



J. TYLER McCAULEY
AUDITOR-CONTROLLER

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

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January 10, 2006

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

FROM: J. Tyler McCauley 
Auditor-Controller

SUBJECT: **GROUP HOME PROGRAM MONITORING REPORT – THE ROSEAU
GROUP, INCORPORATED: COLINA GROUP HOME**

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

Colina Youth 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, Colina Youth Center Group Home was providing services for five Los Angeles County DCFS children.

Colina Youth Center Group Home is located in the Fifth 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 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.

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"

Summary of Findings

Generally, the Agency is providing the treatment services as outlined in their Program Statement. However, the Agency needs to address several deficient areas.

Colina Youth Center needs to provide sufficient lighting in one bedroom; provide sufficient recreational equipment; provide additional books and resource materials; include children and placement workers as part of the treatment team in the development and implementation of Needs and Services Plans; maintain documentation of monthly medication evaluations; provide children with additional clothing; and ensure that each child is provided, encouraged and assisted in maintaining a life book.

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 Mike Pirolo at (626) 293-1110.

JTM:MP:CC:dl
http://auditor.co.la.ca.us/group_home.asp

Attachments

c: David E. Janssen, Chief Administrative Officer
David Sanders, Ph.D., Director, DCFS
Paul Higa, Chief Probation Officer
Margaret Reynolds, Executive Director, The Roseau Group
Public Information Office
Audit Committee

**The Roseau Group
Colina Youth Center
40520 Colina Court
Palmdale, California 93551-2619
Phone: (661) 718-3691
License Number: 197604968
Rate Classification Level: 12**

I. Facility and Environment

Method of assessment – Observation

Comments:

Colina Youth 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 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 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. However, there is insufficient lighting in bedroom three.

The Group Home maintains board games, a TV, a DVD player, and a computer. However, the Group Home needs to provide additional recreational equipment, books and resource materials.

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

Recommendations

1. The Roseau Group Management:

- a. Provide sufficient lighting in bedroom three.**
- b. Provide age-appropriate and accessible recreational equipment, books, and resource materials.**

II. Program Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size for interviews: 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 Needs and Services Plans (NSPs) are current, comprehensive, and include long and short-term goals. However, input from the child and the placement worker is not included in the development and implementation of the NSPs.

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

Recommendation

- 2. The Roseau Group Management include input from the child and the placement in the development and implementation of the NSPs.**

III. Educational and Emancipation Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size for interviews: 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.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

IV. Recreation and Activities

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size for interviews: Two

Comments:

The Group Home provides children with sufficient recreational activities, and leisure time. Children are given opportunities to participate in planning activities.

Children are allowed to participate in extra-curricular, enrichment, and social activities in which they have an interest.

The Group Home provides transportation to and from the activities.

Recommendations

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. However, there is no documentation to support 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

- 3. The Roseau Group Management document medication reviews for each child receiving psychotropic medication.**

VI. Personal Rights

Method of assessment – Interviews with children

Sample size for interviews: 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 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 have private visitors, to make and receive personal telephone calls, and to send and receive unopened correspondence and mail. Children are able to 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.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

VII. Clothing and Allowance

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size for interviews: Two

Comments:

The Group Home provides appropriate clothing, items of necessity, and the required \$50 monthly clothing allowance to children. Children are given opportunities to select their own clothes. Clothing provided to children is of good quality. One child has a sufficient quantity of clothing to meet DCFS standards; however, the other child is in need of a bathrobe.

The Group Home provides children with the required minimum base allowance. Children are permitted to spend their allowances as they choose.

The Group Home provides children with adequate personal care items.

One child reports she is encouraged and assisted in creating and maintaining a photo album/life book. However, the other child reports that she has not been provided, encouraged or assisted in maintaining a life book.

Recommendations

4. The Roseau Group Management:

- a. Provide each child with sufficient clothes to meet DCFS clothing standards for quantity.**
- b. Provide, encourage and assist each child in creating and maintaining a life book.**

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Department of Auditor-Controller,
Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street, Room 515-A
Los Angeles CA. 90012
November 18, 2005

Attention: Candice Rhue
Group Home Audit Supervisor

RE: Corrective Action Plan

Ms. Rhue,

In regards to the Corrective Action Plan that that was received at the Colina Youth Center; the following issues was addressed, and corrected in the following manner:

I. Facility and Environment:

The recommendation was that Roseau Group Management provides sufficient lighting in bedroom three. Sufficient lighting is provided for all bedrooms.

The Roseau Group Management shall maintain age appropriate and accessible recreational equipment, books, and resource materials.

The group home now has age appropriate books to read, games, such as word puzzles, scrabble, math games, and a hockey table, also resource materials for the computer. There is also a also a tread mill, a yoga video an ab roller, an exercise bike, and a thigh master to use for exercising.

II. Program Services

As recommended, the social worker has created a form that invites the County Social Worker's to join us as a part of the treatment team in the development of the implementation phase of the Needs and Service Plan.

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V Psychotropic Medication

As recommended, the Roseau Group will maintain current medication reviews for each child on psychotropic medication. Copies were faxed to the auditor that shows a correction to this method of assessment.

VII. Clothing / Allowance

All children have adequate clothing and bathrobes have been provided for everyone.

Children receive and sign for allowances on Friday's. The girls are being encouraged and assisted to participate in maintaining a life book. Materials have been provided to ensure that whenever the children feel the urge to plan their books, appropriate space, materials, and staff is available.

All implementations made for the Roseau Group, Incorporated, were made by Lupe Rascon-Maldonado who is the administrator of the facility.

Regards Lupe Rascon - Maldonado