



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

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April 1, 2008

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

FROM: Wendy L. Watanabe *Wendy Watanabe*
Acting Auditor-Controller

SUBJECT: **GROUP HOME PROGRAM MONITORING REPORT – HOMES OF HOPE, INCORPORATED – CASA ESPERANZA TREATMENT CENTER GROUP HOME**

We have completed a review of Casa Esperanza Treatment Center Group Home (Group Home or Agency) operated by Homes of Hope, Incorporated. The Group Home contracts with the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and the Probation Department (Probation).

Casa Esperanza Treatment Center 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, Casa Esperanza Treatment Center Group Home was providing services for six DCFS children.

Casa Esperanza Treatment Center Group Home is located in the First 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

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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 such as cleaning the stove and oven, removing mildew from the bathtub, shower and the cabinet under the sink, and replacing the curtain in bedroom one.

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.

WLW:DC:CC:sj

Attachments

c: William T Fujioka, Chief Executive Officer
Patricia S. Ploehn, Director, Department of Children and Family Services
Susan Kerr, Chief Deputy Director, Department of Children and Family Services
Robert B. Taylor, Chief Probation Officer
Sukhwinder Singh, Executive Director, Homes of Hope, Incorporated
Public Information Office
Audit Committee

**Homes of Hope, Incorporated
Casa Esperanza Treatment Center Group Home
Pomona, California 91768
License Number: 197804217
Rate Classification Level: 11**

I. Facility and Environment

Method of assessment – Observation

Comments:

Casa Esperanza Treatment Center 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 adequately maintained. There is adequate furniture and lighting in the Group Home. The Group Home provides a home-like environment. However, the kitchen stove and oven are dirty. In the main bathroom, there is mildew in the bathtub, shower and the cabinet under the sink.

Overall, 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, the curtain is torn in bedroom one. 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. Homes of Hope management:

- a. Clean the kitchen stove and oven.**
- b. Remove the mildew from the bathtub, shower and the cabinet under the sink in the main bathroom.**
- c. Replace the curtain 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 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:

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 also 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.

CASA ESPERANZA TREATMENT CENTER

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Facility Number #197804217

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March 5, 2008

Ms. 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

RE: Homes of Hope Casa Esperanza Treatment Center Group Home
Facility Number: 197804217
Site Visit: January 17, 2008

Facility Environment Recommendations	Corrective Action Plan
1. Homes of Hope Management: a. Clean the kitchen stove and oven	The kitchen stove and oven has been cleaned. Staff will maintain by cleaning the kitchen stove daily and the oven after each use.
b. Remove the mildew in the bathtub, shower and the cabinet under the sink in the main bathroom.	The mildew in the bathtub, shower and the cabinet under the sink in the main bathroom were cleaned. Cleanliness of these areas will be monitored on a daily basis by the group home facility manager assigned during the morning shift who will ensure that all shift workers comply.
c. Replace the curtain in bedroom one.	The group home has taken measures by ordering curtains for all (3) of the bedrooms that are an appropriate to-fit the windows. These curtains have been ordered from Sears in Cerritos, CA and are waiting for delivery. (See Attachment). If these are not received by the end of the week. The agency will take measure to find alternate replacement window coverings no later than March 14 th .

If you have any questions regarding our Corrective Action Plan, please do not hesitate to contact me at (626) 523-2422.

Sincerely,



Sukhwinder Singh
Executive Director

“Serving the special needs of children in foster care”