County of Los Angeles
DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES
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April 29, 2016

To: Supervisor Hilda L. Solis, Chair
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From: Philip L. Browning
Director

FIVE ACRES - THE BOYS' AND GIRLS' AID SOCIETY OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY FOSTER FAMILY AGENCY CONTRACT COMPLIANCE REVIEW

The Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) Contracts Administration Division (CAD) conducted a Contract Compliance Review of Five Acres - The Boys' and Girls' Aid Society of Los Angeles County Foster Family Agency (the FFA) in February 2015. The FFA has one licensed office located in the First Supervisorial District, which provides services to the County of Los Angeles DCFS placed children. According to the FFA's Program Statement, its stated purpose is "to help families raise children to become caring and productive adults by building on their strengths and those of their communities by working to: prevent child abuse and neglect; care for, treat and educate emotionally disturbed, abused and neglected children and their families in residential and outreach programs; advance the welfare of children and families by research, advocacy and collaboration; and strive for the highest standards of excellence by professionals and volunteers."

At the time of the review, the FFA supervised 35 DCFS placed children in 20 Certified Foster Homes (CFHs). The placed children's average length of placement was 12 months and their average age was nine.

SUMMARY

During CAD's Contract Compliance Review, the interviewed children generally reported: feeling safe at the FFA's CFHs, being provided with good care and appropriate services, being comfortable in their placement environment and treated with respect and dignity. The Certified Foster Parents (CFPs) reported being supported by the FFA staff in their efforts to provide care, supervision and service delivery to the children placed in their homes.

The FFA was in full compliance with 6 of 11 areas of CAD's Contract Compliance Review: Licensure/Contract Requirements; Health and Medical Needs; Psychotropic Medication; Personal Rights and Social/Emotional Well-Being; Discharged Children; and Personnel Records.

CAD noted deficiencies in the following areas: Certified Foster Homes, related to missing vehicle maintenance documentation; Facility and Environment, related to the exterior grounds, common areas children's bedrooms not being well maintained, two cans of expired food, and monetary and clothing allowance logs were not maintained; Maintenance of Required Documentation and Service Delivery, related to the FFA not obtaining the DCFS Children's Social Worker's (CSW's) authorization to implement Needs and Services Plans (NSPs); Education and Workforce Readiness, related to the children's academic performance and attendance not improving; Personal Needs/Survival and Economic Well-Being, related to children not being provided weekly monetary allowances and children not receiving encouragement and assistance with Life Books or Photo Albums.

Attached are the details of CAD's review.

REVIEW OF REPORT

On March 10, 2015, Christopher Jarosz, DCFS CAD and Donald Luther, DCFS Out-of-Home Care Management Division held an exit conference with the FFA's representatives: Jonathan Delgado, FFA/Intensive Treatment Foster Care Social Worker Supervisor; and Selina Liu, Adoption, Foster Care and Intensive Treatment Foster Care Program Supervisor. The FFA representatives were in agreement with the review findings and recommendations, were receptive to implementing systemic changes to improve the FFA's compliance with regulatory standards and were in agreement with addressing the noted deficiencies in a Corrective Action Plan (CAP).

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

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

PLB:EM:LTI:cj

Attachments

c: Sachi A. Hamai, Chief Executive Officer
John Naimo, Auditor-Controller
Public Information Office
Audit Committee
Chanel Boutakidis, MA, MFT, Chief Executive Officer, Five Acres
Lenora Scott, Regional Manager, Community Care Licensing Division
Lajuannah Hills, Regional Manager, Community Care Licensing Division

FIVE ACRES - THE BOYS' AND GIRLS' AID SOCIETY OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY
CONTRACT COMPLIANCE REVIEW SUMMARY

