



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

KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION
500 WEST TEMPLE STREET, ROOM 525
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012-2766
PHONE: (213) 974-8301 FAX: (213) 626-5427

J. TYLER McCAULEY
AUDITOR-CONTROLLER

May 4, 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 – T AND T HOME
FOR BOYS GROUP HOME**

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

T and T Group Home is a six-bed facility, which provides care for boys ages 13-17 years who exhibit behavioral, social, and emotional difficulties. At the time of the monitoring visit, T and T Group Home was providing services for five Los Angeles County DCFS children.

T and T 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

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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 several deficient areas.

T and T Group Home needs to clean the bath tub and medicine cabinet in bathroom one; clean the toilet and floor in bathroom two; replace knobs on the kitchen stove; assess children for services within 30 days of placement; include the treatment team and input from the child in the development and implementation of the Needs and Services Plans (NSPs); and maintain current and comprehensive NSPs that include long and short-term goals for all children.

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

Attachments

c: David E. Janssen, Chief Administrative Officer
David Sanders, Ph.D., Director, DCFS
Robert B. Taylor, Chief Probation Officer
Darlene Theragood, Executive Director, T and T Home for Boys
Public Information Office
Audit Committee

**T and T Home for Boys
19504 Tillman Avenue
Carson, California 90746
Phone: (310) 635-2469
License Number: 191600883
Rate Classification Level: 9**

I. Facility and Environment

Method of assessment – Observation

Comments:

T and T 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.

Generally the interior of the Group Home is well maintained. The common quarters are neat. There is adequate furniture and lighting in the Group Home. The Group Home provides a home-like environment. However, in bathroom one, the tub and medicine cabinet are dirty. In bathroom two, the sink, toilet, and floor are dirty. The knobs on the kitchen stove are broken.

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, and the beds all have a full complement of linens. 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.

Recommendations

- 1. T and T Home for Boys management:**
 - a. Clean the bath tub and medicine cabinet in bathroom one.**
 - b. Clean the sink, toilet and floor in bathroom two.**
 - c. Replace the broken knobs on the kitchen stove.**

I. 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. One child was assessed for needed services within thirty days of placement; however, there is no documentation of an initial assessment for the other child.

The treatment team does not develop and implement the Needs and Services Plans (NSPs) with input from the child. The NSPs are not current, comprehensive, and do not include long and short-term goals.

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

Recommendations

2. T and T Home for Boys management:

- a. Complete and maintain initial assessments for all children within 30 days of placement.**
- b. Include the treatment team and input from the child in the development and implementation of the NSPs.**
- c. Maintain current NSPs for all children.**
- d. Maintain comprehensive NSPs that are specific, measurable, attainable, realistic, time limited, and include long term 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 provided with 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:

According to the Agency's management, there are currently no children receiving psychotropic medications. This information is appropriately documented.

Children are aware of their right to refuse medication.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

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

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

January 28, 2006

To: Ms. Candace Rhue
From: Mr. Roy Poole, Facility Manager
T & T Home For Boys
Subject: CORRECTIVE ACTIONS

In response to the Agency Monitoring reviewed dated December 13, 2005, the following actions have been taken:

FACILITY & ENVIRONMENT

Recommendations:

1. A. Clean the bath and medicine cabinet in bathroom one and the basin and floor around the toilet in bathroom two.

Action taken: Both bathrooms have been thoroughly cleaned and will be maintained in a clean condition.

- B. Replace the broken knobs on the kitchen stove.

Action taken: Knobs for the stove were purchased and replaced on January 5, 2006.

PROGRAM SERVICES

Recommendations:

1. A. Complete and maintain initial assessments for all children within 30 days of placement.

Action to be taken: When a minor is placed at T & T Home for Boys, he will be brought to the facility by a social worker, who brings a 709 form. The form includes the minor's history, including all problems and treatments to date. The in-house social worker will be notified of new arrivals within twenty-four hours and will be given the 709 form for review. During the next thirty days, staff and the social worker will meet and develop a needs and services plan for the new resident.

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1. B. Develop and implement Needs and Services Plans by the treatment team.

Action taken: To comply with this recommendation, T & T has drafted a letter to the in-house social worker, facility's psychiatrist and psychologist requesting each of their participation at monthly scheduled meetings for the purposes of consulting and developing Needs and Services plan that are individualized and specific to each minor's needs.

1. C. Provide current Needs and Services Plans for all children.

Action to be taken: The Administrator will monitor compliance to this requirement and ensure that new and updated Needs and Services plans as always current in each minor's records.

1. D. Maintain Needs and Services Plans for children that are comprehensive, specific, measurable, attainable, realistic and time limited and include long term and short term goals.

Action taken: The Administrator will routinely consult with the treatment team, specifically, the in-house social worker to incorporate goals and objectives for each minor that meet the above criteria. The in-house social worker will be required to complete the Needs and Assessment that are individualized and specific to the needs of each minor.

If you need further information, you may reach me at (310) 635-2469.

Thank you.

cc: BELINDA GIBSON

