County of Los Angeles
DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES

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March 9, 2011

To: Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich, Mayor
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Supervisor Don Knabe

From: Antonia Jiménez
Acting Director

PIONEER BOYS RANCH GROUP HOME CONTRACT COMPLIANCE MONITORING REVIEW

In accordance with your Board's April 14, 2009 motion, we are informing your Board of the results of a group home compliance review.

Pioneer Boys Ranch Group Home was located in the 3rd Supervisorial District of Los Angeles County and provided services to Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services' (DCFS) foster youth. The goal, according to the agency's program statement, was "to provide a safe and structured environment for court dependent abused, neglected, emotionally disturbed children with delinquent behavior." Pioneer Boys Ranch Group Home was licensed to serve a capacity of 12 males, ages 12 through 18.

The Out-of-Home Care Management Division (OHCMD) conducted a review of Pioneer Boys Ranch Group Home November 2009 at which time the agency had two 6-bed sites and served 12 placed Los Angeles County DCFS children. All 12 children were male. For purpose of this review, 10 placed children's case files were reviewed and 10 children were interviewed. The sampled children's overall average length of placement was 7.7 months and their average age was 15.9. Ten staff files were reviewed for compliance with Title 22 regulations and contract requirements.

Six of the reviewed children were on psychotropic medication. We reviewed their case files to assess timeliness of psychotropic medication authorizations and to confirm that the medication logs documented correct dosages were being administered as prescribed.

SCOPE OF REVIEW

The purpose of this review was to assess Pioneer Boys Ranch Group Home's compliance with the contract and State regulations. The visits included a review of the agency's program statement, administrative internal policies and procedures, 10 children's case files, and a random sampling of personnel files. A visit was made to the sites to assess the quality of care and supervision provided to the children, and we conducted interviews with children to assess the care and services they were receiving.

A copy of this report has been sent to the Auditor-Controller (A-C) and Community Care Licensing (CCL).

SUMMARY

Generally, Pioneer Boys Ranch Group Home was providing good quality care to DCFS' placed children, and the services were provided as outlined in the agency's program statement. The children's case files and personnel files were well organized and professionally maintained. The sites were clean and adequately landscaped. All 10 children interviewed stated they felt safe at the Group Home.

At the time of the review, the Group Home needed to develop comprehensive Needs and Services Plans (NSP). The Group Home also needed to enroll some of the children in Youth Development Services/Independent Living Program (ILP) programs. In addition, while all 10 of the staff were criminally cleared, two staff needed to sign the Criminal Clearance Background Statement and three staff members did not have their Child Abuse Central Index (CACI) Clearance, prior to their employment start date. In addition, three staff fingerprint cards were not submitted prior to employment start dates, six staff did not have timely health screenings and five staff lacked Emergency Intervention Training.

Pioneer Boys Ranch Group Home was receptive and willing to make the necessary corrections regarding the deficiencies highlighted to improve its compliance with regulations and the Group Home Foster Care Agreement. The Director and the management staff were accessible and cooperative during the review. However, Pioneer Boys Ranch Group voluntarily closed March 9, 2010.

NOTABLE FINDINGS

The following are the notable findings of our review:

- Ten initial and 13 updated NSPs were reviewed. Ten initial and eight updated NSPs were comprehensive and met all the required elements in accordance with the NSP template. However, five updated NSPs did not meet all the required elements in accordance with the NSP template. Specifically, there was no information regarding Youth Development Services/ILP and/or emancipation services for the five children eligible to receive the services.

- Five of the children who were eligible for ILP Services reported they were not participating in ILP or Emancipation Planning services. The Group Home did not have documentation of Youth Development Services/ILP enrollment or certificates of completion.

- Ten staff files were reviewed. While all 10 of the staff were criminally cleared, two staff needed to sign the Criminal Clearance Background Statement and three staff members did not have a Child Abuse Central Index (CACI) Clearance prior to their employment start date. In addition, three staff fingerprint cards were not submitted prior to employment start dates, six staff did not have timely health screenings and five staff lacked Emergency Intervention Training.

The detailed report of our findings is attached.

EXIT CONFERENCE

Pioneer Boys Ranch voluntarily closed March 9, 2010. Therefore, no exit conference was held and a Corrective Action Plan (CAP) was not required.

If you have any questions, please call me or your staff may contact Aldo Marin, Board Relations Manager, at 213-351-5530.

