



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

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AUDITOR-CONTROLLER

February 9, 2007

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

FROM: J. Tyler McCauley *twm*  
Auditor-Controller

SUBJECT: **GROUP HOME PROGRAM MONITORING REPORT – CANYON ACRES  
RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT CENTER GROUP HOME**

We have completed a review of Canyon Acres Residential Treatment Center Group Home (Group Home or Agency) operated by Canyon Acres Children and Family Services. The Group Home contracts with the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and the Probation Department (Probation).

Canyon Acres Residential Treatment Center Group Home is a 30-bed facility, which provides care for boys and girls ages 6-12 years who exhibit behavioral, social, and emotional difficulties. At the time of the monitoring visit, Canyon Acres Residential Treatment Center Group Home was providing services for four DCFS children, fourteen San Diego County children, four Orange County children, three San Bernardino County children, one Inyo County child, and one Ventura County child.

Canyon Acres Residential Treatment Center Group Home is located in Orange County.

**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. The Agency needs to address a few deficient areas.

Canyon Acres Residential Treatment Center Group Home needs to clean the carpet in all the cottages; repair or replace the windows in Barrett cottage; repair or replace the electrical outlet in McQuaid cottage; remove the writing from the closet doors in Amigos cottage; include the treatment team and input from the child in the development and implementation of the Needs and Services Plans; and maintain comprehensive Needs and Services Plans that include short and long term goals.

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.

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[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  
Patricia S. Ploehn, Director, DCFS  
Robert B. Taylor, Chief Probation Officer  
Clete Menke, Executive Director, Canyon Acres Residential Treatment Center  
Public Information Office  
Audit Committee

**Canyon Acres Residential Treatment Center Group Home**  
**233 South Quintana**  
**Anaheim, California 92807**  
**Phone: (714) 998-3272**  
**License Number: 300603446**  
**Rate Classification Level: 14**

**I. Facility and Environment**

**Method of assessment – Observation**

**Comments:**

Canyon Acres Residential Treatment Center Group Home is located in a residential community. The exterior of the Group Home is well maintained. The grounds are clean and adequately maintained.

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, the carpet throughout the cottages is stained and dirty.

Generally, children's bedrooms are well maintained. The rooms are clean and orderly and have age-appropriate personalized decorations. There is adequate lighting and storage space. However, in Barrett cottage, the windows are damaged in three of the bedrooms and in one bedroom a window is not properly installed. In McQuaid cottage, an electrical outlet is broken in one of the bedrooms. In Amigo cottage, there is writing on the closet doors in two of the bedrooms. 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.

**Recommendations**

- 1. Canyon Acres Residential Treatment management:**
  - a. Clean the carpet in all of the cottages.**
  - b. Repair or replace the bedroom windows in Barrett cottage.**
  - c. Repair or replace the electrical outlet in the bedroom in McQuaid cottage.**

- d. Remove the writing from the closet doors in the bedrooms in Amigo cottage.

## **II. Program Services**

**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews**

**Sample size: 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 Needs and Services Plans (NSPs) are current; however, the NSPs are not developed or implemented by the treatment team and do not include input from the child. The NSPs are not comprehensive and do not include short and long term goals.

Case files reflect adequate documentation to show that children are receiving treatment services.

### **Recommendations**

#### **2. Canyon Acres Residential management:**

- a. Include the treatment team and input from the child in the development and implementation of the Needs and Services Plans.
- b. Maintain comprehensive Needs and Services Plans that are measurable, attainable, and include short and long term goals.

## **III. Educational and Emancipation Services**

**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews**

**Sample size: 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: Two**

**Comments:**

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

Children 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.

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: 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 able to make and receive personal telephone calls, send and receive unopened mail, and have private visitors. 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: Two**

#### **Comments:**

The Group Home provides appropriate clothing, items of necessity, and the required \$50 monthly clothing allowance to children. Children are provided with 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 weekly allowance. Children 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.**



## Corrective Action Plan from LA Site Visit, April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2006

Monday, May 29, 2006

### I. Facility and Environment

A. It was recommended that the carpets be cleaned in all of the cottages. Our Facility Supervisor, Gina Capitano, has scheduled for the carpets to be steam cleaned every other month. The next scheduled time is: On Wednesday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>, Child Care staff within the homes was purchased carpet cleaners and sponges; which were used that day, with special care given to the spots mentioned during visit. Our plan to ensure the cleanliness of the carpeting is for routine carpet cleaners to come into the facility every other month to work; this is supervised by Gina Capitano. James Holmes, Program Supervisor, will ensure this takes place while conducting his monthly CCL checklists.

B. In the second recommendation, the damaged bedroom windows where scratches are impeding the quality of the room will be replaced. Gina Capitano will be responsible for ensuring that this happens by July 2006.

C. The third recommendation in regards to the outlet was taken care on the afternoon of April 24<sup>th</sup>, Gina Capitano; our Facility Supervisor repaired the electrical outlet in bedroom five in the McQuaid cottage. The outlet fixture just needed to be tightened. Gina does routine checks through the home, as well as the Program Supervisor James Holmes, once a month.

D. Finally, it was recommended that the writing on the closet doors of the two bedrooms in the Arnigos' cottage be re-stained. Those 2 closet doors will be have already been restained by Gina Capitano.

## **II. Program Services**

**A. Our RTC Case Manager, AnnMarie Rees, has already begun a plan of action to include the entire treatment team in the development and implementation of the Needs and Service Plans. She will be attending the weekly psychiatrist meetings, case conferences, as well as monthly Case Note updates that the direct care staff participate in. She will be exposed to all members of the treatment team and make her updated NSP's available to all.**

**B. We will be modifying our NSP's from now on to ensure that the goals are measurable and attainable. Ann Marie will be referencing and inserting in the Clinical goals set for the child that are being addressed with the Program Staff, the Day Treatment team and in individual therapy.**