



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

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October 20, 2003

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

FROM: J. Tyler McCauley   
Auditor-Controller

SUBJECT: **GROUP HOME PROGRAM MONITORING REPORTS – BRIGHT  
FUTURE, MESA ST., WEST 253<sup>RD</sup> ST., AND PACIFIC AVENUE  
FACILITIES**

We have completed a review of the three group homes operated by Bright Future, Mesa Street (Bright Future #1), West 253<sup>rd</sup> Street (Bright Future #2), and Pacific Avenue (Bright Future #3) facilities. Each home is contracted with the Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and the Probation Department (Probation). All three sites are six-bed facilities located in the Fourth Supervisorial District that provide care for children ages 10-17 years who exhibit social and emotional difficulties. At the time of the monitoring visit, each home was providing services for six Los Angeles County DCFS children.

**Scope of Review**

The purpose of the review was to verify that the three agencies were providing services outlined in their Program Statements. Additionally, the review covered basic child safety and licensing issues. The review included an evaluation of each home's Program Statement, internal policies and procedures, child case records, a facility inspection, and interviews with two children placed in each of the respective homes at the time of the reviews. The interviews with the residents were 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, all three agencies provide the services outlined in their Program Statements. However, we noted that two of the agencies needed some improvements.

**Bright Future #1**

Bright Future #1 needs to make several repairs to its facility.

**Bright Future #3**

Bright Future #3 needs to make several repairs to its facility.

Attached is a detailed report of each home's findings.

**Review of Report**

We discussed our report with the Agency's management. The Agency's management has agreed to provide DCFS with a written corrective action plan within fifteen business days from the receipt of this report. We thank the management and staff for their cooperation during our reviews.

If you have any questions, please contact me, or have your staff contact Patrick McMahon at (213) 974-0729.

JTM:PM:CC

Attachment

- c: David E. Janssen, Chief Administrative Officer
- Violet Varona-Lukens, Executive Officer
- Public Information Office
- Audit Committee
- David Sanders, Ph.D., Director, DCFS
- Richard Shumsky, Chief Probation Officer
- Suzy Moraes, Supervising Deputy Probation Officer
- Levetta Hill, Group Home Director

**Bright Future #1  
141 S. Mesa St.  
San Pedro, CA 90731  
(310) 891-0096  
License No.: 191671009  
Rate Classification Level: 11**

## **I. FACILITY AND ENVIRONMENT**

*(Facility Based - No Sample)*

### **Method of assessment – Observation and resident interviews**

**Sample size for resident interviews: Two**

### **Comments:**

Bright Future, Mesa Street (Bright Future #1), is nicely maintained and blends in well with other homes on the street. The yard was landscaped with flowerbeds, green grass, and shrubs. However, around the exterior some repairs were needed. Glass pieces were missing from the window of the staff bathroom, the metal screen on the back door window is damaged, the wooden door housing the water heater had dry rot around the frame, and a handle on the side gate needed replacing. There were no observable safety hazards.

Furnishings throughout the house were in good condition. The bedrooms are neat, clean, and personalized to each resident's desire. In addition, the residents' clothes were neatly arranged in their drawers and closets. Resident bathrooms were clean with all fixtures in proper working condition. However, there were areas in need of improvement.

The rear exit door needed painting and, in the hallway, the tile in the area near the washing machine was damaged. The insides of the kitchen cabinets needed cleaning, and one cabinet had a broken handle. Throughout the house paint spots were noticeable on the carpet.

Bright Future #1 maintains age appropriate and accessible recreational equipment that included board games, a TV, Nintendo, VCR, and cable.

There was a variety of frozen meats, vegetables and dry goods. Fresh snacks were available for residents and foods were properly stored.

### **Recommendations**

- 1. Bright Future #1 management:**
  - a. Repair the window of the staff bathroom.**

- b. Repair the metal screen on the back door window.
- c. Replace the wooden door housing the water heater.
- d. Repair the handle on the side gate.
- e. Paint the rear door.
- f. Replace the tile near the washer area in the hallway.
- g. Clean inside the kitchen cabinets.
- g. Repair the kitchen cabinet handle.
- h. Remove paint spots on the carpet throughout the facility.

## II. PROGRAM SERVICES

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

**Sample size for resident interviews: Two**

### **Comments:**

Both residents met Bright Future #1's population criteria as outlined in their program statement and received a complete initial diagnostic assessment.

The Needs and Services Plans (NSPs) were realistic, measurable, and time specific. Both the residents and their placement workers were participants in the development and updating of the NSPs.

