



# Los Angeles County AUDIT COMMITTEE

Carl Gallucci, Chair  
4<sup>th</sup> District  
Louisa Ollague, Vice-Chair  
1<sup>st</sup> District  
Vacant  
2<sup>nd</sup> District  
Genie Chough  
3<sup>rd</sup> District  
Lori Glasgow  
5<sup>th</sup> District

MINUTES  
JANUARY 7, 2009

Vice Chair Louisa Ollague called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m. in Conference Room 525, Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration.

## Committee Members Present

Louisa Ollague, Vice Chair, First District  
Fernando Ramirez, Second District  
Lisa Mandel for Genie Chough, Third District  
Nick Ippolito for Carl Gallucci, Fourth District  
Lori Glasgow, Fifth District

## Others in Attendance

Wendy Watanabe, Auditor-Controller  
Jim Schneiderman, Auditor-Controller  
Don Chadwick, Auditor-Controller  
Maria Oms, Auditor-Controller  
Martha Aviles, First District  
Helen Berberian, Fifth District  
Carla Carr, Auditor-Controller  
Aggie Alonso, Auditor-Controller  
Michael McWatters, Auditor-Controller  
Brian Mahan, Chief Executive Office  
Susan Kerr, Department of Children and Family Services  
Marilynne Garrison, Department of Children and Family Services  
Lisa Parrish, Department of Children and Family Services  
Nestor Figueroa, Department of Children and Family Services  
Elizabeth Howard, Department of Children and Family Services  
Dorothy Channel, Department of Children and Family Services  
Lee Millen, Board of Supervisors  
Andrew Sevrin, Board of Supervisors  
Gabriel Alexander, Board of Supervisors

## **DCFS/A-C JOINT MONITORING PILOT PROJECT STATUS**

Vice Chair Louisa Ollague explained that the purpose of the meeting was that the Committee of late has received many Group Home/Family Foster Agency (FFA) reports from DCFS and wanted to discuss ways to improve the process and perhaps propose solutions to the large volume of reports. The DCFS matrix of Group Homes and FFAs monitored in 2008 were reviewed.

Martha Aviles reported that when she attended on Louisa Ollague's behalf and became aware of an extraordinary number of DCFS audits, she proposed that a cluster sub-committee composed of DCFS, Auditor-Controller and Children's' Deputies should meet on a quarterly basis to review

DCFS reports. Aggie Alonso, Auditor-Controller, distributed copies of the Board of Supervisors' motion ordering the Auditor-Controller to conduct group home audits; the motion was moved by Supervisors Molina and Yaroslavsky on October 13, 1998.

In response to Mr. Ramirez, Don Chadwick reported that when an egregious finding is made on a home, the Auditor-Controller notifies Community Care Licensing, DCFS Child Abuse Hot Line and their Out of Home Care Management Division. Independent investigations are conducted to identify any violations; however, findings are not shared between Departments.

In response to Ms. Howard, Maria Oms explained that the Auditor-Controller provides a Draft Report to DCFS before conducting an exit interview with an FFA, and in addition, invites DCFS to attend the exit conferences. Detailed recommendations are not posted on the DCFS website.

In response to Helen Berberian, Mr. Alonso reported that the CSWs were not visiting regularly and did not provide updates that indicated a developing problem with the home. Mr. Chadwick explained that the Auditor-Controller's role is primarily in auditing contractual requirements.

Lisa Parrish informed the Committee that DCFS is reopening their Quality Assurance unit under Ms. Garrison to ensure that problematic issues are reported and corrected.

Fiscal Review of the Sherman Group, Incorporated – A Group Home Foster Care Contractor (03/25/08): In response to Louisa Ollague, whether an outstanding \$30,000 has been collected, Susan Kerr, DCFS, reported that since the group home is closed, collection will be very difficult; DCFS can only collect from homes that are still in business. The Treasurer-Tax Collector has reported that there is approximately \$3.8 million of uncollected monies from closed group homes. **On motion of Nick Ippolito, seconded by Lori Glasgow and unanimously carried, the Committee received and filed this report.**

Fiscal Review of Bourne, Incorporated – A Group Home Foster Care Contractor (05/22/08): This group home has \$29,000 still unpaid. A Final Demand for payment was issued in November and this case has been referred to the Treasurer-Tax Collector. **On motion of Nick Ippolito, seconded by Lori Glasgow and unanimously carried, the Committee received and filed this report.**

Wings of Refuge Family Agency Contract Review – A Department of Children and Family Services Provider (08/04/08): DCFS decertified Wings of Refuge and placed it on "hold" status. After Wings of Refuge management were advised to make staffing changes, Corrective Action Plan deficiencies were corrected and they subsequently were taken off "hold". The Antelope Valley (Wings of Refuge area of operation) has a shortage of homes, and attempts were made to clear any deficiencies.

