COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
PROBATION DEPARTMENT

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Chief Probation Officer

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September 22, 2010

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: Donald H. Blevins
Chief Probation Officer

SUBJECT: SONYA LOVE GUIDANCE CENTER CONTRACT COMPLIANCE MONITORING REVIEW

We have completed a review of Sonya Love Guidance Center operated by Sonya Love Guidance Center, Inc. The Group Home contracts with the Los Angeles County Probation Department.

Sonya Love Guidance Center is a six-bed facility, which provides care for boys ages 12-17 years who exhibit behavioral, social and emotional difficulties. At the time of the monitoring review, Sonya Love Guidance Center was providing services for six Probation youth.

Sonya Love Guidance Center is located in the Second District.

SCOPE OF REVIEW

The purpose of our review is to determine whether the Agency is providing the services as outlined in their Program Statement. In addition, 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 services provided by the Agency and to ensure adherence to the Foster Youth Bill of Rights.

SUMMARY

Generally, the Agency is providing the services as outlined in their Program Statement. However, the Agency needs to address a few deficient areas. Specifically, the Group

Home needs to remove an old alarm box with protruding wires out of the closet of bedroom #1, provide religious services choices for each youth, and provide a working computer.

NOTABLE FINDINGS

- Old alarm box with protruding wires in the closet of bedroom #1
- Youth reported that the Group home was not providing choices regarding religious services
- There is no working computer in the group home

EXIT CONFERENCE

In attendance:
Mr. Costelito Harris, Administrator
Mrs. Patricia Harris, Facility Manager

Highlights

The Exit Conference was conducted on July 28, 2010. The representatives present were in agreement with the findings of the review. They agreed to have the old alarm box removed and the wall patched, provide youth choices of religious services/activities to attend, and supply at least one working computer for the youth at the group home by October 28, 2010. A follow-up visit will be conducted to ensure that all deficiencies have been corrected.

If you need additional information or have any questions or concerns, please contact Director, Lisa Campbell-Motton, Placement Permanency and Quality Assurance at (323) 240-2435.

DHB:REB:LCM:ed

Attachments

c: William T Fujioka, Chief Executive Officer
Sachi A. Hamai, Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
Brence Culp, Chief Deputy
Wendy Watanabe, Auditor-Controller
Public Information Office
Audit Committee
Jean Chen, Community Care Licensing
Costelito Harris, Executive Director, Sonya Love Guidance Center
Jackie White, Deputy Chief Executive Officer
Chief Deputies
Justice Deputies

SONYA LOVE GUIDANCE CENTER PROGRAM CONTRACT COMPLIANCE MONITORING REVIEW- SUMMARY

	Contract Compliance Monitoring Review	Findings: Month/Year
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	**Program Services** (7 Elements) 1. Child Population Consistent with Program Statement 2. Probation Caseworker 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. Recommendation Assessments/Evaluations Implemented 7. Probation Caseworkers Monthly Contact Documented	(Full Compliance) ALL
III	**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	1.Full Compliance 2. Full Compliance 3. Needs Improvement 4. Needs Improvement 5. Full Compliance 6. Full Compliance
IV	**Educational and Emancipation Services** (4 Elements) 1. Emancipation/Vocational Programs Provided 2. ILP and Emancipation Planning 3. Current IEPs Maintained 4. Current Report Cards Maintained	(Full Compliance) ALL
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 of Psychotropic Medication 2. Current Psychiatric Evaluation/Review 3. Medication Logs 4. Initial Medical Exams Conducted 5. Initial Medical Exams Timely 6. Follow-Up Medical Exams Timely 7. Initial Dental Exams 8. Initial Dental Exams Timely 9. Follow-Up Dental Exams Timely	(Full Compliance) ALL
VII	**Personal Rights** (11 Elements) 1. Children Informed of Home's Policies and Procedures 2. Children Feel Safe 3. Satisfaction with Meals and Snacks 4. Staff Treatment of Children with Respect and Dignity 5. Appropriate Rewards and Discipline System 6. Children Free to Received 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 Medication 11. Children Aware of Right to Refuse Psychotropic Medication	1.Full Compliance 2. Full Compliance 3. Full Compliance 4. Full Compliance 5. Full Compliance 6. Full Compliance 7. Full Compliance 8. Needs Improvement 9. Full Compliance 10. Full Compliance 11. Full Compliance
VIII	**Children's Clothing and Allowance** (8 Elements) 1. $50.00 Clothing Allowance 2. Adequate Quantity Clothing Inventory 3. Adequate Quality 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	**Personal Records (including Staff Qualifications, Staffing Ratios, Criminal Clearances and Training)** (12 Elements) 1. Education/ Experience Requirement 2. Criminal Fingerprint Cards Timely Submitted 3. CAIs Timely Submitted 4. Signed Criminal Background Statement Timely 5. Employee Health Screening Timely 6. Valid Driver's Licenses	(Full Compliance) ALL