The Quarterly Reports were current, comprehensive, timely, complete, and focused on the goals in the NSPs.

The residents were receiving individual and group therapy sessions on a weekly basis.

### **Recommendations**

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

### III. EDUCATIONAL AND EMANCIPATION SERVICES

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

**Sample size for resident interviews: Two**

**Comments:**

Both residents were enrolled in school and their records contained semester report cards and/or progress reports. One resident required and had a current Individualized Education Plan. The residents reported that they were provided with a sufficient amount of educational stimulation away from school on a daily basis and that the agency supported their academic progress.

Development of daily living skills is a part of Bright Future #1's program. The residents are involved in the planning and preparation phase of meals, hygiene care is discussed as needed, and employment preparation is encouraged.

Age-appropriate residents are offered the opportunity to participate in emancipation and vocational programs.

**Recommendations**

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

### IV. RECREATION AND ACTIVITIES

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

**Sample size for resident interviews: Two**

**Comments:**

The agency follows a monthly activity schedule developed by the staff and residents. Residents are encouraged to participate in activities that they desire and are provided transportation to and from activities.

Residents have the opportunity to play table games, sports, and read at free times during the day.

**Recommendations**

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

## V. PSYCHOTROPIC MEDICATION

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

**Sample size for resident interviews:** There were six residents placed in the agency at the time of the review. A review of case files was not conducted as there were no residents prescribed psychotropic medications.

### Comments:

According to management, there were no residents receiving psychotropic medication.

### Recommendations

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

## VI. PERSONAL RIGHTS

### Method of assessment – Resident interviews

**Sample size for resident interviews: Two**

### Comments:

Both residents reported satisfaction with the facility and stated that the house was always clean, well maintained, and safe. According to the residents, they are always supervised in the home and treated with respect and dignity.

The residents received an initial orientation which included a review of the agency's policies and procedures. The facility had an appropriate system of discipline consisting of points and levels which both residents felt was fair.

Both residents indicated that they can follow the religion of their choice or choose not to. They felt that their health care needs were being met and that staff was culturally sensitive to each resident's background and ethnicity.

Both residents felt that their rights were respected with regard to health services. They had privacy during telephone calls and visits and could contact their social workers, attorneys, and family. The residents also reported that assigned chores were reasonable.

Both residents were aware of their legal right to refuse medication.

### Recommendations

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

## VII. CLOTHING AND ALLOWANCE

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

**Sample size for resident interviews: Two**

### **Comments:**

Bright Future #1 provides appropriate clothing, items of necessity, and allowances to the residents. Bright Future #1 supplies its residents with the required monthly clothing allowance in the amount of fifty dollars, and the residents are given the opportunity to select their own clothes. Clothing provided to the residents is of good quality and of sufficient quantity. The residents are provided with a fair minimum weekly allowance.

Bright Future #1 provides residents with adequate personal care items and sufficient, secure space to store their personal items.

The residents had life books.

### **Recommendations**

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

**Bright Future #2  
1051 West 253<sup>rd</sup> St.  
Harbor City, CA 90710  
Phone: 310-891-0096  
License No.: 191601313  
Rate Classification Level: 11**

## **I. FACILITY AND ENVIRONMENT**

*(Facility Based - No Sample)*

**Method of assessment – Observation and resident interviews**

**Sample size for resident interviews: Two**

### **Comments:**

Bright Future, W. 253<sup>rd</sup> Street (Bright Future #2), was nicely maintained and blended in well with other homes on the street. There were no observable safety hazards.

The interior of the home was bright and airy. Furnishings throughout the house were in very good condition and the kitchen was neat and clean. The bedrooms are neat, clean, and personalized to each resident's desire. In addition, the residents' clothes closets were large and well organized. Resident bathrooms were clean with all fixtures in proper working condition.

Bright Future #2 maintains age appropriate and accessible recreational equipment that included board games, a TV, video games, cable and VCR. A supply of reading materials was available to residents along with educational materials and a computer with software.

There was a variety of frozen meats, vegetables, and dry goods. Fresh snacks were available for residents. Opened foods were properly stored.

### **Recommendations**

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

## **II. PROGRAM SERVICES**

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

**Sample size for resident interviews: Two**



**Comments:**

Both residents met Bright Future #2's population criteria as outlined in their program statement and received a complete initial diagnostic assessment.

The Needs and Services Plans (NSPs) were realistic, measurable, and time specific. Both the children and their placement workers were participants in the development and updating of the NSPs.

