities in which she has 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.

The child is aware of her right to refuse medication

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

VI. Personal Rights

Method of assessment –Interview with a child

Sample size for interviews: One

Comments:

The child is informed about the Group Home’s policies and procedures. The child reports that she feels safe in the Group Home, and is provided with appropriate staff supervision. The child expressed satisfaction with the quality of her interactions with staff, and reports that staff treats them with respect and dignity.

The child reports 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.

The child reports that the discipline policies are consistently enforced and that there are fair and appropriate consequences for inappropriate behavior.

The child reports 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 an interview

Sample size for interviews: One

Comments:

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

The child is permitted to spend her allowance as she chooses. However, the Group Home does not provide the child with the required minimum base allowance.

The Group Home provides the child with adequate personal care items.

The child is encouraged and assisted in creating and maintaining a photo album/life book.

Recommendation

- 3. Girls Republic management provide all residents with the required minimum weekly allowance.**

Boys Republic

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

July 13, 2005

Carla Carr, Group Home Ombudsman
Department of Auditor-Controller, Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 W. Temple Street, Room 515-A
Los Angeles, CA 90012-2766

Dear Ms. Carr,

I am writing in response to the audit report from Ms. Gibson's on-site evaluation of our Girls Republic program.

Specifically in response to the recommendations:

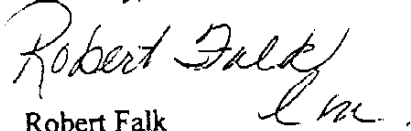
- 1) The shower tile in the upstairs bathroom has been re-caulked.
- 2) The Needs and Services Plans are specific, measurable, attainable, realistic, time limited and include long and short term goals.
- 3) Minimum allowance of seven dollars per week is provided to each girl.

The Assistant Supervisor is responsible for implementing the corrective action.

The Residence Director and Boys Republic's Associate Director are responsible for ensuring that the corrective action plan remains implemented and is working as intended.

If you need any additional information please don't hesitate to call.

Sincerely,


Robert Falk
Associate Director

RF/lm



"The youth of a nation are the future of posterity."
-Benjamin Disraeli