



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

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J. TYLER McCAULEY  
AUDITOR-CONTROLLER

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CHIEF DEPUTY

August 22, 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 – LOS ANGELES  
YOUTH NETWORK, BEACHWOOD RESIDENCE AND TAFT HOUSE  
GROUP HOMES**

We have completed a review of Beachwood Residence and Taft House Group Homes (Group Home or Agency) operated by Los Angeles Youth Network, Incorporated. Each Group Home contracts with the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and the Probation Department (Probation).

Beachwood Residence Group Home is a twelve-bed facility, which provides care for boys and girls ages 12-17 years who exhibit behavioral, social, and emotional difficulties. At the time of the monitoring visit, Beachwood Residence Group Home was providing services for five DCFS children and three Probation children.

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

Beachwood Residence and Taft House Group Homes are located in the Third 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

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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.

Both group homes need to clean or paint the walls in the children's bathrooms.

Beachwood Residence needs to replace two missing light fixture covers and clean the carpets in two of the children's bedrooms.

Taft House needs to clean the children's shower area.

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 Don Chadwick at (626) 293-1102.

JTM:DC:CC:asl

### **Attachments**

c: William T Fujioka, Chief Executive Officer  
Patricia S. Ploehn, Director, DCFS  
Susan Kerr, Chief Deputy Director, DCFS  
Robert B. Taylor, Chief Probation Officer  
Liz Gomez, Executive Director, Los Angeles Youth Network  
Public Information Office  
Audit Committee

**Los Angeles Youth Network  
Beachwood Residence  
2471 Beachwood Drive  
Los Angeles, California 90028  
Phone: (323) 962-0430  
License Number: 197603055  
Rate Classification Level: 10**

## **I. Facility and Environment**

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

#### **Comments:**

Beachwood Residence 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.

Generally, the interior of the Group Home is well maintained. There is adequate furniture and lighting in the Group Home. The Group Home provides a home-like environment. However, the walls are dirty in the downstairs bathroom and a light fixture cover is missing in the upstairs bathroom.

Overall, children's bedrooms are well maintained. The rooms 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, the carpet is dirty in bedrooms three and seven and a light fixture cover is missing in bedroom five.

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. Los Angeles Youth Network management:**
  - a. Clean or paint the downstairs bathroom walls.**
  - b. Replace the light fixture cover in the upstairs bathroom and in bedroom five.**
  - c. Clean or replace the carpet in bedrooms three and seven.**

## **II. Program Services**

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

**Sample size: Three**

**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.

**Recommendation**

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

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

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

**Sample size: Three**

**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.

**Recommendation**

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

#### **IV. Recreation and Activities**

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

**Sample size: Three**

**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.

##### **Recommendation**

**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.

##### **Recommendation**

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

#### **VI. Personal Rights**

**Method of assessment – Interviews with children**

**Sample size: Three**

**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 allowed to make and receive personal telephone calls, send and receive unopened mail, and have private visitors. Children 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.

### **Recommendation**

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

## **VII. Clothing and Allowance**

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

**Sample size: Three**

#### **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.

### **Recommendation**

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

**Los Angeles Youth Network  
Taft House  
1754 Taft Avenue  
Los Angeles, California 90028  
Phone: (323) 467-8466  
License Number: 197603054  
Rate Classification Level: 10**

## **I. Facility and Environment**

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

#### **Comments:**

Taft House 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. There is adequate furniture and lighting in the Group Home. The Group Home provides a home-like environment. However, the upstairs bathroom walls are dirty and there is mold in the shower area in the upstairs bathroom.

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**

- 1. Los Angeles Youth Network management:**
  - a. Clean or paint walls in the upstairs bathroom.**
  - b. Remove the mold from the shower area in the upstairs bathroom.**

## **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.

### **Recommendation**

**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.

Children are provided with opportunities to participate in emancipation and vocational programs as appropriate.

### **Recommendation**

**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.

##### **Recommendation**

**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.

##### **Recommendation**

**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 allowed to make and receive personal telephone calls, send and receive unopened mail, and have private visitors. Children 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.

**Recommendation**

**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.

**Recommendation**

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

LOS ANGELES YOUTH NETWORK

www.layn.org

Serving youth, family and community since 1986

July 2, 2007

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*Clinical Psychologist*

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

Re: Corrective Action Plan  
Beachwood Residence

Dear Ms. Rhue:

In accordance with our conversation, the following is the  
Corrective Action Plan for the items listed in your letter  
dated June 27, 2007.

I. Facility and Environment

Los Angeles Youth Network Management:

- a. clean or paint the downstairs bathroom wall
- b. replace the light fixture cover in the upstairs  
bathroom and in bedroom five
- c. clean or replace the carpet in bedrooms three  
and seven

Corrective Action Plan:

- a. wall in downstairs bathroom has been cleaned
- b. light fixture covers in the upstairs bathroom and  
bedroom five have been replaced
- c. the carpets in bedrooms three and seven have  
been cleaned

The person for ensuring that these deficiencies do not occur  
in the future and for implementing this Corrective Action  
Plan is Mary Leasure, Group Home Administrator. Mary

☐ 1550 N. Gower Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90028  
Tel: 323-957-7364  
Fax: 323-957-7369

☐ 1754 Taft Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90028  
Tel: 323-467-8466  
Fax: 323-464-4357

☐ 2471 Beachwood Drive  
Los Angeles, CA 90068  
Tel: 323-962-0430  
Fax: 323-962-3866



Leasure is also responsible for monitoring to ensure that the corrective action remains implemented and is working as intended.

Sincerely,

*Mary Leasure*  
Mary Leasure  
Group Home Administrator  
Beachwood Group Home

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

Re: Corrective Action Plan  
Taft House

Dear Ms. Rhue:

In accordance with our conversation, the following is the  
Corrective Action Plan for the items listed in your letter  
dated June 27, 2007.

I. Facility and Environment

Los Angeles Youth Network Management:

- a. clean or pain walls in the upstairs bathroom
- b. remove the mold from the shower area in the  
upstairs bathroom

Corrective Action Plan:

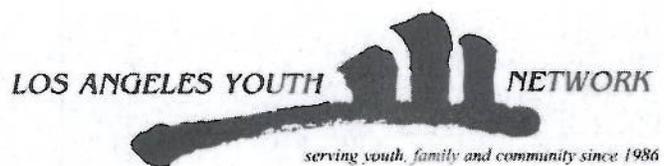
- a. wall in upstairs bathroom has been cleaned
- b. mold in the shower area in the upstairs  
bathroom has been removed

The person for ensuring that these deficiencies do not occur  
in the future and for implementing this Corrective Action  
Plan is Mary Leasure, Group Home Administrator. Mary  
Leasure is also responsible for monitoring to ensure that the

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Los Angeles, CA 90068  
Tel: 323-962-0450  
Fax: 323-962-3866



corrective action remains implemented and is working as intended.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary Leasure".

Mary Leasure  
Group Home Administrator  
Taft House