The Quarterly Reports were current, comprehensive, timely, complete, and focused on the goals in the NSP.

Both residents were receiving individual and group therapy sessions.

**Recommendations**

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

**III. EDUCATIONAL AND EMANCIPATION SERVICES**

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

**Sample size for resident interviews: Two**

**Comments:**

Both residents were enrolled in school and their educational records contained semester report cards and/or progress reports. The residents reported that they are provided with a sufficient amount of educational stimulation away from school on a daily basis and that the agency supported their academic progress.

Development of daily living skills, such as the planning and preparation phase of meals and the discussion of hygiene care was discussed as needed, and employment preparation encouraged.

Age-appropriate residents are offered the opportunity to participate in emancipation and vocational programs.

**Recommendations**

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

#### **IV. RECREATION AND ACTIVITIES**

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

**Sample size for resident interviews: Two**

**Comments:**

The agency provides its residents with sufficient opportunities to participate in both on-site and off-site recreational activities. The residents express satisfaction with the quantity and variety of recreation and activities provided by the agency. The residents reported that they are able to participate in the selection of activities.

Local community organizations are utilized for recreation and program resources. According to the residents, they have plenty of free time and opportunities to participate in self-selected activities. In addition, the transportation to and from all activities is provided.

**Recommendations**

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

#### **V. PSYCHOTROPIC/OTHER MEDICATION**

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

**Sample size for resident interviews: There were six residents placed in the agency at the time of the review. A review of case files was not conducted as there were no residents prescribed psychotropic medications.**

**Comments:**

According to management, there were no residents receiving psychotropic medication.

**Recommendations**

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

#### **VI. PERSONAL RIGHTS**

**Method of assessment – Resident interviews**

**Sample size for resident interviews: Two**

**Comments:**

Both residents reported satisfaction with the home and stated that the house was always clean, well maintained, and safe. According to the residents, they are always supervised in the home and treated with respect and dignity.

The residents stated that they received an initial orientation which included a review of the agency's policies and procedures. The home had a system of discipline consisting of points and levels that both residents felt was fair.

Both residents indicated that they could follow the religion of their choice or choose not to. The residents felt that their health care needs were being met and that staff was culturally sensitive to each resident's background and ethnicity.

Both residents felt that their rights were respected with regard to health services. They had privacy during telephone calls or visits and could contact their social workers, attorneys, and family. The residents reported that assigned chores were reasonable.

Both residents were aware of their legal right to refuse medication.

**Recommendations**

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

**VII. CLOTHING AND ALLOWANCE**

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

**Sample size for resident interviews: Two**

**Comments:**

Bright Future #2 provides appropriate clothing, items of necessity, and allowances to the residents. Bright Future #2 supplies its residents with the required monthly clothing allowance in the amount of fifty dollars, and the residents are given the opportunity to select their own clothes. Clothing provided to the residents is of good quality and of sufficient quantity.

The residents are provided with a fair minimum weekly allowance that they were able to increase based on the agency's behavioral system.

Bright Future #2 provides residents with adequate personal care items and sufficient, secure space to store their personal items.

The residents had life books.

**Recommendations**

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

**Bright Future #3  
29209 S. Pacific Ave.  
San Pedro, CA  
310-891-0096  
License No.: 198200139  
Rate Classification Level: 11**

## **I. FACILITY AND ENVIRONMENT**

*(Facility Based - No Sample)*

### **Method of assessment – Observation and resident interviews**

### **Sample size for resident interviews: Two**

### **Comments:**

Bright Future, Pacific Ave. (Bright Future #3), is located in a residential neighborhood of well-maintained homes. The home is nicely maintained and blends in well with other homes on the street. There were no observable safety hazards.

The interior of the home was bright and airy. Furnishings throughout the house were in good condition and the kitchen was clean and neat. The bedrooms are also neat, clean, and are personalized to each resident's desire. In addition, the residents' clothes were neatly arranged in their drawers and closets. However, there were areas in need of improvement.

In bedroom number one, the patio door needed a screen. In bedroom number two, the window blinds needed replacing and the window screen was missing. Bedroom number three was in need of a screen door, the window coverings needed cleaning and repair, and the walls needed painting.

The upstairs resident bathroom had an odd smell, unfinished wall patching, and a hole in the window screen. In the downstairs resident bathroom, grout in the tub area needed to be reapplied, the tub faucet leaked, the walls needed painting, and there was a rusted unused paper towel holder on the bathroom wall.