Maria Oms advised that whenever a red flag warning occurs the Auditor-Controller and Community Care Licensing conduct an inspection. Mr. Chadwick noted that in some cases a Group Home is monitored monthly over a period of six months to ensure concerns have been resolved.

In response to Nick Ippolito's inquiry why separate reports are issued by DCFS and the Auditor-Controller, Mr. Alonso responded that the Auditor-Controller and Board of Supervisors' protocols for notice differ. Lisa Mandel added that the District board offices do not receive DCFS reports, however, they do receive Auditor-Controller reports.

Susan Kerr distributed the Performance-Based Contracting Scorecards and explained that DCFS seek three major outcomes: Safety, Permanency, and Well-Being. **On motion of Nick Ippolito, seconded by Lori Glasgow and unanimously carried, the Committee received and filed this report.**

Group Home Program Monitoring Report – Alannah Foster Family Agency And Homes – Rainbow Ridge And Val Vista Group Homes (09/10/08): **On motion of Nick Ippolito, seconded by Lori Glasgow and unanimously carried, the Committee received and filed this report.**

Group Home Program Monitoring Report – A-W Friendship Homes, Inc. – Zenith Youth Homes 1, 2 and 3 (09/10/08): All of the Zenith Youth Homes voluntarily closed down. **On motion of Nick Ippolito, seconded by Lori Glasgow and unanimously carried, the Committee received and filed this report.**

Rosemary Childrens’ Services Contract Review – A Department of Children Services Foster Family Services Foster Family Agency Service Provider (09/11/08): **On motion of Nick Ippolito, seconded by Lori Glasgow and unanimously carried, the Committee received and filed this report.**

Group Home Program Monitoring Report – United Care, Incorporated – House One, House Two and House Three Group Homes (09/11/08): **On motion of Nick Ippolito, seconded by Lori Glasgow and unanimously carried, the Committee received and filed this report.**

Group Home Program Monitoring Report – Childs’ Homes For Children, Incorporated – Childs’ Home For Children Group Home (09/11/08): **On motion of Nick Ippolito, seconded by Lori Glasgow and unanimously carried, the Committee received and filed this report.**

Group Home Program Monitoring Report – Perfect Image Youth Center Group Home (09/11/08): **On motion of Nick Ippolito, seconded by Lori Glasgow and unanimously carried, the Committee received and filed this report.**

Fiscal Review of Hudson Lyndsey Foster Family Agency (aka Psych Med, Incorporated) – A Foster Care Contractor (09/18/08): This home is in collection status for \$109,000 in spite of the fact that DCFS renegotiated their new contract. A payment plan will be issued to Hudson-Lyndsey; DCFS believes Hudson-Lyndsey is financially viable.

In response to a question on policy for contract status based on agency reimbursement, Mr. Alonso distributed and briefly explained Board Policy 4.050, “Audit Follow-Up”. The Auditor-Controller was aware Hudson-Lyndsey had financial troubles before their contract was extended. Susan Kerr noted that DCFS had no knowledge of their financial problems. Helen Berberian reported that Hudson-Lyndsey was one of the facilities that missed the contract proposal deadline, and had voiced their displeasure. Ms. Berberian proposed that service providers could be ranked in individual “FICO” scores, per se, for approval when submitting contract proposals.

Louisa Ollague suggested that Group Home contract language could be rewritten to include that if payments are not in default after a time, certain the contract will be null and void. Lisa Mandel added that financial problems are simply part of a greater issue; financial issues by and large

are connected to programming ones. **On motion of Nick Ippolito, seconded by Lori Glasgow and unanimously carried, the Committee received and filed this report.**

Group Home Program Monitoring Report – Dimondale Adolescent Care Facility – Site One – Carson, Site Two – Lancaster, Site Three – Hawthorne, Site Four – Long Beach Group Homes (09/19/08): **On motion of Nick Ippolito, seconded by Lori Glasgow and unanimously carried, the Committee received and filed this report.**

Group Home Program Monitoring Report – Kids First Foundation – Mid Valley Youth Center Group Home (09/25/08): **On motion of Nick Ippolito, seconded by Lori Glasgow and unanimously carried, the Committee received and filed this report.**

Foster Family Network Contract Review – A Department of Children and Family Services Foster Family Agency Service Provider (09/30/08): **On motion of Nick Ippolito, seconded by Lori Glasgow and unanimously carried, the Committee received and filed this report.**

Alliance Human Services Foster Family Agency Contract Review - A Department of Children and Family Services Provider (09/30/08): **On motion of Nick Ippolito, seconded by Lori Glasgow and unanimously carried, the Committee received and filed this report.**

