



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

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May 30, 2006

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

FROM: J. Tyler McCauley   
Auditor-Controller

SUBJECT: **GROUP HOME PROGRAM MONITORING REPORT – DELILU  
ACHIEVEMENT CENTER GROUP HOME**

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

DeliLu Achievement Center Group Home is a six-bed facility, which provides care for girls ages 11-17 years who exhibit behavioral, social, and emotional difficulties. At the time of the monitoring visit, DeliLu Achievement Center Group Home was providing services for six Los Angeles County DCFS children.

DeliLu Achievement Center 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.

DeliLu Achievement Center Group Home needs to include the treatment team and the child in the development and implementation of the Needs and Services Plans; develop comprehensive Needs and Services Plans that include short and long-term goals; provide children with age appropriate recreational equipment; and encourage and assist all children in creating and maintaining photo albums/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:ec  
[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  
Mary L. Davis, Executive Director, DeliLu Achievement Center Group Home  
Public Information Office  
Audit Committee

**DeliLu Achievement Center Group Home**  
**1564 West 36th Place**  
**Los Angeles, California 90018**  
**Phone: (323) 766-9415**  
**License Number: 198203559**  
**Rate Classification Level: 12**

**I. Facility and Environment**

**Method of assessment – Observation**

**Comments:**

Delilu Achievement 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, 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 provides board games, and a TV. Books and resource materials, including a computer with a variety of programs, are also available. However, the Group Home does not maintain a sufficient amount of age appropriate and accessible recreational equipment.

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

**Recommendation**

- 1. DeliLu Achievement Center Group Home management provide children with a sufficient amount of age appropriate and accessible recreational equipment including a DVD player or VCR, and exercise equipment and instructional videos.**

## **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 Service Plans (NSPs) are current; however, the treatment team and the child are not included in the development or implementation of the NSPs. The NSPs are not comprehensive, and do not include short or long-term goals.

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

### **Recommendations**

#### **2. DeLiLu Achievement Center Group Home management:**

- a. **Include the treatment team and input from the child in the development and implementation of the NSPs .**
- b. **Develop comprehensive NSPs that are specific, attainable, realistic, time limited, and include long and short- term goals.**

## **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:**

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, and are aware of their right to refuse medication.

Medication distribution logs are properly maintained.

**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 not encouraged or assisted in creating and maintaining photo albums/life books.

**Recommendation**

- 3. DeliLu Achievement Center Group Home management encourage and assist all children in creating and maintaining photo albums/life books.**



**DeliLu Achievement Group Home**  
**Mary Davis, Executive Director**  
1564 W 36<sup>th</sup> Place  
Los Angeles, CA 90018  
323.766-9415  
License Number: 198203559  
Rate Classification Level: 12

March 22, 2006

Ms. Candace Rhue  
Group Home Audit Supervisor  
County of Los Angeles Department of Auditor-Controller  
Children's Group Home Ombudsman  
500 W Temple Street, Room 515-A  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

**RE: Correction Action Plan**

**I. Facility and Environment**

**Recommendations:** DeliLu management to provide children with a sufficient amount of age appropriate and accessible recreational equipment including DVD player or VCR, and exercise equipment and instructional videos.

**Action Plan:**

<b>Objective/Activity</b>	<b>Target Date</b>	<b>Individual Responsible</b>	<b>Monitoring/ Documentation</b>
▪ DeliLu will provide age appropriate and accessible exercise equipment, located in a central storage area.	5/01/06	Administrator /facility manager.	A regular inventory of equipment/games.
▪ DeliLu will provide VCR/DVD players and instructional videos/DVD's	5/01/06	Davis, M.	Monthly inventory notations by facility manager

## II. Program Services

### Recommendations: DeliLu will:

- A. Include the treatment team and the child in the development and implementation of the NSP's.
- B. Develop comprehensive Needs and Services Plans that are specific, attainable, realistic, time limited, and include long and short-term goals.

Objective/Activity	Target Date	Individual Responsible	Monitoring/ Documentation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ DeliLu will develop comprehensive NSP's that are specific, attainable, realistic, time limited, and include long and short-term goals.</li> </ul>	30 days after placement; thereafter every ninety days	Treatment team leader	Copies of NSP'S will be provided to appropriate agencies (DCFS or Probation Department); and files will be maintained in the clients' green notebook.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Include the treatment team (Social worker, or Probation Officer, Child Care Staff, Parent and the Licensed Clinician) and child in the development and implementation of the NSP's.</li> </ul>	Quarterly as specified	Treatment Team leader	Administrator and Treatment Team leader.

### III. Life Books

**Recommendation:** DeliLu will encourage and assist all children in creating and maintaining photo albums/life books.

Objective/Activity	Target Date	Individual Responsible	Monitoring/ Documentation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ DeliLu will provide each resident with her own life book and assist them in recording the important times of their lives by using photos, keepsakes, and written accounts together in one album</li> </ul>	4/01/06	Administrator, Mary Davis	Records will be maintained in clients' green file books.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ DeliLu will provide disposable cameras for their own use in order for the residents to take pictures of activities and special occasions highlighting the most important experiences of their lives</li> </ul>	4/15/06	Mary Davis	Record will be placed in the clients' green file books.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ DeliLu will have monthly Scrapbook Journaling workshops in order to facilitate this process</li> </ul>	03/26/06	Staff/Volunteers	Facility Manager/Administrator