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DEPARTMENT OF AUDITOR-CONTROLLER**

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July 5, 2007

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

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

SUBJECT: **GROUP HOME PROGRAM MONITORING REPORT – TEEN'S HAPPY HOME, INCORPORATED – TEENS HAPPY HOME GROUP HOME**

We have completed a review of Teen's Happy Home (Group Home or Agency) operated by Teen's Happy Home, Incorporated. The Group Home contracts with the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and the Probation Department (Probation).

Teen's Happy Home is a 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, Teen's Happy Home was providing services for five DCFS children.

Teen's Happy 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. The Agency needs to address several deficient areas.

Teen's Happy Home needs to repair and paint the exterior window frames and sills. The Group Home also needs to clean the ceilings in the dining and living rooms, clean the floor moldings and edges throughout the group home, repair the grout around the bathtub and clean the wall tile grout in bathroom one. Additionally, the Group Home needs to clean the kitchen window, window screens and interior window frame, replace the missing floor slat in bedroom one, and document participation of all treatment team members in the development and implementation of the 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:jh

### **Attachments**

c: David E. Janssen, Chief Executive Officer  
Patricia S. Ploehn, Director, DCFS  
Robert B. Taylor, Chief Probation Officer  
Beautina Robinson, Executive Director, Teen's Happy Home Group Home  
Public Information Office  
Audit Committee

**Teen's Happy Home, Incorporated  
Teen's Happy Home Group Home  
3936 Dalton Avenue  
Los Angeles, California 90062  
Telephone: 323 734-0302  
License Number: 198203038  
Rate Classification Level: 7**

## **I. Facility and Environment**

### **Method of assessment – Observation**

#### **Comments:**

Teen's Happy Home is located in a residential community. The front and back yards are clean and adequately landscaped. However, the exterior wood window sills of the Group Home are deteriorated and the paint is chipped.

The Group Home has adequate furniture and lighting and provides a home-like environment. The common quarters are neat. However, the ceilings in the dining and living area are dirty and dusty. The floor moldings and edges throughout the house are dirty. In bathroom one, the grout around the bathtub is damaged and there is mold and mildew on the wall tile grout. The kitchen window screens, window, and the interior window frame are dirty and dusty.

Children's bedrooms 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, one of the floor slats in bedroom one is missing.

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. Teen's Happy Home management:**

- a. Repair and paint the exterior window frames and window sills.**
- b. Clean the ceilings in the dining and living room.**

- c. Clean the floor moldings and edges throughout the group home.
- d. Repair the grout around the bathtub in bathroom one.
- e. Clean the wall tile grout in bathroom one.
- f. Clean the kitchen window, window screens, and interior window frame.
- g. Replace the missing floor slat in bedroom one.

## **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, comprehensive, and include short and long term goals. NSPs are developed with input from the child. However, the participation of all treatment team members in the development and implementation of the NSPs is not adequately documented.

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

### **Recommendations**

- 2. Teen’s Happy Home management maintain adequate documentation to show the participation of all treatment team members in the development and implementation of the NSPs.

## **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 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:**

According to the Agency's management, there are currently no children taking 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: 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 provides children with adequate personal care items. Children are also encouraged and assisted in creating and maintaining photo albums/life books.

**Recommendations**

**There are no recommendations for this section.**

**Teens Happy Home, Inc.  
Group Home**

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3936 So. Dalton Avenue  
Los Angeles, CA 90062

March 7, 2007

The following is Teens Happy Home Group Home response to the Corrective Action Plan follow-up report received

Teens Happy Home Group Home  
3936 Dalton Ave  
Los Angeles, CA 90062  
LIC# 198203038

**Section 1: Facility and Environment**

Recommendation

1. Repair and paint exterior window frame and window sills-COMPLETED BY THE Facility Manager
  2. Clean the ceilings in the dining and living room – COMPLETED BY STAFF
  3. Clean the floor molding and edges throughout the group home- COMPLETED BY STAFF
  4. Re-grout around the bathtub in bathroom one-COMPLETED BY THE FACILITY MANAGER
  5. Clean the kitchen window, window screen and interior window frame-COMPLETED BY STAFF
  6. Replace the missing floor slat in bedroom one-COMPLETED
- ❖ Management has implemented a check list to ensure that the agency maintains the facility is a clean and pleasant workable environment. The facility manager will be responsible to conduct physical checks and arrange that any and all repairs be completed as soon as possible.

**Section 2: Program Services**

Recommendation

1. Teen's Happy Home group Home management adequately document the participation of all treatment team members in the development and implementation of the NSPs. IMPLEMENTED

Bob Mirtoko, LCSW (Facility Social Worker) has been informed that the current NSP (Needs and Service Plans) must include documentation that shows that the treatment team and the resident participate in the development of the individual plan. Mr. Mirtoko's understanding is clear on what is needed and required to ensure that the NSP contains all proper documentation and verification. The Administrator will ensure that the facility social worker adhere to submitting effective documentation and ensure that evidence of the treatment team participating in all plans is also documented.

*"If I can help 'one' somebody, then my living has not been in vain"*

Respectfully Submitted,

  
Bequita Robinson, CEO

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