



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

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J. TYLER McCAULEY
AUDITOR-CONTROLLER

November 12, 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 REPORT – WEST COVINA
GROUP HOME, WEST COVINA #1 AND WEST COVINA #2**

We have completed a review of the two facilities operated by West Covina Group Home, West Covina #1 and West Covina #2. Each home contracts with the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and the Probation Department (Probation).

West Covina #1 is a six-bed facility located in the Fifth Supervisorial District that provides care for boys ages 6-14 years who exhibit behavioral, social, and emotional difficulties. At the time of the monitoring visit, West Covina #1 was providing services for six Los Angeles County DCFS children.

West Covina #2 is a six-bed facility located in San Bernardino County that provides care for boys ages 6-14 years who exhibit behavioral, social, and emotional difficulties. At the time of the monitoring visit, West Covina #2 was providing services for five DCFS children.

Scope of Review

The purpose of the review is to verify that the two homes are providing services outlined in their Program Statement. Additionally, the review covers basic child safety and licensing issues and 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 homes at the time of the reviews. The interviews with the residents were designed to obtain their perspectives on the program services

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provided by the group home and to ensure its adherence to the Foster Youth Bill of Rights.

Summary of Findings

Generally, both homes were providing services outlined in their Program Statements. However, West Covina #1 needs to repair the front entry security door and West Covina #2 needs to make repairs to its facility.

Attached are detailed reports of the findings for each home.

Review of Report

We discussed our report with the Agency's management. The Agency's management is required 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 review.

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

JTM:PM:CC

- 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
- Hardip Gil, Administrator, West Covina Group Home

WEST COVINA GROUP HOME
West Covina Group Home 1
1333 E. Loma Vista Street
West Covina, CA 91790
Phone: (626) 966-2299
License No.: 191592113
Rate Classification Level: 10

I. FACILITY AND ENVIRONMENT

(Facility Based - No Sample)

Method of assessment – Observation and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

West Covina #1 is one of two facilities operated by West Covina Group Home. Located on a residential street, the facility is well maintained, nicely landscaped, and blends in with the other homes on the block. There were no observable safety hazards.

The interior of the home was generally neat and clean with common rooms nicely decorated and maintained. Resident bedrooms were spacious, comfortable, and personalized to each child's desire with posters, pictures, and knick-knacks.

However, the front entry security door was broken and did not close properly.

There was age-appropriate play equipment in the home including table games, a TV, VCR, weights and basketball equipment. There was a variety of programs, books, resource material, and a computer.

There was a sufficient supply of properly stored frozen food, meat, canned goods, bakery items, and fresh fruit.

Recommendations

- 1. West Covina #1 management repair the front entry security door.**

II. PROGRAM SERVICES

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

Both residents met West Covina #1's population criteria as outlined in their program statement and received an initial diagnostic assessment.

Both Needs and Services Plans (NSPs) were current, realistic, measurable, and time limited. In addition, the children and their placement workers were given the opportunity to participate in the development and updating of the NSPs.

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

The residents were receiving services as required by the program statement including individual and group therapy.

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 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 staff was supportive of their academic progress.

Development of daily living skills was part of West Covina #1's program. The residents were involved in the planning and preparation phase of meals, hygiene care was discussed as needed, and employment preparation encouraged.

Age-appropriate residents were offered the opportunity to participate in emancipation and vocational programs. The residents were able to spend their allowances as they wanted.

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:

West Covina #1 provided residents with sufficient opportunity to participate in both on-ground and off-ground recreational activities. The residents expressed satisfaction with the variety and the quantity of activities provided by the facility and stated that the recreation schedules were followed.

Local community organizations were utilized for recreation and program resources. The residents reported that they participated in the planning of some of the activities, had ample free time, and were able to participate in self-selected activities.

Transportation was provided to and from activities.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

V. PSYCHOTROPIC MEDICATION

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents

There were six residents placed in the home at the time of the review. A review of case files was conducted for the four residents prescribed psychotropic medications.

Comments:

The residents receiving psychotropic medication had current court authorizations. Documentation confirmed that the children were routinely seen by the psychiatrist for an evaluation of their medication.

Medication logs were properly maintained.

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 expressed satisfaction with the facility and staff. The residents participated in an initial orientation and the policies and procedures were posted in the facility. The residents reported that they felt safe in the home, there was no interference with daily living functions, and that the atmosphere was generally respectful. Both residents reported satisfaction with the food and with their ability to participate in menu development. They also reported that staff supervised them appropriately and expressed satisfaction with the quality of their interactions with staff. Both residents felt there was at least one staff member they could trust and easily talk to.

