



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

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J. TYLER McCAULEY
AUDITOR-CONTROLLER

May 31, 2007

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

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

SUBJECT: **GROUP HOME PROGRAM MONITORING REPORT – TRINITY YOUTH SERVICES – TRINITY NORCO AND TRINITY YUCAIPA GROUP HOMES**

We have completed a review of Trinity Norco and Trinity Yucaipa Group Homes (Group Home or Agency) operated by Trinity Youth Services, Incorporated. Each Group Home contracts with the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and the Probation Department (Probation).

Trinity Norco Group Home is a six-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, Trinity Norco Group Home was providing services for six Probation children.

Trinity Yucaipa Group Home is a sixty-six bed facility, which provides care for boys ages 13-17 years who exhibit behavioral, social, and emotional difficulties. At the time of the monitoring visit, Trinity Yucaipa Group Home was providing services for thirty-six Probation children, ten Riverside County children, six Orange County children, four San Bernardino County children, four San Diego County children, two Sacramento County children, two Santa Clara County children, and one Kern County child.

Trinity Norco Group Home is located in Riverside County and Trinity Yucaipa Group Home is located in San Bernardino County.

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"

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.

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.

Trinity Norco Group Home needs to include all members of the treatment team in the update of the Needs and Services Plans, develop Needs and Services Plans that are comprehensive and inform all children of opportunities to participate in extra-curricular activities in which they have an interest.

Trinity Yucaipa Group Home needs to repair the bathroom shower frame and floor and repair the soccer goal. The Group Home also needs to develop Needs and Services Plans that include short term goals and maintain current court authorizations for all children taking psychotropic medication.

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.

Board of Supervisors
May 31, 2007
Page 3

If you have any questions, please contact me or have your staff contact Mike Pirolo at (626) 293-1110.

JTM:MP:CC:dl

Attachments

c: David E. Janssen, Chief Administrative Officer
Patricia S. Ploehn, Director, DCFS
Robert B. Taylor, Chief Probation Officer
Darren McBay, Interim Director, Trinity-Norco Group Home
Public Information Office
Audit Committee

**Trinity Youth Services
Trinity-Norco Group Home
2104 Alhambra Street
Norco, California 92860
Phone: (909) 797-0114
License Number: 336400274
Rate Classification Level: 12**

I. Facility and Environment

Method of assessment – Observation

Comments:

Trinity Norco 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.

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.

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.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

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 developed and implemented with input from the child. However, one NSP does not include input from all members of the treatment team. In addition, NSPs are not comprehensive and do not include short term goals.

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

Recommendations

1. Trinity Youth Services management:

- a. Include the placement worker as part of the treatment team in the update of the NSPs.**
- b. Maintain comprehensive NSPs that are specific, measurable, attainable, realistic, time limited and include short 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.

One child is not aware of opportunities 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.

Recommendation

- 2. Trinity Youth Services management inform all children of opportunities to participate in extra-curricular activities in which they have an interest.**

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 express satisfaction with the quality of their interactions with staff and report that the 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 also 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.

**Trinity Youth Services
Trinity Yucaipa Group Home
10776 Fremont Street
Yucaipa, California 92399
Telephone: (909) 797-0114
License Number: 360900416
Rate Classification Level: 12**

I. Facility and Environment

Method of assessment – Observation

Comments:

Trinity Yucaipa Home is located in a residential community. The Group Home consists of five living units; Aquarian, Brother, Gemini, Leo, and Raider. The exterior of the Group Home is well maintained. The front and back yards are clean and adequately landscaped.

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 shower in bathroom two in the Raider Unit has water damage to the frame and entry floor.

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. However, the crossbar of the soccer goal is bent. There are board games, TVs, and DVD players. Books and resource materials, including computers with a variety of programs, are also available.

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

Recommendations

1. Trinity Youth Services management:

- a. Repair the shower in bathroom two in the Raider Unit.**
- b. Repair the soccer goal.**

II. Program Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size: Thirteen

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 term goals. However, four NSPs do not include short term goals.

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

Recommendation

- 2. Trinity Youth Services management include short term goals for all NSPs.**

III. Educational and Emancipation Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size: Thirteen

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: Thirteen

Comments:

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

Documentation confirms that children are routinely seen by the prescribing psychiatrist. However, one child does not have a current court authorization for the psychotropic medication he is taking.

Children are informed about their psychotropic medication and are aware of their right to refuse medication. Medication distribution logs are properly maintained.

Recommendation

3. Trinity Youth Services management maintain current court authorizations for all children taking psychotropic medication.

VI. Personal Rights

Method of assessment –Interviews with children

Sample size: Thirteen

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 the 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: Thirteen

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 also 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.