In the den, the carpet is stained and torn, a worn chair needs replacing and the arm of the sofa is torn.

Bright Future #3 maintains age appropriate and accessible recreational equipment that includes a step machine, board games, a TV, Xbox, DVD, VCR and cable.

There was a variety of frozen meats, vegetables, and dry goods. Fresh snacks were openly available for residents and properly stored.

## **Recommendations**

1. **Bright Future #3 management:**
  - a. **Replace the patio screen door in bedrooms number one and three.**
  - b. **Replace the window blinds in bedroom number two.**
  - c. **Replace the window screens in bedroom number two and the upstairs bathroom.**
  - d. **Clean and repair the window blinds in bedroom number three.**
  - e. **Eliminate the smell in the upstairs bathroom.**
  - f. **Replace the caulking/grout around the tub area in the downstairs bathroom.**
  - g. **Repair the leaky tub faucet in the downstairs bathroom.**
  - h. **Remove the towel holder in the downstairs bathroom.**
  - i. **Clean and paint the walls throughout the facility as needed.**
  - j. **Clean and repair/replace the carpet in the den.**
  - k. **Remove the worn chair from the den and repair the sofa.**

### **III. PROGRAM SERVICES**

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

**Sample size for resident interviews: Two**

#### **Comments:**

Both residents met Bright Future #3's population criteria as outlined in their program statement and received a complete initial diagnostic assessment.

The Needs and Services Plans (NSPs) were realistic, measurable, and time specific. Both the residents and their placement workers were participants in the development and updating of the NSPs.

The Quarterly Reports were current, comprehensive, timely, complete, and focused on the goals in the NSP.

Both residents were receiving individual and group therapy sessions on a weekly basis.

### **Recommendations**

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

## **III. EDUCATIONAL AND EMANCIPATION SERVICES**

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

**Sample size for resident interviews: Two**

### **Comments:**

Both residents were enrolled in school and had current Individualized Education Plans. Their records contained semester report cards and/or progress reports. The residents reported that they were provided with a sufficient amount of educational stimulation away from school on a daily basis and that the agency supported their academic progress.

Development of daily living skills is part of Bright Future #3's program. The residents are involved in the planning and preparation phase of meals. Hygiene care was discussed as needed, and employment preparation is encouraged.

Age-appropriate residents are offered the opportunity to participate in emancipation and vocational programs.

### **Recommendations**

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

## **IV. RECREATION AND ACTIVITIES**

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

**Sample size for resident interviews: Two**

### **Comments:**

The agency follows a monthly activity schedule developed by the staff and residents. During group sessions the residents can suggest outings and activities. Residents were provided transportation to and from activities.

Residents are encouraged to participate in activities that they desire and many of the outings occur on weekends.

Residents have the opportunity to play table games, sports, and read, at free times during the day.

### **Recommendations**

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

## **V. PSYCHOTROPIC MEDICATION**

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

**Sample size for resident interviews: There were six residents placed in the agency at the time of the review. A review of case files was not conducted as there were no residents prescribed psychotropic medications.**

### **Comments:**

According to management, there are no residents receiving psychotropic medication.

### **Recommendations**

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

## **VI. PERSONAL RIGHTS**

### **Method of assessment – Resident interviews**

**Sample size for resident interviews: Two**

### **Comments:**

The residents were presented with the policies, rules and regulations when arriving in placement. The residents stated that they felt safe in the home and were generally treated with respect. Both indicated that a sufficient number of staff was always in the home when residents were present and rated the physical facility as “good.”

Resident chores include the maintenance of their own rooms and common areas which the residents did not feel were too demanding.

Both residents are able to have telephone contact to their placement worker as they wish. Phone calls and visits are permitted with sufficient privacy and the residents indicated that they can follow the religion of their choice or choose not to. The residents felt that their health care needs were being met and that staff was culturally sensitive to each resident’s background and ethnicity.

The residents were aware of their right to refuse medication.



**Recommendations**

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

**VII. CLOTHING AND ALLOWANCE**

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

**Sample size for resident interviews: Two**

**Comments:**

Bright Future #3 provides appropriate clothing, items of necessity, and allowances to the residents. Bright Future #3 supplies its residents with the required monthly clothing allowance in the amount of fifty dollars, and the residents are given the opportunity to select their own clothes. Clothing provided to the residents is of good quality and of sufficient quantity. The residents are provided with a fair minimum weekly allowance.

Bright Future #3 provides residents with adequate personal care items and sufficient, secure space to store their personal items.

The residents had life books.

**Recommendations**

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