Both residents reported they had been assigned reasonable chores to complete on a daily basis, were able to have visitors, make and receive personal telephone calls, and contact their social workers, attorneys and family members as needed. Both had religious freedom and felt that staff respected their cultural lifestyles by allowing residents to celebrate different holidays.

The residents reported that the discipline policies were consistently enforced by all of the staff and that they had fair and appropriate consequences for inappropriate behavior.

Both 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:

West Covina #1 provides appropriate clothing, items of necessity, and allowances to the residents. West Covina #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 at least the required minimum weekly allowance that they were able to increase based on the agency's behavioral system.

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

Both residents had life books.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

WEST COVINA GROUP HOME
West Covina Group Home 2
4041 Carroll Ct.
Chino, CA 91710
Phone: (909) 591-2598
License No.: 360910281
Rate Classification Level: 10

I. FACILITY AND ENVIRONMENT

(Facility Based - No Sample)

Method of assessment – Observation and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

West Covina #2 is one of two facilities operated by West Covina Group Home. Located on a residential street, the facility is well maintained, nicely landscaped, and blends in with the other homes on the block. No were no observable safety hazards.

The interior of the home was generally neat and clean with common rooms nicely decorated and maintained. Resident bedrooms were spacious, comfortable, and personalized to each child's desire with posters, pictures, and knick-knacks. However, there were areas needing improvement.

In the garage where extra food supplies were kept, the light did not work. There were no extra face towels in the linen closet for the residents and, in bedroom number one, the inside closet light was not working. In bedrooms number two and three, the desks/tables were scratched and had graffiti writing.

There was age-appropriate play equipment in the home including table games, a TV, VCR, weights and basketball equipment. There was a variety of programs, books, resource material, and a computer.

There was a sufficient supply of properly stored frozen food, meat, canned goods, bakery items, and fresh fruit.

Recommendations

1. West Covina #2 management:

- a. Repair the garage light fixture.**
- b. Maintain an adequate supply of face towels for the residents.**

- c. Repair closet light in bedroom number one.
- d. Repair/Replace the desks/tables in bedrooms two and three.

II. PROGRAM SERVICES

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

Both residents met West Covina #2's population criteria as outlined in their program statement and received an initial diagnostic assessment.

Both Needs and Services Plans (NSPs) were current, realistic, measurable, and time limited. In addition, the children and their placement workers were given the opportunity to participate in the development and updating of the NSPs.

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

The residents were receiving services as required by the program statement including individual and group therapy.

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 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 staff was supportive of their academic progress.

Development of daily living skills was part of West Covina #2's program. The residents were involved in the planning and preparation phase of meals, hygiene care was discussed as needed, and employment preparation encouraged.

Age-appropriate residents were offered the opportunity to participate in emancipation and vocational programs. The residents were able to spend their allowances as they wanted.

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:

West Covina #2 provided residents with sufficient opportunity to participate in both on-ground and off-ground recreational activities. The residents expressed satisfaction with the variety and the quantity of activities provided by the facility and stated that the recreation schedules were followed.

Local community organizations were utilized for recreation and program resources. The residents reported that they participated in the planning of some of the activities, had ample free time, and were able to participate in self-selected activities.

Transportation was provided to and from activities.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

V. PSYCHOTROPIC MEDICATION

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents

There were five residents placed in the home at the time of the review. A review of case files was conducted for the one resident prescribed psychotropic medication.

Comments:

The resident receiving psychotropic medication had a current court authorization. Documentation confirmed that the child was routinely seen by the psychiatrist for an evaluation of medication.

Medication logs were properly maintained.

Recommendations

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Method of assessment – Resident interviews

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Comments:

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Both residents reported they had been assigned reasonable chores to complete on a daily basis, were able to have visitors, make and receive personal telephone calls, and contact their social workers, attorneys and family members as needed. Both had religious freedom and felt that staff respected their cultural lifestyles by allowing residents to celebrate different holidays.

The residents reported that the discipline policies were consistently enforced by all of the staff and that they had fair and appropriate consequences for inappropriate behavior.

Both 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:

West Covina #2 provides appropriate clothing, items of necessity, and allowances to the residents. West Covina #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 at least the required minimum weekly allowance that they were able to increase based on the agency's behavioral system.

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

Both residents had life books.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.