4401 Santa Anita Avenue
El Monte, CA 91731
License Number: 197805113

	Contract Compliance Review	Findings: December 2015
I	**Licensure/Contract Requirements** (7 Elements) 1. Timely Notification for Child's Relocation 2. Timely Cross-Reported Special Incidents Reports (SIRs) 3. Runaway Procedures in Accordance with the Contract 4. Are There Community Care License (CCL) Citations / Out of Home Care Management Division (OHCMD) Safety Reports 5. If Applicable, Foster Family Agency (FFA) Ensures Complete Required Whole Foster Family Home (WFFH) Training 6. FFA Pays Certified Foster Parents (CFP) Whole Foster Family Home Payments 7. FFA Conducts an Assessment of CFP Prior to Placement of Two (2) or More Children	Full Compliance (All)
II	**Certified Foster Homes** (12 Elements) 1. Home Study and Safety Inspection Conducted Prior to Certification 2. Agency's Inquiry with OHCMD for Historical Information Prior to Certification 3. Timely Criminal Clearances (Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), Department of Justice (DOJ), Child Abuse Central Index (CACI), Prior to Certification 4. Timely, Completed, Signed Criminal Background Statement 5. Health Screening and TB Test Prior to Certification 6. All Required Training Prior to Certification 7. Certificate of Approval on File Including Capacity 8. Safety Inspection Completed At Least Every Six Months or Per-Approved Program Statement	1. Full Compliance 2. Full Compliance 3. Full Compliance 4. Full Compliance 5. Full Compliance 6. Full Compliance 7. Full Compliance 8. Full Compliance

	9. Completed Annual Training Hours for Re-certification and Current CPR/ First-Aid/Water Safety Certificates	9. Full Compliance
	10. Current CDL/Auto Insurance/Annual Vehicle Maintenance Documentation for CFPs and Designated Drivers	10. Improvement Needed
	11. Criminal Clearances and Health Screening/Driver's License CPR/FBI/DOJ/CACI/Auto Insurance for Other Adults in the Home	11. Full Compliance
	12. FFA Assists CFPs in Providing Transportation Needs	12. Full Compliance
III	**Facility and Environment** (7 Elements)	
	1. Exterior Grounds Well Maintained	1. Improvement Needed
	2. Common Areas Well Maintained	2. Improvement Needed
	3. Children's Bedrooms/Interior Well Maintained	3. Improvement Needed
	4. Sufficient and Appropriate Educational Resources	4. Full Compliance
	5. Adequate Perishable and Non-Perishable Food	5. Improvement Needed
	6. CFP Conducted Disaster Drills and Documentation Maintained	6. Full Compliance
	7. Money and Clothing Allowance Logs Maintained	7. Improvement Needed
IV	**Maintenance of Required Documentation and Service Delivery** (10 Elements)	
	1. FFA Obtains or Documents Efforts to Obtain DCFS Children's Social Worker's (CSW's) Authorization to Implement Needs and Services Plans (NSPs)	1. Full Compliance
	2. CFPs Participated in Development of the NSPs	2. Full Compliance
	3. Children Progressing Towards Meeting NSP Goals	3. Full Compliance
	4. FFA Social Workers Develop Timely, Comprehensive Initial NSPs with Child's Participation	4. Improvement Needed
	5. FFA Social Workers Develop Timely, Comprehensive Updated NSPs with Child's Participation	5. Improvement Needed
	6. Therapeutic Services Received	6. Full Compliance

	7. Recommended Assessment/Evaluations Implemented 8. DCFS CSW's Monthly Contacts Documented in the Child's Case File 9. FFA Social Workers Develop Timely Comprehensive Quarterly Reports 10. FFA Social Workers Conduct Required Visits	7. Full Compliance 8. Full Compliance 9. Improvement Needed 10. Full Compliance
V	**Education and Workforce Readiness** (5 Elements) 1. Children Enrolled in School Within Three School Days 2. Children Attend School as Required and FFA Facilitates in Meeting Children's Educational Goals 3. Current Children's Report Cards/Progress Reports Maintained 4. Children's Academic Performance and/or Attendance Increased 5. FFA Facilitates Child's Participation in Youth Development Services (YDS) or Equivalent Services and Vocational Programs	1. Full Compliance 2. Full Compliance 3. Full Compliance 4. Improvement Needed 5. Full Compliance
VI	**Health and Medical Needs** (4 Elements) 1. Initial Medical Exams Conducted Timely 2. Follow-up Medical Exams Conducted Timely 3. Initial Dental Exams Conducted Timely 4. Follow-up Dental Exams Conducted Timely	Full Compliance (All)
VII	**Psychotropic Medication** (2 Elements) 1. Current Court Authorization for Administration of Psychotropic Medication 2. Current Psychiatric Evaluation Review	Full Compliance (All)
VIII	**Personal Rights and Social/Emotional Well-Being** (10 Elements) 1. Children Informed of Agency's Policies and Procedures 2. Children Feel Safe in the CFP Home 3. CFPs' Efforts to Provide Nutritious Meals and Snacks 4. CFPs Treat Children with Respect and Dignity	Full Compliance (All)

