



**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

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 *tm*
Auditor-Controller

SUBJECT: **GROUP HOME PROGRAM MONITORING REPORT – OLIVE CREST
TREATMENT CENTERS, OLIVE CREST RTC GROUP HOME**

We have completed a review of Olive Crest RTC Group Home (Group Home or Agency) operated by Olive Crest Treatment Centers. The Group Home contracts with the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and the Probation Department (Probation).

Olive Crest RTC Group Home is a six-bed facility, which provides care for boys ages 12-17 years who exhibit behavioral, social, and emotional difficulties. At the time of the monitoring visit, Olive Crest RTC Group Home was providing services for five DCFS children.

Olive Crest RTC Group Home is located in the Fourth 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

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"

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.

Olive Crest RTC Group Home needs to clean the carpet throughout the home; provide window coverings in bedroom three; provide children with emancipation and vocational training programs as appropriate; and provide children with the required minimum weekly 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:gfw
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
Donald Verleur, Executive Director, Olive Crest Treatment Centers
Public Information Office
Audit Committee

**Olive Crest Treatment Centers
Olive Crest RTC
15235 Cornuta Avenue
Bellflower, California 90704
Phone: (562) 804-2534
License Number: 197804913
Rate Classification Level: 14**

I. Facility and Environment

Method of assessment – Observation

Comments:

Olive Crest RTC 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 carpet throughout the home is stained.

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 screens are in good repair; however, there are no window coverings in bedroom three. 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. Olive Crest management:**
 - a. Clean the carpet throughout the home.**
 - b. Provide window coverings in bedroom three.**

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

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

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

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.

One age appropriate child has not been provided with opportunities to participate in emancipation and vocational training programs.

Recommendation

- 2. Olive Crest management provide all age appropriate children with opportunities to participate in emancipation and vocational training programs.**

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.

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.

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

The Group Home provides children with adequate personal care items.

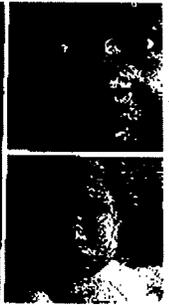
Children are encouraged and assisted in creating and maintaining photo albums/life books.

Recommendation

3. Olive Crest management provide children with the required minimum weekly allowance.



*Preventing child abuse, neglect,
and educating at-risk children,
and preserving the lives of
One Life at a Time*



www.olivecrest.org

DESERT COMMUNITIES

50855 Washington St., Suite 251
La Quinta, CA 92253
1-800-550-CHILD (2445)

12402 Industrial Blvd., Suite F-1
Victorville, CA 92395
760-843-5427
Fax 760-843-9327

INLAND EMPIRE

3050 Chicago Avenue, Suite 180
Riverside, CA 92507
951-686-8500
Fax 951-686-8565

Onk Grove Campus
24275 Jefferson Avenue
Murrieta, CA 92562
951-677-5599
Fax 951-698-0461

LOS ANGELES COUNTY

710 S. Victory Blvd., Suite 201
Burbank, CA 91502
818-563-2300
Fax 818-563-2342

15545 Bellflower Blvd., Suite A
Bellflower, CA 90706
562-866-8956
Fax 562-866-4158

ORANGE COUNTY

2130 E. Fourth St., Suite 200
Santa Ana, CA 92705
714-543-KIDS (5437)
Fax 714-543-8463

SAN DIEGO COUNTY

1081 Camino Del Rio South, Suite 126
San Diego, CA 92108
619-291-9347
Fax 619-291-9348

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

911 Central Avenue
Alameda, CA 94501
1-800-550-CHILD (2445)

NEVADA

6148 W. Sahara
Las Vegas, NV 89146
702-221-6224
Fax 702-221-9752

**PACIFIC NORTHWEST,
MOUNTAIN STATES**

P.O. Box #302
16409 SE Division, Suite 216
Portland, OR 97236
503-491-KIDD (5433)

515 116th Ave. NE, Suite 174
Bellevue, WA 98004
425-462-1612
Fax 425-462-9268

3625 Perkins Lane, Suite 108
Lakewood, WA 98499
800-743-6783
Fax 425-462-9268

12402 N. Division St., Suite 123
Spokane, WA 99210
509-468-0700
Fax 866-866-1574

16 August 2006

Candace Rhue
Group Home Audit Supervisor
Department of Auditor-Controller
Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 W. Temple Street, Room 515-A
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Candace:

The following is the plan of correction for the Agency Monitoring Review conducted at the Residential Treatment Center, Cornuta House, in Bellflower (license #197804913) by Greta Walters on May 23, 2006.

I. Facility and Environment

The items listed as Recommendations under Facility and Environment have been addressed. The carpet was cleaned within a week of Ms. Walters' visit to the home. The carpet is scheduled to be cleaned every three months. It will be cleaned sooner if necessary. The quarterly cleaning has been arranged by the agency Maintenance Director, Ken Sinatra and will be monitored by facility Residential Manager Xavier Floyd. Curtains have been hung in bedroom #3; however, the residents in that room have pulled them down since they were re-hung, so a sturdier, more permanent solution has been ordered. Blinds have been ordered and will be hung once they arrive. Monthly on-site reviews are conducted by the Residential Manager and either the Program Supervisor or Division Director to monitor facility cleanliness and safety. Action plans are implemented and followed up on by the Division Director.

III Educational and Emancipation Services

All residents living in the RTC facility participate in CLP services. New programs and documentation procedures have been instituted to ensure that residents are receiving the training that will provide them with skills necessary to care for themselves once they emancipate. Once per month,



an instructor, Dr. Clark, from Rio Hondo College comes to the group home and provides instruction for one to two hours on a selected topic addressing a certain skill. In addition, a weekly group is conducted at the group home by Dr. Deborah Silveria, group home psychologist, on independent living skills which is followed up by individual interaction between the residents and the house staff and further elaborates upon Dr. Silveria's instruction. Residents also participate in yearly courses over a six-week period of time provided through the county that address independent living skills. All resident participation in any ILP program will be documented at the house and put in the individual's file. Documentation is also provided to the Division Director via Quality Assurance procedures regarding client participation in ILP. This is tracked by the agency ILP Coordinator for further accountability.

VII Clothing and Allowance

The Residential Manager was on-site for the evaluation and understands that all residents are to receive at least the required \$7.00 allowance each month. Allowances distributed to residents are documented on the Weekly Allowance Sheet. Residents sign for their allowance and this form is turned in at the end of each month to the Executive Assistant for Group Homes. The amount given to each resident is verified by the Executive Assistant each month. The assistant verifies receipt of the allowance through budgetary checks and balances and through client signature sheets acknowledging receipt of the allowance. Any problems with the budget or allowance records are reported to the Residential Manager and the Division Director who develops an action plan to rectify the problem.

To ensure that the Corrective Action Plan is implemented, Olive Crest administrator Elise Froistad will receive all reports from RMs, Maintenance, the ILS Coordinator and the Executive Assistant.

Please let me know if you have any further questions regarding the evaluation or Plan or Correction.

Sincerely,



Elise H. Froistad
Residential Division Director
Olive Crest Treatment Centers
(714) 543-5437 ext. 1174