Families for Children Foster Homes, Inc. Foster Family Agency Contract Review - A Department of Children and Family Services Provider (09/30/08): **On motion of Nick Ippolito, seconded by Lori Glasgow and unanimously carried, the Committee received and filed this report.**

Institute for Black Parenting Foster Homes, Inc. Foster Family Agency Contract Review - A Department of Children and Family Services Foster Family Agency Service Provider (09/30/08): **On motion of Nick Ippolito, seconded by Lori Glasgow and unanimously carried, the Committee received and filed this report.**

Olive Crest Foster Family Agency Contract Review – A Department of Children and Family Services Foster Family Agency Service Provider (09/30/08): **On motion of Nick Ippolito, seconded by Lori Glasgow and unanimously carried, the Committee received and filed this report.**

Group Home Program Monitoring Report – Phoenix House, Incorporated – Phoenix Academy Lakeview Terrace Group Home (09/30/08): **On motion of Nick Ippolito, seconded by Lori Glasgow and unanimously carried, the Committee received and filed this report.**

Group Home Program Monitoring Report – Pennacle Foundation Incorporated – Carson Street Boys, Corning Avenue Girls and Little Wings Girls Group Homes (09/30/08): **On motion of Nick Ippolito, seconded by Lori Glasgow and unanimously carried, the Committee received and filed this report.**

Group Home Program Monitoring Report – Five Acres, Incorporated – Main Campus, East Mountain, Monte Vista and Solita Group Homes (09/30/08): **On motion of Nick Ippolito, seconded by Lori Glasgow and unanimously carried, the Committee received and filed this report.**

Southern California Foster Family and Adoption Agency Contract Review - A Department of Children and Family Services Foster Family Agency Service Provider (10/01/08): **On motion of**

**Nick Ippolito, seconded by Lori Glasgow and unanimously carried, the Committee received and filed this report.**

Aspiranet Contract Review - A Department of Children and Family Services Foster Family Agency Service Provider (10/01/08): **On motion of Nick Ippolito, seconded by Lori Glasgow and unanimously carried, the Committee received and filed this report.**

Aviva Family and Children's Services Contract Review - A Department of Children and Family Services Foster Family Agency Service Provider (10/01/08): **On motion of Nick Ippolito, seconded by Lori Glasgow and unanimously carried, the Committee received and filed this report.**

Group Home Program Monitoring Report – Starshine Treatment Centers, Incorporated – Buckeye, Garden, Lynwood and 40<sup>th</sup> Street group Homes (10/02/08): **On motion of Nick Ippolito, seconded by Lori Glasgow and unanimously carried, the Committee received and filed this report.**

Group Home Program Monitoring Report – Summerplace Incorporated – Summerplace Group Home (10/02/08): **On motion of Nick Ippolito, seconded by Lori Glasgow and unanimously carried, the Committee received and filed this report.**

Group Home Program Monitoring Report – T&T Home For Boys Group Home (10/02/08): **On motion of Nick Ippolito, seconded by Lori Glasgow and unanimously carried, the Committee received and filed this report.**

Group Home Program Monitoring Report – Rolling Hills Group Home (10/02/08): **On motion of Nick Ippolito, seconded by Lori Glasgow and unanimously carried, the Committee received and filed this report.**

Group Home Program Monitoring Report – O'Conner and Atkins Group Home (10/03/08): **On motion of Nick Ippolito, seconded by Lori Glasgow and unanimously carried, the Committee received and filed this report.**

Group Home Program Monitoring Report – New Outlook Boys Home (10/03/08): **On motion of Nick Ippolito, seconded by Lori Glasgow and unanimously carried, the Committee received and filed this report.**

Group Home Program Monitoring Report – Gay & Lesbian Adolescent Social Services, Incorporated – Charles Pierce Youth Home, Herbert Benton Youth Home, Long Beach Youth Transitional Housing Group Home, Norris Rocaberte Family Home, Stephen Gabin Group Home, Summers Licata Youth Home and Wilton Group Home (10/03/08): **On motion of Nick Ippolito, seconded by Lori Glasgow and unanimously carried, the Committee received and filed this report.**

Childhelp Inc. Foster Family Agency Contract Review – A Department of Children and Family Services Provider (10/08/08): **On motion of Nick Ippolito, seconded by Lori Glasgow and unanimously carried, the Committee received and filed this report.**

United Care Inc. Foster Family Agency - A Department of Children and Family Services Provider (10/08/08): **On motion of Nick Ippolito, seconded by Lori Glasgow and unanimously carried, the Committee received and filed this report.**

Group Home Program Monitoring Report – Aviva Center – Aviva Main Campus and Aviva Graduate House Group Homes (10/09/08): **On motion of Nick Ippolito, seconded by Lori Glasgow and unanimously carried, the Committee received and filed this report.**

