



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

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J. TYLER McCAULEY  
AUDITOR-CONTROLLER

February 6, 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 – WASHINGTON  
HANCOCK HOME FOR GIRLS**

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

Washington Hancock Group Home is a six-bed facility, which provides care for girls ages 6-17 years who exhibit behavioral, social, and emotional difficulties. At the time of the monitoring visit, Washington Hancock Group Home was providing services for six Los Angeles County DCFS children.

Washington Hancock Group Home is located in the Second 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

*"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"*

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.

Washington Hancock Group Home needs to provide mattress covers for the children's beds; provide Needs and Services Plans that are comprehensive, and include short and long term goals; ensure all children are aware of their right to refuse psychotropic medication; and provide all children with the required minimum weekly allowance.

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:bg  
[http://auditor.co.la.ca.us/group\\_home.asp](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  
Jacqueline L. Washington, Executive Director, Washington Hancock  
Public Information Office  
Audit Committee

**Washington Hancock Home for Girls  
517 W. 48th Street  
Los Angeles, California 90037  
Phone: (323) 235-0940  
License Number: 191871149  
Rate Classification Level: 7**

## **I. Facility and Environment**

### **Method of assessment – Observation**

#### **Comments:**

Washington-Hancock 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, lighting, and storage space. Window coverings and window screens are in good repair. The mattresses are comfortable; however, there are no mattress pads or covers on the beds. 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**

- 1. Washington Hancock management provide mattress pads or covers for all of the children's beds.**

## **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 treatment team develops and implements the Needs and Services Plans (NSPs) with input from the child. The NSPs are current; however, they are not comprehensive, and do not include long and short-term goals.

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

**Recommendation**

2. **Washington Hancock management develop and maintain Needs and Services Plans that are comprehensive, and include long and short term goals for all children.**

**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 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. Documentation confirms that children are routinely seen by the prescribing psychiatrist.

Children are informed about their psychotropic medication; however, children are not aware of their right to refuse medication.

Medication distribution logs are properly maintained.

**Recommendation**

- 3. Washington Hancock management ensure all children are aware of their right to refuse 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 able to make and receive personal telephone calls, send and receive unopened mail, and have private visitors. 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 and of sufficient quantity.

The Group Home does not provide children with the required minimum base allowance. Children spend their allowances as they choose.

The Group Home provides children with adequate personal care items.

Children are encouraged and assisted in creating and maintaining photo albums/life books.

**Recommendation**

- 4. Washington Hancock management provide children with the required minimum base allowance.**

*Che*  
11/28/05

Washington-Hancock Home For Girls  
517 W. 48th Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90037  
(323) 291-6435

**CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN**

November 25, 2005

**Recommendation**

Provide mattress pads for all children's beds.

**Corrective Action**

Implemented.

**Recommendation**

Provide Needs and Services Plans that are comprehensive, and include long and short-term goals.

**Corrective Action**

The LCSW will provide Needs and Services Plans, which are comprehensive with long and short-term goals beginning immediately.

The administrator will review the Needs and Services Plans on an on-going basis.

**Recommendation**

Ensure that all children are aware of their right to refuse medication.

**Corrective Action**

The administrator will ensure that all children are made aware of their right to refuse medication beginning immediately.

**Recommendation**

Provide children with the required minimum monetary allowance.

**Corrective Action**

Implemented.

*Jacqueline L. Washington, Adm.*  
11/25/05