RECEIVED
17-387

Residential Services

3/27/07

TRINITY YUCAIPA

To: Candace Rhue, Group Home Auditor Supervisor
Los Angeles County, Department of Auditor-Controller

From: Trinity Norco

RE: Corrective Action Plan for Audit- 2/22/07

The Corrective Action Plan (CAP) has been implemented as follows for the Norco Group Home located at 2104 Alhambra Street, Norco, California 92860

2 a. Recommendation

Include the placement worker as a member of the treatment team in the update of the Needs and Services Plans.

Corrective Action Plan

We will be implementing the enclosed form that will invite the probation officer to attend all pertinent dates in their clients treatment planning. e.g. I.E.P's, case reviews, Needs and Services Plans. This procedure will be implemented immediately and will be monitored by Keri Chavez, Clinical Coordinator.

2 b. Recommendation

Maintain comprehensive Needs and Services Plans that are specific, measurable, attainable, realistic, time limited and include short term goals.

Corrective Action Plan

The clinical director, Keri Chavez, of the facility will be overseeing all of the NSP's effective immediately. A sample of measurable goals was given to us and the Norco staff and therapist will be trained on utilizing and enforcing more comprehensive goals in the NSP's. Trainings will be conducted by Keri Chavez, Clinical Coordinator. The training will be held on Monday 4/2/07 at the supervisor meeting and starting Wednesday 4/4/07 and at all team meetings thereafter.

4 a. Recommendation

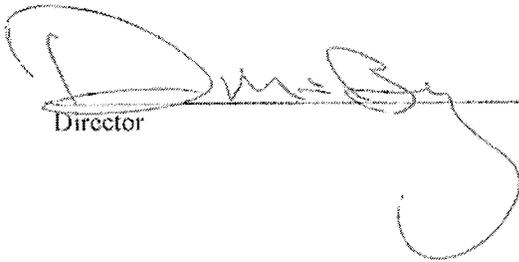
Trinity Youth Services management needs to inform all children of opportunities to participate in extra-curricular activities in which they have an interest.

Corrective Action Plan

An addendum to the client intake packet has been created and will be given to

new and existing clients to sign, stating that with probation officer approval the client will be able to participate in extra-curricular activities off-grounds. This procedure will be put into effect immediately. House Supervisor, Ms. Cross will oversee this procedure and will remind clients of these rights at the client's quarterly case review.

The above corrective action plan will be monitored by the House Supervisor, Ms. Cross, the Clinical Coordinator, Keri Chavez and the Director, Darren McBay. An external audit will be conducted on April 25th, 2007 to ensure that all above corrective action plans are being implemented.



Director



Residential Services

4/06/07

TRINITY YUCAIPA

To: Candace Rhue, Group Home Auditor Supervisor
Los Angeles County, Department of Auditor-Controller

From: Trinity Yucaipa

RE: Corrective Action Plan for Audit- 3/05/07

The Corrective Action Plan (CAP) has been implemented as follows for the Yucaipa Group Home located at 10776 Fremont St. Yucaipa, Ca 92399.

1 a. Recommendation

Repair the shower in bathroom two in the Raider Unit.

Corrective Action Plan

The shower in bathroom two, in the Raider Unit, was repaired. The frame of the shower was replaced and the entire bathroom floor was also replaced by the head of maintenance, Leroy Nowlin. The bathrooms will be monitored by unit supervisors and Leroy Nowlin.

1 b. Recommendation

Repair the soccer goal.

Corrective Action Plan

The soccer goal has been repaired and a picture can be made available at request. The soccer goal was repaired by the recreational director, Larry Smith. Larry Smith will monitor all recreational equipment to ensure that it stays in suitable condition.

2 a. Recommendation

Trinity Youth Services management includes short term goals for all NSPs.

Corrective Action Plan

The Needs and Services Plans have been adjusted to include short term goals. The Needs and Services Plans will be audited regularly and monitored by the clinical coordinator, Keri Chavez. Training will occur on April 18th, 2007 with all unit supervisors, to discuss the needs and services plan requirements.

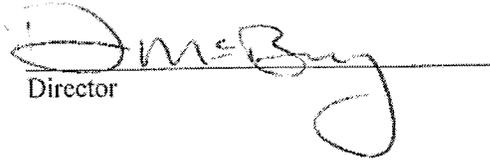
3 a. Recommendation

Trinity Youth Services management maintain current court authorizations for all children taking psychotropic medications.

Corrective Action Plan

The court authorization for Juan M. was faxed, per the request of the auditor. The psychotropic authorizations will be monitored by the Clinical Coordinator, Keri Chavez.

The above corrective action plan will be monitored by the Director, Darren McBay, and the Clinical Coordinator, Keri Chavez. An internal audit will be conducted on April 23rd, 2007 to ensure that all above corrective action plans are being implemented.


Director