



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

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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 – CHILDNET  
YOUTH AND FAMILY SERVICES, LONG BEACH YOUTH HOME**

We have completed a review of Long Beach Youth Home Group Home (Group Home or Agency) operated by Child Net Youth and Family Services. The Group Home contracts with the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and the Probation Department (Probation).

Long Beach Group Home is a six-bed facility, which provides care for boys ages 14-17 years who exhibit behavioral, social, and emotional difficulties. At the time of the monitoring visit, Long Beach Group Home was providing services for one Los Angeles County DCFS child, three Los Angeles County Probation children, one Kern County child, and one Orange County child.

Long Beach Group Home is located in the Fourth 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,

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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.

### **Summary of Findings**

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

Long Beach Group Home needs to provide increased on-grounds recreational activities, provide opportunities for children to participate in extra curricular activities, maintain current court authorizations for children taking psychotropic medication, advise children of their right to refuse psychotropic medication, and encourage and assist all children in creating and maintaining life books.

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:jh

[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  
Robert B. Taylor, Chief Probation Officer  
Robert Di Stefano, Executive Director, Childnet Youth and Family Services  
Public Information Office  
Audit Committee

**Childnet Youth and Family Services  
Long Beach Youth Homes  
3557 Easy Avenue  
Long Beach, California 90810  
Phone: (562) 424-9316  
License Number: 197804374  
Rate Classification Level: 12**

**I. Facility and Environment**

**Method of assessment – Observation**

**Comments:**

Long Beach 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, 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 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**

**There are not recommendations for this section.**

**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, comprehensive, and include long and short-term goals.

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

**Recommendations**

There are no recommendations for this section.

**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**

**Sample size for interviews: Two**

**Comments:**

The Group Home provides children with sufficient leisure time. Children are provided with opportunities to participate in planning activities. However, the Group Home does

not provide children with sufficient recreational activities, or the opportunity to participate in extra-curricular activities in which they have an interest.

The Group Home provides transportation to and from the activities.

**Recommendation**

**1. Childnet Youth and Family Services management:**

- a. Provide children with additional recreational activities.
- b. Provide children with opportunities to participate in extracurricular activities in which they have an interest.

**V. Psychotropic Medication**

**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents**

**Comments:**

Documentation confirms that children are routinely seen by the prescribing psychiatrist. However, the Group Home does not have a current court authorization for the psychotropic medication that one child is taking.

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

Medication distribution logs are properly maintained.

**Recommendations**

**2. Childnet Youth and Family Services management:**

- a. Maintain current court authorizations for all children who are taking psychotropic medication.
- b. Inform children of their right to refuse 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 able to have private visitors, to make and receive personal telephone calls, and to send and receive unopened 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 allowances 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.

One child reports he is encouraged and assisted in creating and maintaining a photo album/life book. However, the other child reports that he has never been provided with a life book.

**Recommendation**

- 3. Childnet Youth and Family Services management encourage and assist all children in creating and maintaining life books.**



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To: Jacquelyn Hayes, GH Auditor  
Department of Auditor-Controller  
Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
500 W. Temple St. Room 515-A  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

From: Tim Witherspoon, GHA  
Director of Long Beach Youth Home  
**C/O Kelly Loven, MSW QA Director**  
ChildNet Youth and Family Services

Date: 3/9/06

RE: Corrective Action Plan (CAP)

Please accept the following Corrective Action Plan (CAP) for the November 3, 2005 Group Home audit which took place at the Long Beach Youth Home 6 bed facility:

3557 Easy Ave.  
Long Beach, CA 90810

**RECOMMENDATION**

**IV. Recreation and Activities**

**ChildNet Youth and Family Services (ChildNet) management to provide additional recreational activities and opportunities for children to participate in extracurricular activities in which they have an interest.**

**CAP**

Long Beach Youth Home (LBYH) provides all residents with numerous recreational and extra-curricular activities in which they have interest. All residents have the opportunity through their self-governed Resident House Council to suggest, approve and reject recreational and extra-curricular activities. The Recreation Coordinator schedules all activities, prints and displays a monthly calendar, which is approved by the Director. (See attached Recreational Activity Calendar dated November 2005) The only reason why a resident would not be able to participate in an activity of their interest would be due to their Status Level and/or behavior issues. Each resident is made aware of the LBYH discipline procedures at admittance and signs in acknowledgment. (See attached forms signed by the two residents who were interviewed by the Auditor-Controller November 2005.)