	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	

SONYA LOVE GUIDANCE CENTER PROGRAM CONTRACT COMPLIANCE MONITORING REVIEW

Sonya Love Guidance Center, Inc. Group Home
1700 West Sixty Street
Los Angeles, CA 90047
License Number: 198203880
Rate Classification Level: 11

The following report is based on a "point in time" at the time of the monitoring visit. This compliance report addresses findings noted during the July 2010 monitoring review.

LICENSURE /CONTRACTUAL COMPLIANCE

Based on our review of fifteen case files and five staff files, and/or documentation from the provider, Sonya Love Guidance Center was in full compliance with seven out of the nine sections of our Contract Compliance review: Licensure/Contract Requirements; Educational and Emancipation Services; Recreation Activities; Children's Health-Related Services (Including Psychotropic Medication); Children's Clothing and Allowance; and Personnel Records (Including Staff Qualifications, Staff Ratios, Criminal Clearance, and Training). The following report details the results of our review.

Based on our review of Sonya Love Guidance Center and interviews with fifteen Probation placed children, Sonya Love Guidance Center fully complied with all nine elements in the area of Licensure/Contractual Compliance.

Recommendations:

None.

PROGRAM SERVICES

Based on our review of Sonya Love Guidance Center and interviews with six Probation placed children, Sonya Love Guidance Center fully complied with all seven elements in the area of Program Services.

The children meet the Group Home's population criteria as outlined in their Program Statement and are assessed for needed services within thirty days of placement. Case files reflect adequate documentation to show that children are receiving treatment services.

The treatment team develops and implements the Needs and Services Plans (NSPs) with input from the child. The NSPs are current, comprehensive and include short and long term goals.

Recommendations:

None.

FACILITY AND ENVIRONMENT

Based on our review of Sonya Love Guidance Center and interviews with six Probation placed children, Sonya Love Guidance Center fully complied with four of the six elements in the area of Facility and Environment.

Sonya Love Guidance Center is located in a residential community. The exterior of the Group Home is well maintained. The front and surrounding areas are clean and adequately landscaped.

Overall, the interior of the Group Home is well maintained. The common quarters are neat and clean, there is adequate furniture and lighting, and the Group Home provides a home-like environment.

Children's bedrooms are well maintained. The rooms are clean, 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, the beds all have a full complement of linens, and the children's sleeping arrangements are appropriate. However, in bedroom #1, there is an old home alarm box with protruding wires.

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 are also available. However, the computer located in the dining room is not properly working.

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

Recommendations:

1. Sonya Love shall ensure that the deficiencies cited in bedroom #1 will be corrected and repaired in a timely fashion in order to ensure the safety and security of all residents placed at the Group Home.
2. Sonya Love shall ensure that the youth have access to a working computer.

EDUCATIONAL AND EMANCIPATION SERVICES

Based on our review of Sonya Love Guidance Center and interviews with six Probation placed children, Sonya Love Guidance Center fully complied with all four elements in the area of Education and Emancipation Services.