	5. Children Allowed Private Visits, Calls and to Receive Correspondences 6. Children Free to Attend or Not Attend Religious Services/Activities of Their Choice 7. Children's Chores Reasonable 8. Children Informed About Their Medication and Right to Refuse Medication 9. Children Aware of Right to Refuse or Receive Medical, Dental and Psychiatric Care 10. Children Given Opportunities to Participate in Extracurricular Activities, Enrichment and Social Activities	
IX	**Personal Needs/Survival and Economic Well-Being** (7 Elements) 1. Clothing Allowance Provided in Accordance with FFA Program Statement 2. Ongoing Clothing Inventories of Adequate Quantity and Quality 3. Children Involved in the Selection of Their Clothing 4. Provision of Sufficient Supply of Clean Towels and Personal Care Items Meeting Ethnic Needs 5. Minimum Weekly Monetary Allowances 6. Management of Allowance/Earnings 7. Encouragement and Assistance with a Life Book/Photo Album	1. Full Compliance 2. Full Compliance 3. Full Compliance 4. Full Compliance 5. Improvement Needed 6. Full Compliance 7. Improvement Needed
X	**Discharged Children** (3 Elements) 1. Completed Discharge Summary 2. Attempts to Stabilize Children's Placement 3. Child Completed High School (if applicable)	Full Compliance (All)
XI	**Personnel Records** (9 Elements) 1. Criminal Clearances FBI, DOJ, CACI Signed and Submitted Timely 2. Timely, Completed, Signed Criminal Background Statement 3. FFA Social Workers Met Education/Experience Requirements	Full Compliance (All)

	4. Timely Employee Health Screening/TB Clearances 5. Valid Driver's License and Auto Insurance 6. FFA Employees Signed Copies of FFA Policies and Procedures 7. FFA Employees Completed All Required Training and Documentation Maintained 8. FFA Social Workers Have Appropriate Caseload Ratio 9. FFA Maintained Written Declarations for Part-Time Contracted FFA Social Workers Caseloads Not to Exceed a Total of 15 Children	

FIVE ACRES - THE BOYS' AND GIRLS' AID SOCIETY OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY
CONTRACT COMPLIANCE REVIEW
FISCAL YEAR 2014-2015

SCOPE OF REVIEW

The following report is based on a "point in time" review. This compliance report addresses findings noted during the February 2015 review. The purpose of this review was to assess Five Acres - The Boys' and Girls' Aid Society of Los Angeles County's (The FFA's) compliance with its County contract and State regulations and included a review of the FFA's Program Statement as well as internal administrative policies and procedures. The compliance review covered the following 11 areas:

- Licensure/Contract Requirements,
- Certified Foster Homes,
- Facility and Environment,
- Maintenance of Required Documentation and Service Delivery,
- Education and Workforce Readiness,
- Health and Medical Needs,
- Psychotropic Medication,
- Personal Rights and Social/Emotional Well-Being,
- Personal Needs/Survival and Economic Well-Being,
- Discharged Children, and
- Personnel Records.

For the purpose of this review, 12 children were selected for the sample. The Contracts Administration Division (CAD) interviewed 12 children. During the home visits, the children were observed to be comfortable and well cared for in the Certified Foster Homes (CFHs) and their Certified Foster Parents (CFPs) were observed to be attuned to the needs of the children. CAD reviewed all 12 case files to assess the care and services the children received. Additionally, four discharged children's files were reviewed to assess the FFA's compliance with permanency efforts. At the time of the review, no placed children selected were prescribed psychotropic medication.

CAD reviewed five CFH files and five staff files for compliance with Title 22 Regulations and County contract requirements. Interviews were conducted with nine CFPs to assess the quality of care and supervision provided to the placed children.