A meeting was recently held with the LBYH 6 bed staff to discuss the extracurricular recreational activities offered. It was decided, that in addition to the above mentioned coordinated and approved monthly

recreation calendar of activities, more activities will be offered during the week as opposed to only the weekends. Effective immediately the 6 bed house manager will ensure regular meetings are held with the 6 bed staff members and residents to plan the monthly activities and outings. The recreation coordinator and assistant director will be responsible for monitoring to ensure the plan is working as intended. In addition, the assigned caseworkers will ensure that residents who express interest in participating in school related sport (extra-curricular) activities, have that opportunity and incorporated in the residents Needs and Service Plan. This will be effective immediately and supervised by the assigned Team Supervisor. Please note, that one of the residents interviewed who stated that they were not involved in extracurricular activities, has since played for the basketball team (12/05 – 2/06).

## **RECOMMENDATION**

### **V. PSYCHOTROPIC MEDICATION**

#### **a. Long Beach Youth Home Management to obtain appropriate court authorizations for all children who are prescribed psychotropic medication.**

#### **CAP**

Effective immediately, since the residents of LBYH are in out-of-home care the LA County Contract requires a court authorization for the prescription of psychotropic medication. As a result, LBYH will ensure that the authorization is completed by the prescribing psychiatrist, the psychiatrist makes a “good-faith effort” to obtain written consent (documented in progress notes and on the consent) and will only begin administering the medication if either the psychiatrist indicates this is an emergency situation or the authorization has been returned approved by the court. The psychiatrist turns in all documentation to the Day Rehabilitation Administration Coordinator who will ensure that authorization is complete prior to faxing the form to the court. This staff member will also ensure that nurse and psychiatrist are notified of the medication start date. The Day Rehabilitation Director and QA Director will supervise this.

Long Beach Youth Home has experienced situations where the authorizations fail to be returned in a timely manner. As a result, over the years LBYH has utilized the following procedure to ensure documentation of our compliant/follow-up with the court in hopes of obtaining these authorizations within a timely manner.

This procedure will continue to be monitored to ensure compliance by the Day Rehabilitation Administration Coordinator and the Treatment Team Supervisors.

- Procedure for Faxing Psychotropic Authorizations
  - 1) Authorizations and Medical Consent are checked for accuracy (i.e. guardian’s signature, physician’s signature, specifications, court case number)
  - 2) Authorization is faxed to dependency (323) 941-7205 or delinquency ( 323) 441-1110 or (3232) 441-1120.
  - 3) Fax confirmation is attached to original and filed as “Pending”
  - 4) Steps 2-3 are repeated if authorization is not received within 2 weeks.

**V. PSYCHOTROPIC MEDICATION**

**b. Inform children of their right to refuse psychotropic medication.**

**CAP**

All children who are prescribed psychotropic medication are informed of their right to refuse medication by the prescribing psychiatrist. The psychiatrist explains to the child and parent/guardian the child's symptoms, description of medication, dosages, side effects, *and his right to refuse medication.* This information is documented on the Medication Review/Medication Informed Consent form signed by the psychiatrist, child and parent/guardian. See attached forms signed by the two residents who during the interview denied being aware of their right to refuse medications. This is not a new procedure, and is continuously monitored by the Day Treatment Administration Coordinator and the Treatment Team Supervisors.

**RECOMMENDATION**

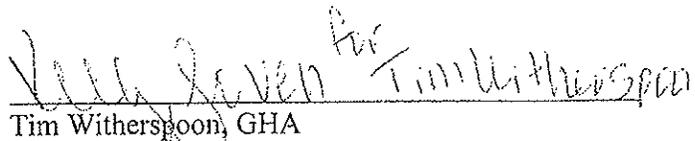
**VI. Clothing and Allowance**

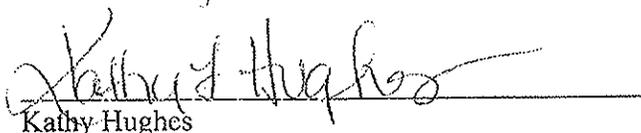
**Encourage and assist all children in creating and maintaining a life book.**

**CAP**

All LBYPH residents are provided a life book upon intake. See attached form signed by the residents interviewed during the 11/3/05 audit, who claimed to never receiving a life book.

If you need any further information please feel free to contact the ChildNet Quality Assurance Director, Kelly Loven @ (562) 961-6388.

  
Tim Witherspoon, GHA Date 3/9/06

  
Kathy Hughes Date 3/9/06  
Vice President of Residential and Community Services