



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

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August 18, 2009

TO: Supervisor Don Knabe, Chairman  
Supervisor Gloria Molina  
Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas  
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky  
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

FROM: Wendy L. Watanabe  
Auditor-Controller

SUBJECT: **GROUP HOME PROGRAM MONITORING REPORT – JUNIOR BLIND  
OF AMERICA, INCORPORATED – JUNIOR BLIND OF AMERICA  
GROUP HOME**

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

Junior Blind of America Group Home is a 40-bed facility, which provides care for girls and boys ages 6-17 years who exhibit behavioral, social, and emotional difficulties. At the time of the monitoring visit, Junior Blind of America Group Home was providing services for six DCFS children, 14 privately placed children, four Alameda County children, three San Gabriel Valley Regional Center children, two San Bernardino County children, one Kern County child, one Orange County child, one Riverside County child, one Sacramento County child, one San Diego County child, one San Mateo County child, and one Tri County child.

Junior Blind of America Group Home is located in the Second District.

**Scope of Review**

The purpose of our review is to determine whether the Agency is providing the services as outlined in their Program Statement. In addition, 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, employee 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. Three of the six DCFS children are non-verbal and unable to participate in the interview. As a result, for those children, observation and supporting documentation are used to determine the appropriateness of program services provided by the Agency.

### **Summary of Findings**

Generally, the Agency is providing the services as outlined in their Program Statement. However, the Agency needs to address a few deficient areas. Specifically, the Group Home needs to include all members of the treatment team in the development and implementation of the Needs and Services Plans. The Group Home also needs to maintain documentation to show that children are receiving treatment services.

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 (213) 253-0301.

WLW:MMO:JET:DC:AA:bg

### **Attachments**

- c: William T Fujioka, Chief Executive Officer
- Patricia S. Ploehn, Director, DCFS
- Ted Myers, Chief Deputy Director, DCFS
- Susan Kerr, Senior Deputy Director, DCFS
- Robert B. Taylor, Chief Probation Officer
- Harold Davidson, Chairman of the Board, Junior Blind of America Group Home
- Miki Jordan, Executive Director, Junior Blind of America Group Home
- Public Information Office
- Audit Committee

**Junior Blind of America Group Home  
Los Angeles, California 90043  
License Number: 191800260  
Rate Classification Level: 11**

**I. Facility and Environment**

**Method of assessment – Observation**

**Comments:**

Junior Blind of America Group Home (Group Home or Agency) 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, the beds all have a full complement of linens, and 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.

**Recommendation**

**None.**

**II. Program Services**

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

**Sample size: Four**

**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. However, all members of the treatment team are not included in the development or implementation of the NSPs. In addition, case files do not reflect adequate documentation to show that children are receiving treatment services.

**Recommendations**

**1. Junior Blind of America Group Home management:**

- a. Include all members of the treatment team in the development and implementation of the Needs and Services Plans.**
- b. Maintain adequate documentation to show that children are receiving treatment services.**

**III. Educational and Emancipation Services**

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

**Sample size: Four**

**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 also provided with opportunities to participate in emancipation and vocational programs as appropriate.

**Recommendation**

**None.**

**IV. Recreation and Activities**

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

**Sample size: Four**

**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**

None.

**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**

None.

**VI. Personal Rights**

**Method of assessment – Interviews with children and observation**

**Sample size: Four**

**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 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**

**None.**

**VII. Clothing and Allowance**

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

**Sample size: Four**

**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**

**None.**

**VIII. Personnel Background Checks**

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

**Sample size for employee record evaluation: Thirty**

**Comments:**

The Group Home has obtained the required criminal and child abuse clearances for their employees.

**Recommendation**

**None.**



April 20, 2009

Candace Rhue  
Group Home Audit Supervisor  
County of Los Angeles  
Department of Auditor-Controller  
Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
350 S. Figueroa St. 8<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Los Angeles, CA 90071

Re: **Correct of Action Plan**  
**License #191800260**  
**Rate classification Level: 11**

Dear Ms. Rhue

Enclosed you will find Junior blind of America's Correct of Action Plan (CAP) subsequent to the Group Home Evaluation review results dated on February 2-3, 2009

**Area of Review: Program Services:**

Method of Assessment: Review of relevant document and interviews.

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.

Recommendations:

- A. Include all member of the treatment team in the development and implementation of the Needs and Services Plans.
- B. Maintain adequate documentation to show that children are receiving treatment services.

Corrective Action Plan:

Junior Blind of America will implement the following.

- Junior Blind of America will conduct an on site review every 90 days the Needs and Service Plan with the treatment team and modify the plan as appropriate.
- Junior Blind of America will review documentation to show that children are receiving treatment services.

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- Director of Residential Services and/or Director of Social Services will ensure that Needs and Service Plan assessment are completed within the 90 days.
- Director of Social Services and/or Case Manager will invite the Social Worker as part of the Treatment team to participate and sign the Needs and Service Plan.
- Director of Social Services and/or Case Manager will mail a letter, fax and or email to social workers for participation of the Needs and Service Plan meeting.
- At quarterly meeting participant will be asked to signed signature sheet.

If you have any questions regarding the CAP, Please contact me at (323) 295-4555 ext. 466 or Debra Adams Vice President of Programs at ext. 275.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ernesto Vasquez', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Ernesto Vasquez  
Director of Residential Services