CONTRACTUAL COMPLIANCE

CAD found the following areas out of compliance:

Certified Foster Homes

- FFA did not maintain vehicle maintenance for all vehicles used in its CFHs.

CFH #1 had a vehicle with two tires that required replacement. Both CAD and the FFA instructed the CFP not to use this vehicle to transport children until after it received replacement tires and a vehicle safety inspection is conducted by a licensed or certified mechanic.

Recommendation:

The FFA's management shall ensure that:

1. All vehicles used by its CFPs receive an annual vehicle safety inspection.

Facility and Environment

- Exterior grounds were not well maintained.

The unlocked shed in the backyard of CFH #1 had a can of herbicide with a sprayer wand and an unplugged circular saw. CAD and the FFA requested the CFPs immediately move the items to the locked garage.

- Common areas were not well maintained.

The interior of CFH #1 smelled like tobacco and the carpet and closet shelves were dirty. The FFA requested CFP to have the carpets and the house cleaned. The FFA decertified this home on April 9, 2015.

- Children's bedrooms were not well maintained.

One of the children's bedrooms extended into the garage area. Immediately after CAD's visit to the CFH #1, the FFA required the CFP to relocate the placed children to another vacant bedroom in the home. The FFA requested the CFP to ask the landlord for copies of the permits for the room in question. The CFP was unable to obtain the required information prior to this home being decertified on April 9, 2015.

- An adequate amount of perishable and non-perishable food was not maintained.

One of the CFHs had two cans of expired food.

CAD had the CFP throw away the expired can goods at the time of the visit. The FFA Social Worker completed a follow-up on March 31, 2015 and confirmed to CAD that there was a sufficient supply of perishable and non-perishable food.

- Monetary and clothing allowance logs were not maintained.

The FFA acknowledged its CFPs had not uniformly implemented its allowance policy. All past due allowance money was paid to all the children. CFH #1 was decertified by the FFA April 9, 2015.

Recommendations:

The FFA's management shall ensure that:

2. Exteriors/Grounds are well maintained.
3. Common areas are well maintained.
4. Children's bedrooms are well maintained.
5. An adequate amount of perishable and non-perishable food is maintained.
6. Comprehensive monetary and clothing allowance logs are maintained.

Maintenance of Required Documentation and Service Delivery

- The FFA did not obtain or document efforts to obtain DCFS CSW's authorization to implement Needs and Services Plans (NSPs).

5 of 6 NSPs reviewed did not have the DCFS Children's Social Worker's (CSW's) approval to implement the NSPs.

During the exit conference, the FFA representatives acknowledged that this deficiency is a repeat from last year's review. The FFA representatives stated that a new protocol for the FFA Social Workers will be developed to ensure that the FFA obtains or documents efforts to obtain DCFS CSW's authorization to implement NSPs.

Recommendation:

The FFA's management shall ensure that:

7. FFA obtains or documents efforts to obtain DCFS CSW's authorization to implement NSPs

Education and Workforce Readiness

- Children's Academic Performance and/or Attendance did not increase.

One child's school performance declined and there was no plan for improvement. This child had recently started family reunification with the father but the child did not have a prior relationship with the father and there was no plan in place to ensure continued academic achievement.

Recommendation:

The FFA's management shall ensure that:

8. The children's academic performance or attendance increases.

Personal Needs/Survival and Economic Well-Being

- Minimum weekly monetary allowance was not provided.

CFH #1 did not have records of providing the children the weekly allowances. The FFA made sure all placed children received all past due allowance and all required clothing. The FFA decertified this home on April 9, 2015.

- Children did not receive encouragement and assistance with Life Book/Photo Album.

The FFA representatives stated the FFA social worker would instruct the CFPs to provide encouragement and assistance in completing Lifebook and photo albums during the first visit.

Recommendations:

The FFA's management shall ensure that:

9. Minimum weekly monetary allowance is provided.

10. Children receive encouragement and assistance with a Life Book/Photo Album.

PRIOR YEAR FOLLOW-UP FROM DCFS CAD'S FFA CONTRACT COMPLIANCE REVIEW

The CAD's last compliance report dated February 18, 2014, identified three recommendations for which they were to ensure that:

- The FFA is in full compliance with Title 22 Regulations and free of CCL citations

- Initial, Updated NSPs and Quarterly Reports are comprehensive and all the required fields/sections are completed in accordance with the NSP template.