AJ:LP:KR
EAH:DC:ep

Attachment

c: William T Fujioka, Chief Executive Officer
Wendy Watanabe, Auditor-Controller
Donald H. Blevins, Chief Probation Officer
Public Information Office
Audit Committee
Sybil Brand Commission
Jean Chen, Regional Manager, Community Care Licensing
Lenora Scott, Regional Manager, Community Care Licensing

PIONEER BOYS RANCH GROUP HOME GROUP HOME
CONTRACT COMPLIANCE MONITORING REVIEW - SUMMARY

Pioneer Boys Ranch Group Home
24700 Fourl Road
Santa Clarita, CA 91321
License Number 191200019
Rate Classification Level 11

Pioneer Boys Ranch Group Home
26541 Oak Crossing Road
Newhall, CA 91321
License Number 197604256
Rate Classification Level 11

	Contract Compliance Monitoring Review	Findings: November 2009
I	**Licensure/Contract Requirements** (9 Elements) 1. Timely Notification for Child's Relocation 2. Stabilization to Prevent Removal of Child 3. Transportation 4. SIRs 5. Compliance with Licensed Capacity 6. Disaster Drills Conducted 7. Disaster Drill Logs Maintenance 8. Runaway Procedures 9. Allowance Logs	Full Compliance (All)
II	**Facility and Environment** (6 Elements) 1. Exterior Well Maintained 2. Common Areas Maintained 3. Children's Bedrooms/Interior Maintained 4. Sufficient Recreational Equipment 5. Sufficient Educational Resources 6. Adequate Perishable and Non Perishable Food	Full Compliance (All)
III	**Program Services** (8 Elements) 1. Child Population Consistent with Program Statement 2. DCFS CSW Authorization to Implement NSPs 3. Children's Participation in the Development of NSPs 4. NSPs Implemented and Discussed with Staff 5. Therapeutic Services Received 6. Recommended Assessments/Evaluations Implemented 7. DCFS CSWs Monthly Contacts Documented 8. Comprehensive NSPs	1. Full Compliance 2. Full Compliance 3. Full Compliance 4. Full Compliance 5. Full Compliance 6. Full Compliance 7. Full Compliance 8. Improvement Needed

IV	**Educational and Emancipation Services** (4 Elements) 1. Emancipation/Vocational Programs Provided 2. ILP Emancipation Planning 3. Current IEPs Maintained 4. Current Report Cards Maintained	1. Improvement Needed 2. Improvement Needed 3. Full Compliance 4. Full Compliance
V	**Recreation and Activities** (3 Elements) 1. Participation in Recreational Activity Planning 2. Participation in Recreational Activities 3. Participation in Extra-Curricular, Enrichment and Social Activities	Full Compliance (All)
VI	**Children's Health-Related Services (including Psychotropic Medications)** (9 Elements) 1. Current Court Authorization for Administration 2. of Psychotropic Medication 3. Current Psychiatric Evaluation Review 4. Medication Logs 5. Initial Medical Exams Conducted 6. Initial Medical Exams Timely 7. Follow-up Medical Exams Timely 8. Initial Dental Exams 9. Initial Dental Exams Timely 10. Follow-Up Dental Exams Timely	Full Compliance (All)
VII	Personal Rights (11 Elements) 1. Children information of Home's Policies & Procedures 2. Children Feel Safe 3. Satisfaction with Meals and Snacks 4. Staff Treat Children with Respect and Dignity 5. Appropriate Rewards and Discipline System 6. Children Free to Receive or Reject Voluntary Medical, Dental and Psychiatric Care 7. Children Allowed Private Visits, Calls and Correspondence 8. Children Free to Attend Religious Services/Activities 9. Reasonable Chores 10. Children Informed about Psychotropic Meds 11. Children of Right to Refuse Psychotropic Meds	Full Compliance (All)

VIII	**Children's Clothing and Allowance** (8 Elements) 1. $50 Clothing Allowance 2. Adequate Quantity of Clothing Inventory 3. Adequate Quality of Clothing Inventory 4. Involvement in Selection of Clothing 5. Provision of Personal Care Items 6. Minimum Monetary Allowances 7. Management of Allowance 8. Encouragement and Assistance with Life Book	Full Compliance (All)
IX	**Personnel Records (including Staff Qualifications, Staffing Ratios, Criminal Clearances and Training)** (12 Elements) 1. Education/Experience Requirement 2. Criminal Fingerprint Cards Timely Submitted 3. CACIs Timely Submitted 4. Signed Criminal Background Statement Timely 5. 5 Employee Health Screening Timely 6. Valid Driver's License 7. Signed Copies of GH Policies and Procedures 8. Initial Training Documentation 9. CPR Training Documentation 10. First Aid Training Documentation 11. On-going Training Documentation 12. Emergency Intervention Training Documentation	1. Full Compliance 2. Improvement Needed 3. Improvement Needed 4. Improvement Needed 5. Improvement Needed 6. Full Compliance 7. Full Compliance 8. Full Compliance 9. Full Compliance 10. Full Compliance 11. Full Compliance 12. Improvement Needed

PIONEER BOYS RANCH GROUP HOME PROGRAM
CONTRACT COMPLIANCE MONITORING REVIEW

Pioneer Boys Ranch Group Home
24700 Fourl Road
Santa Clarita, CA 91321
License Number 191200019
Rate Classification Level 11

Pioneer Boys Ranch Group Home
26541 Oak Crossing Road
Newhall, CA 91321
License Number 197604256
Rate Classification Level 11

The following report is based on a "point in time" monitoring visit and addresses findings noted during the November 2009 monitoring review.

