



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

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J. TYLER McCAULEY
AUDITOR-CONTROLLER

September 15, 2006

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

FROM: J. Tyler McCauley *for*
Auditor-Controller

SUBJECT: **GROUP HOME PROGRAM MONITORING REPORT – CUNNINGHAM
GROUP HOME**

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

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

Cunningham 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 clean the kitchen countertops and oven; and provide comprehensive Needs and Services Plans that include short and long term goals.

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
Patricia S. Ploehn, Director, DCFS
Robert Taylor, Chief Probation Officer
Beatrice Cunningham, Executive Director, Cunningham Group Home
Public Information Office
Audit Committee

**Cunningham Group Home
5739 Chesley Avenue
Los Angeles, California 90043
Phone: (323) 299-7357
License Number: 191801179
Rate Classification Level: 9**

I. Facility and Environment

Method of assessment – Observation

Comments:

Cunningham 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.

Overall, 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, the kitchen countertop grout and the oven are dirty.

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. Cunningham Group Home management clean the kitchen countertops and oven.**

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. NSPs are current; however, they are not comprehensive, and do not include short and long term goals.

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

Recommendation

- 2. Cunningham Group Home management develop comprehensive Needs and Services Plans that are specific, attainable, realistic, time limited and include short and long 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:

According to the Agency's management, there are currently no children taking 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.

Cunningham' Group Home

*5739 Chesley Ave
Los Angeles Ca 90043*

(319) 6739185 Fax (310)330-0308

Attention: Candance Rfiue

May 1. 2006

Corrective Action

I. Facility and Environment

1. Cunningham's Group Home management

a. Recommendation: Replace or clean grout on kitchen cabinet counter Top.

*Corrective action: The kitchen cabinet counter top will be replaced.
The completion date will be May 30, 2006.*

b. Clean the over and maintain it clean at all times.

Corrective Action: The oven has been cleaned effective April 6, 2006.

II. Program Service

*Recommendation: Cunningham's Group Home management
Develop comprehensive Needs and Services Plans that are*

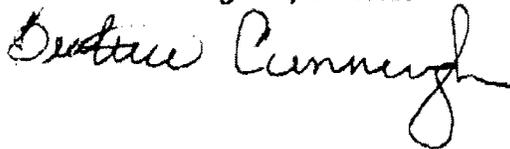
Specific, attainable, realistic, Time limited and includes short and Long-term goals.

Corrective action: Cunningham's group will develop needs and services plans that are specific, attainable. Realistic, time limited and includes short and long-term goals effective April 7, 2006

To ensure sure that the stove will be left clean at all time The task will be assigned to a staff member on a daily basis and monitored by the facility manage and Adm. inistrator,

The treatment team continue to work together to ensure that the needs and service plans are specific, attainable, realistic, time limited and includes short and long-term goals.

Beatrice Cunningham/Director

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Beatrice Cunningham". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the typed name.