- Initial dental exams are conducted timely.

Results:

Based on the results of this review the FFA fully implemented 3 of 3 recommendations.

At the exit conference, the FFA representatives expressed their desire to remain in compliance with all Title 22 Regulations and Contract requirements. The FFA representative stated that the FFA would implement procedures to strive towards greater compliance. CAD will continue to assess implementation of the recommendations during the next review. The OHCMD will provide ongoing support and technical assistance prior to the next review.

five acres
promoting safety, well-being and permanency

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April 10, 2015

To: DCFS Out of Home Care Management Division
Attn: Diana Flaggs, Contract Compliance Unit
3530 Wilshire Blvd., 5th Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90010

From: 5 Acres Foster Family Agency
4401 Santa Anita Ave
El Monte, CA 91731

Re: Corrective Action Plan (CAP)
2015 Compliance Report Results/Corrective Action Plan

Dear Amy Kim and Ali Bhatta:

The following is the Corrective Action Plan (CAP) for the compliance review provided to 5 Acres Foster Family Agency on March 10, 2015:

1. Certified Foster Homes

17. Do the certified foster parents and/or designated drivers have valid California driver's license, auto insurance, annual documentation of vehicle maintenance, and if applicable, car seats (SAFETY)? Specifically, it was requested that the two rear tires on the Honda Odyssey minivan be examined by a professional for excessive wear.

To address the above finding (17):

On March 16th, Jonathan Delgado, FCSWS, went to the CFH to inspect the vehicle. The tires in question did not appear to be worn beyond the marker provided by the tire manufacture, but it was questionable. As a result, the resource parent was informed that she could not transport the children in the Honda Odyssey minivan until a vehicle inspection was acquired that showed that the tires were in acceptable and safe condition. At the present time, Five Acres requires that the resource parents have a yearly vehicle inspection at the time of recertification. The Intake and Certification Coordinator, tracks the need for certification documents including annual vehicle inspections through FosterTrak. In response to the finding, Five Acres will ensure that FCSWs occasionally check vehicles during regular home visits.

2. **Facility and Environment**

20. Are the exterior and grounds of the certified foster home well maintained? Specifically, referring to a container of herbicide with a sprayer wand and a circular saw (not plugged in) were in an unlocked shed in the backyard of one CFH.

To address the above finding (20):

The resource parent was able to secure the items mentioned above while the auditor was present in the home. The items were moved to a locked garage. Five Acres does provide our resource parents with training in preventing access to chemicals and securing unsafe items during their certification process. Our FCSW will continue to monitor the home (both interior and exterior) for any concerns during regular home visits and documented in our home visit notes. This particular resource parent was aware of the requirement, but did not think the objects were in an unsafe location. She was compliant with the request, but as a result of ongoing concerns regarding this parent and an unwillingness to maintain compliance with Five Acres regulations, this home has been decertified as of 04/09/2015.

21. Are common areas/interior well maintained? Specifically, the interior of the home smelled of tobacco smoke and the carpet and closet shelves were dirty.

To address the above finding (21):

On March 25th the resource parent was directed to have her carpets cleaned by 04/01/2015 and provide the agency with a receipt of services rendered. When confronted about the cigarette smoking, the resource parent adamantly denies ever smoking in the home or in the presence of the children. Five Acres does provide continuous training and direction to the resource parents as to maintaining a safe and healthy environment in and around the home. The resource parent was unwilling to resolve the issue of her carpets as directed by the agency and was unwilling to explore alternative methods of achieving positive results. As a result, as indicated above, the resource parent was decertified on 04/09/2015. The FCSW will monitor the home on regular basis.

22. Are children's bedrooms well maintained? Specifically, in regards to a bedroom the extended in the garage space, and questions of the room's ability to meet code.