CONTRACTUAL COMPLIANCE

Based on our review of 10 children's files and 10 staff files, and/or documentation from the provider, Pioneer Boys Ranch Group Home was in full compliance with six of the nine sections of our Contract Compliance review: Licensure/Contract Requirements; Facility and Environment; Recreation and Activities; Children's Health Related-Services, Including Psychotropic Medication; Personal Rights; and Clothing and Allowance. The following report details the results of our review:

LICENSURE/CONTRACT REQUIREMENTS

Based on our review of 10 children's files and/or documentation from the provider, Pioneer Boys Ranch Group Home fully complied with all nine elements reviewed in the area of Licensure/Contract Requirements.

Recommendation:

None

FACILITY AND ENVIRONMENT

Based on our review of 10 children's case files and/or documentation from the provider, Pioneer Boys Group Home fully complied with all six elements reviewed in the area of Facility and Environment.

Recommendation:

None

PROGRAM SERVICES

Based on our review of 10 children's files and/or documentation from the provider, Pioneer Boys Ranch Group Home fully complied with seven of eight elements reviewed in the area of Program Services.

We noted that placed children met the Group Home's population criteria as outlined in the agency's program statement; they were assessed for needed services within 30 days and received the required therapeutic services.

Based on our review, we found that the treatment team developed and implemented the Needs and Services Plans (NSP) with the participation of age-appropriate children, and discussed the NSPs with the Group Home staff. However, of the 23 NSPs reviewed, five updated NSPs did not meet all the required elements in accordance with the NSP template. Specifically, there was no information regarding Youth Development Services/ILP and/or emancipation services.

Recommendation:

Pioneer Boys Ranch Group Home Management shall ensure that:

1. NSPs are comprehensive.

EDUCATIONAL AND EMANCIPATION SERVICES

Based on our review of 10 children's files and/or documentation from the provider, Pioneer Boys Ranch Group Home fully complied with two of the four elements reviewed in the area of Educational and Emancipation Services.

Current copies of the children's report cards/progress reports and current IEPs were maintained in their case files. However, five children eligible to participate in emancipation and vocational training programs said that they were not receiving the services and were not enrolled in the Youth Development Services/Independent Living Program (ILP).

Recommendations:

Pioneer Boys Ranch Group Home Management shall ensure that:

2. Children are provided opportunities to participate in emancipation and vocational training programs.

3. ILP and emancipation planning are provided and youth attend in accordance with the development expectations of the youth.

RECREATION AND ACTIVITIES

Based on our review of 10 children's files and/or documentation from the provider, Pioneer Boys Ranch Group Home fully complied with all three elements in the area of Recreation and Activities.

Recommendation:

None

CHILDREN'S HEALTH-RELATED SERVICES, INCLUDING PSYCHOTROPIC MEDICATION

Based on our review of 10 children's files and/or documentation from the provider, Pioneer Boys Ranch Group Home fully complied with all nine elements in the area of Children's Health Related-Services, including Psychotropic Medication.

Recommendation:

None

PERSONAL RIGHTS

Based on our review of 10 children's files, 10 staff files and/or documentation from the provider, Pioneer Boys Ranch Group Home fully complied with all 11 elements in the area of Personal Rights.

Recommendation:

None

CLOTHING AND ALLOWANCE

Based on our review of 10 children's files and/or documentation from the provider, Pioneer Boys Ranch Group Home fully complied with all eight elements reviewed in the area of Clothing and Allowance.

Recommendation:

None

PERSONNEL RECORDS

Based on our review of 10 staff personnel files and/or documentation from the provider, Pioneer Boys Ranch Group Home fully complied with seven of the 12 elements reviewed in the area of Personnel Records.

We noted that the required staff had valid driver's licenses, received the required initial and ongoing First-Aid and CPR training. Also, the staff signed the Group Home policies and procedures forms.

While all 10 of the staff were criminally cleared, two staff needed to sign the Criminal Clearance Background Statement, three staff fingerprint cards were not submitted and three staff members did not have their Child Abuse Central Index (CACI) Clearance prior to their employment start date. Also, six staff did not have timely health screenings and five staff lacked Emergency Intervention Training.

Recommendations:

Pioneer Boy Ranch Group Home Management shall ensure that:

4. Criminal fingerprint cards are submitted timely.

5. Criminal background statements are signed timely.

6. CACIs are submitted timely.

7. Employees health screenings are timely.

8. Employees are provided with Emergency Intervention Training.

FOLLOW-UP FROM THE AUDITOR-CONTROLLER'S (A-C) REPORT

Objective

Determine the status of the recommendations reported in the A-C's last monitoring review.

Verification

We verified whether the outstanding recommendations from the last A-C's report issued January 20, 2009 were implemented.

Results

The A-C's prior monitoring report contained six outstanding recommendations. Specifically, Pioneer Boys Ranch Group was to ensure that exteriors of the group homes be provided with appropriate landscape and general maintenance. Also, the Group Home was to replace linens, replace broken furniture, repair doors, paneling, and window coverings. The A-C's report also recommended that the group homes be kept clean and that repairs be made to the leaky faucets and sinks. Based on our follow-up of these recommendations, Pioneer Boys Ranch Group Home fully implemented all of the A-C's recommendations.

Recommendation:

None