Status Report on Co-Monitoring of Group Home and Foster Family Agency Contractors (10/09/08): Don Chadwick reported that in March 2008, staff was assigned for joint Auditor-Controller and DCFS monitoring reviews of Group Homes; however, barriers were identified that would require separate reviews. The Auditor-Controller assigned staff to inspect homes, and DCFS decided to monitor homes once a year versus every two years. Activity was updated from September-November 2008, which resulted in about 81% of concurrent FFA inspections, 48% of concurrent Group Home inspections, with an average of 56% successful joint inspections; however, Group Home reports do not indicate concurrent inspections. Also, the exchange of information is not reciprocal; DCFS reports contain Auditor-Controller findings, although Auditor-Controller reports do not contain DCFS findings.

The Auditor-Controller's seven auditors and DCFS' ten auditors have schedules that often conflict. However, joint inspections are less disruptive to service providers and the children. **On motion of Nick Ippolito, seconded by Lori Glasgow and unanimously carried, the Committee received and filed this report.**

Ninos Latinos Unidos Foster Homes, Inc. Foster Family Agency Contract Review - A Department of Children and Family Services Provider (10/09/08): **On motion of Nick Ippolito, seconded by Lori Glasgow and unanimously carried, the Committee received and filed this report.**

Group Home Program Monitoring Report – Hillside Home for Children, Inc. – Main Campus, On-Campus Satellite, Boys Satellite and Girls Satellite Group Homes (10/14/08): **On motion of Nick Ippolito, seconded by Lori Glasgow and unanimously carried, the Committee received and filed this report.**

Five Acres The Boys' and Girls' Aid Society of Los Angeles County Contract Review – A Department of Children and Family Services Wraparound Approach Services Provider (10/15/08): This item is an accounting issue with the Department of Mental Health and is not a DCFS Wraparound issue. DCFS Wraparound owes the County \$8,000. Martha Aviles noted that DCFS needs to respond to Auditor-Controller reports in a more satisfactory manner. Marilynne Garrison, DCFS, reported that DCFS receives reports when the Auditor-Controller does, and takes action immediately and quickly addresses problematic issues with the Auditor-Controller.

Lisa Parrish, DCFS, advised that the Needs & Services Plan has been addressed systematically rather than piecemeal to standardize a Plan template. DCFS collaborated with the Probation Department and service providers in its development. **On motion of Nick Ippolito, seconded by Lori Glasgow and unanimously carried, the Committee received and filed this report.**

Fiscal Review of Gay and Lesbian Adolescent Social Services – A Group Home Foster Care Contractor (11/03/08): **On motion of Nick Ippolito, seconded by Lori Glasgow and unanimously carried, the Committee received and filed this report.**

Fiscal Review of Touch A Life Foundation – A Group Home Foster Care Contractor (11/03/08): **On motion of Nick Ippolito, seconded by Lori Glasgow and unanimously carried, the Committee received and filed this report.**

Fiscal Review of New Concept Group Home – A Group Home Foster Care Contractor (11/03/08): **On motion of Nick Ippolito, seconded by Lori Glasgow and unanimously carried, the Committee received and filed this report.**

Children’s Group Home Ombudsman’s Hotline Status Report – July 1 Through September 30, 2008 (11/06/08): **On motion of Nick Ippolito, seconded by Lori Glasgow and unanimously carried, the Committee received and filed this report.**

The Village Family Services Contract Review – A Department of Children and Family Services and Mental Health Service Provider (12/10/08): **On motion of Nick Ippolito, seconded by Lori Glasgow and unanimously carried, the Committee received and filed this report.**

Gateways Hospital and Mental Health Contract Compliance Review – A Wraparound Program and Mental Health Service Provider (12/11/08): **On motion of Nick Ippolito, seconded by Lori Glasgow and unanimously carried, the Committee received and filed this report.**

Foothill Family Service Contract Compliance Review – A Wraparound Program and Department of Mental Health Service Provider (12/11/08): **On motion of Nick Ippolito, seconded by Lori Glasgow and unanimously carried, the Committee received and filed this report.**

Discussion ensued on the creation of a cluster group comprised of the Department of Children and Family Services, the Auditor-Controller, and the Chief Executive Office that will meet quarterly. It was agreed that the Committee will meet with the cluster group on Wednesday, March 4, 2009. **On motion of Nick Ippolito, seconded by Lori Glasgow and unanimously carried, the Committee agreed to meet on a quarterly basis to discuss group home issues with DCFS, the CEO, and the Auditor-Controller.**

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was none.

#### **MATTERS NOT ON THE POSTED AGENDA (TO BE PRESENTED AND PLACED ON THE AGENDA OF A FUTURE MEETING)**

There was none.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to conduct, the meeting was adjourned at 11:44 a.m.