



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

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October 2, 2007

TO: Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, Chairman  
Supervisor Gloria Molina  
Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke  
Supervisor Don Knabe  
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich  
*Wendy L. Watanabe*  
FROM: J. Tyler McCauley <sup>FOR</sup>  
Auditor-Controller

SUBJECT: **GROUP HOME PROGRAM MONITORING REPORT – MOZELL  
PENNINGTON'S BOYS CENTER, INCORPORATED, BUTLER HOUSE  
GROUP HOME**

We have completed a review of Butler House Group Home (Group Home or Agency) operated by Mozell Pennington's Boys Center, Incorporated. The Group Home contracts with the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and the Probation Department (Probation).

Butler House Group Home is an eight-bed facility, which provides care for boys ages 11-17 years who exhibit behavioral, social and emotional difficulties. At the time of the monitoring visit, Butler House Group Home was providing services for seven DCFS children.

Butler House Group 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

*"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"*

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.

The Group Home needs to assess all children for needed services within thirty days of placement, develop Needs and Services Plans (NSPs) that are comprehensive and include the treatment team and the child in the development and implementation of the NSPs.

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:jdh

### **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  
Mozell Pennington, Executive Director, Mozell Pennington's Boys Center, Inc.  
Public Information Office  
Audit Committee

**Mozell Pennington's Boys Center  
Butler House Group Home  
Compton, CA 90221  
License Number: 191600243  
Rate Classification Level: 8**

**I. Facility and Environment**

**Method of assessment – Observation**

**Comments:**

Butler 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.

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, a DVD player, books and a computer with a variety of programs.

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

**Recommendation**

**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. However, all children are not assessed for needed services within thirty days of placement.

The Needs and Services Plans (NSPs) are current. However, input from the treatment team and the child are not included in the development or implementation of the NSPs. The NSPs are not comprehensive.

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

**Recommendations****1. Mozell Pennington's Boys Center Group Home management:**

- a. **Assess all children for needed services within thirty days of placement.**
- b. **Include input from the treatment team and the child in the development and implementation of the Needs and Services Plans.**
- c. **Develop comprehensive Needs and Services Plans.**

**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:**

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

### **Recommendation**

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

**Mozell Pennington's Boys Center  
Butler House Group Home  
14818 South Butler Avenue  
Compton, California 90221  
Telephone: 310-639-2472  
License Number: 191600243  
Rate Classification Level: 8**

**August 10, 2007**

**Attention: Candace Rhue, Home Audit Supervisor**

**Department of Auditor- Controller, Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
500 W. Temple St., Room 515-A, Los Angeles Ca 90012**

**Corrective Action Plan for Audit report on: May 15, 2007**

**II. Program Services**

**1. Mozell Pennington's Boys Center Group Home Management:**

- a. Assess all children for needed services within thirty days of placement.**

**Current status: Implemented**

**Corrective action taken:**

The Administrator and house LCSW will make sure all clients thirty day NSPs is done in a timely manner.

The Administrator and LCSW will set the due date of the NSP and within the time required ensure that all parties are informed of the team meeting and due date needed to complete the NSP.

All team treatment meetings will take place before the thirty day NSP is due.

**Person responsible for implementing the corrective action:  
The LCSW and Administrator**

**Person responsible for monitoring corrective plan remains  
implemented:  
The Executive Director**

- b. Include input from the treatment team and the child in the  
development and implementation of the Needs and Services  
Plans.**

**Current status: Implemented**

**Correction action taken:**

The LCSW and Administrator will set a date for the treatment team to meet and develop the NSP. The treatment team will consist of the child, child CSW, possible family member, school teacher, mentors and other outside agencies such as Wrap around services.

**Person implementing the corrective action: Administrator and  
LCSW.**

**Person responsible for monitoring the corrective action  
remains implemented: Executive Director.**

- c. Develop comprehensive Needs and Services Plans.**

**Current status: Implemented**

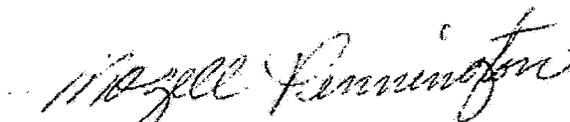
**Corrective action taken:**

The LCSW will include the child and treatment team when developing the NSP. Ensuring that each goal the child is working on is obtainable and comprehensive and ensuring that each child understands clearly how to work toward each goal.

**Person implementing the corrective action: LCSW**

**Person responsible for monitoring the corrective action  
remains implemented: Director and Administrator.**

**Respectfully,**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mozell Pennington". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "M".

**Mozell Pennington  
Executive Director**