To address the above finding (22):

Immediately after the home inspection on 03/10/2015, the resource parent was required to have the children currently residing in the room in question move into another room, which was open at the time. A request was also made for the resource parent to obtain permits from her landlord regarding the specifications of the room in question, before the children could return to the room. Since this time the foster mother has been unable to obtain the required information. The actual legalities of the room have not been determined and the children remained out of the room until she was decertified on 04/09/2015. In the future, if there are conditions that exist in a home that cause reason for the agency to question if alterations were made to the home, the agency will obtain verification from the city that the alterations meet code. This will be done prior to certification and as an ongoing procedure, once an alteration is noticed.

24. Does the certified foster home maintain adequate nutritious perishable and non-perishable foods and adhere to product "used or freeze by," "best by," "sell by," or expiration dates? Specifically referring to two cans of food found in the pantry of one home that were beyond the "best if used by" dates.

To address the above finding (24):

On 03/17/2015, the FCSW discussed with the resource parents the importance of checking the canned and perishable dates for expiration and following the "use by," "sell by," and "freeze by" dates. On 03/31/2015 the FCSW re-inspected the home to ensure compliance. As part of the Five Acres precertification training and ongoing in home support provided by the FCSW, the foster parents will be instructed to develop a system specific to their home needs (rotation system, develop a chore, etc.) that will allow them to routinely check cans and perishables for expiration dates. The FCSW will be responsible to routinely check during regular home visits.

26. Are appropriate and comprehensive monetary and clothing allowance logs maintained? Specifically addressing allowance in amounts in one CFH.

To address the above finding (26):

See response to Personal Needs/Survival and Economic Well-Being, number 62.

3. <u>Maintenance or Required Documentation and Service Delivery</u>

27. Did the FFA obtain or document efforts to obtain the County worker's authorization to implement the NSP? Specifically, five of the six children's NSPs did not have three documented attempts to contact the CSW prior to the NSP due dates.

To address the above finding (27):

In the future, as indicated in the County of Los Angeles Department of Children and Family Services Amendment, dated March 18th, 2014 (Provided below) the foster care social worker will be be responsible for ensuring that the below requirements are fully implemented and that all documentation and transmittals of the NSPs being sent to the County worker, requesting review, input, and County worker's signatures approving the implementation of the NSPs are documented

and maintained in the children's file. The Foster Care Social Worker Supervisor will conduct monthly reviews of the children's case files to ensure all NSPs guidelines provided below are being maintained and documentation of the efforts to obtain CSW signatures is present:

3.3.1.1 All required signatures (age-appropriate children, treatment team, placement worker, certified foster parent, etc.), shall be obtained for all initial NSPs within 5 days of development. In the event Contractor is unable to meet this requirement Contractor shall provide documentation of all efforts and reasons for their inability to meet this requirement and attach to the NSP. Exceptions to this requirement may be granted only in cases where the Contractor is not responsible for the delay.

3.3.1.2 The completed initial NSP shall be submitted by the Contractor's staff to the placement worker by the 35th day from placement.

3.3.1.3 The NSP shall be updated/modified by the 90th day of placement, and every 90 days thereafter.

3.3.1.4 Updates/modifications to the NSP shall address: (1) the Placed child's need for continuing services; (2) the need for (any) modification in services; and the (3) the recommendation of the FFA staff regarding the feasibility of the Placed Child's return to their home, placement in another facility, or move to independent living.

3.3.1.5 All required signatures (age-appropriate children, treatment team, placement worker, certified foster parent, etc.), shall be obtained for all updated/modified NSPs within 5 days of development. In the event Contractor is unable to meet this requirement Contractor shall provide documentation of all efforts and reasons for their inability to meet this requirement and attach to the NSP. Exceptions to this requirement may be granted only in cases where the Contractor is not responsible for the delay.

3.3.1.6 The completed updated/modified NSPs shall be submitted by the Contractor's staff to the placement worker by the 95th day of continuing placement, and every 95 days thereafter.

Of the five reports that were found not to have three attempts documented prior to the NSP due dates, four of the reports had an attempt within the 5 days of

development, as required in the amendment above, 2 of the reports were sent prior to the due date, and one of the five reports was sent on the due date. All five of the charts had documentation supporting the efforts made to obtain the CSW's signature attached to the NSP, as required in the amendment above. The agency will continue to work on ensuring the above contract requirements are met.

4. **Education and Workforce Readiness**

40. Based on the services provided by the FFA, has the child's academic performance and /or attendance increased? Specifically discussing one child currently in the first grade whose school achievement levels decreased from "proficient" to "below basic" from kindergarten to the first grade.

To address the above finding (40):

During the reporting period where the students overall performance levels decreased, the child had just began family reunification services with her father, with whom she had no prior relationship. These visits appeared to impact the child's performance, as documented in the FCSW notes. Since the visits began and the child's school performance was noted to have dropped, the school has made arrangements to provide weekly reports documenting the child's success and conjoint therapy with the minor and her father have been initiated. As a result of these actions, the child's performance in school has significantly improved (see attached report card). The Five Acres FCSW's are dedicated to ensuring that the children in our care are assisted in improving areas of academic deficiency. The FCSW are aware of the impacts when changes occur in the minor's environments and past traumas and are aware of the options available to address the needs of the child (increased tutoring, trips to the library, therapeutic services, etc.).

5. **Personal Needs/Survival and Economic Well-Being**

62. Are children always provided with weekly monetary allowances and/or earning as noted in the FYBR? Specifically discussing the allowance amounts in one CFH. Allowance was given monthly ($10.00), and is less than what are identified in the 5Acres' program statement and County requirements. Specifically, referring to the allowance amounts that were given to two children, where the amount provided to the children was less than is identified in the 5Acres program statement and County requirements.

To address the above finding (62):

Starting in November of 2014, Five Acres developed a new allowance policy (See Attached Allowance Log and Allowance Guidelines). Admittedly, the change was not immediate accepted or implemented by a handful of our resource parents. Since this time all of the current parents are now implementing our allowance policy and new parents are receiving training on the philosophy during their certification process. The foster care social workers are required to monitor the allowance policy's implementation and in ensuring compliance when collecting the Monthly Allowance Logs from the resource parents.

To resolve the allowance issue involving our two children placed in the home in question, Five Acres will reimburse the children all of the money that was entitled to them during the time of the new policy indoctrination through end of placement. The amounts total $240.00 for one child and $190.00 for the other. Since the children are no longer with the agency (as they have been reunified with relatives), the FCSW is in contact with one relative family and will personally take the funds to him at their home and, as requested by the CSW of the other, the funds will be converted into a Visa gift card and mailed to her along with a form for the minor to sign. The CSW will give the minor the gift card, have him sign the form, and then the CSW will send the form back to the FCSW. Both minors have been made aware of this resolution and agree to the processes put in place.

The home in question is the same home that has been noted in the responses to 20, 21, and 22 as being unwilling to resolve the issues identified in her home as directed by the agency and was unwilling to explore alternative methods of achieving positive results. As a result of this parents unwillingness to resolve issues and concerns in her home, as indicated in the previous sections, was decertified on 04/09/2015.

64. Does the certified foster parent encourage and assist children to update a life book or a photo album? Specifically addressing the findings in one home where two of the four children had life books and the resource parents stated to the auditor that they "were not aware that it was a requirement."

To address the above finding (64):

On 03/23/2015, the FCSW met with the resource parents to discuss the findings. It was noted at that time that the two children that had not had life books developed were both fairly recent placements. When the family was asked about their awareness of the requirement to develop 'Life Books," they responded that they were aware that they were required to develop "photo albums" for the children. This finding appears to be based on a misunderstanding of terminology.

To ensure that all of the children placed in a Five Acres home are provided an opportunity to develop a "Life Book" from the time of placement. Five Acres will provide guidelines for life books at the time of the first FCSW visit. The FCSW will encourage the child's participation and assist the children with picture selections, suggestions as to what subjects may be of interest, or whatever assistance the child my desire, if any. All supplies will be furnished for the children to express their creativity. The foster care social worker will ensure that the program is encouraged, that the resource parents are prepared and enthusiastic about providing the children with the opportunity, that supplies are available and provided by the foster parents, and sufficient time is reserved for each child's participation.

If you have any further Questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 626- 246-1734.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Delgado, DPA, MSW
EFA/ITFC Social Worker Supervisor