Children are attending school, 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 also provided with opportunities to participate in emancipation and vocational programs as appropriate.

Recommendations:

None.

RECREATION AND ACTIVITIES

Based on our review of Sonya Love Guidance Center and interviews with six Probation placed children, Sonya Love Guidance Center fully complied with all three elements in the area of Recreation and Activities.

The Group Home provides children with sufficient recreational activities and leisure time. Children are provided with opportunities to participate in planning activities. Children also participate in extra-curricular, enrichment and social activities in which they have an interest. The Group Home has a small cardiovascular workout room, and a small weight room for the residents to use. The Group Home provides several recreation options for the residents to participate in, such as sporting activities like basketball. There is a community park within walking distance that the children may use for baseball team play or to throw the football. They also provide off-grounds activities such as outings to the library, movie theatre, baseball games, and museums. The Group Home provides transportation to and from these activities.

Recommendations:

None.

CHILDREN'S HEALTH RELATED-SERVICES, (INCLUDING PSYCHOTROPIC MEDICATION)

Based on our review of Sonya Love Guidance Center and interviews with six Probation placed children, Sonya Love Guidance Center fully complied with all nine elements in the area of Children's Health Related Services.

According to the Agency's management, there are currently no children taking psychotropic medications: however, the protocols and policies for psychotropic medication are in place. This information is appropriately documented. Children are aware of their right to refuse medication.

Recommendations:

None.

PERSONAL RIGHTS

Based on our review of Sonya Love Guidance Center and interviews with six Probation placed children, Sonya Love Guidance Center fully complied with ten of the eleven elements in the area of Personal Rights.

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 overall, the facility staff treat them with respect and dignity.

Children report that they are assigned chores that are reasonable and not too demanding. Children are allowed to make and receive personal telephone calls, send and receive unopened mail, and have private visitors. However, some children report that they do not have a choice on what religious services they would like to attend.

Children report that the discipline policies are consistently enforced, and there are fair and appropriate consequences for inappropriate behavior.

Children report satisfaction with meals and snacks. Children also receive voluntary medical, dental and psychiatric care.

Recommendations:

1. Sonya Love shall provide children a choice in what religious services they would
   like to attend and provide transportation to these services

CLOTHING AND ALLOWANCE

Based on our review of Sonya Love Guidance Center and interviews with six Probation placed children, Sonya Love Guidance Center fully complied with all eight elements in the area of Clothing and Allowance.

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 and the clothing provided is of good quality and of sufficient quantity. The Group Home conducts shopping outings every three (3) months at appropriate clothing stores.

The Group Home provides children with the required minimum weekly allowance and the children spend their allowances as they choose.
The Group Home provides children with adequate personal care items. The Group Home encouraged or assisted in creating and maintaining photo albums/life books.

Recommendations:

None.

PERSONNEL RECORDS

Based on our review of Sonya Love Guidance Center and interviews with six Probation placed children, Sonya Love Guidance Center fully complied with all twelve elements in the area of Personnel Records.

A random check of employee records was completed. All training and background checks were completed and current. All staff in the sample had current driver's licenses, first aid training and de-escalation and restraint training. All files reviewed had the required educational documentation and criminal and child abuse clearances for their employees prior to being hired.

Recommendations:

None.

SONYA LOVE GUIDANCE CENTER

1700 W 60th street
Los Angeles, California 90047

From: SONYA LOVE GUIDANCE CENTER
To: Joseph Ninofranco / Probation

Plan of correction

1. **The Sonya Love Guidance Center facility manager will be responsible to ensure the completion of all noted deficiencies by August 27, 2010.**

Findings:

A. **Old alarm box with protruding wires in the closet of bedroom #1**
B. **No working computer in the group home**
C. **Group home to provide choices to youth regarding religious services**

Corrections:

On August 27, 2010 each one of these area's have been corrected:

- **The old alarm box was removed and the hole was patched and repainted by Sonya Love's hired handy man, Carl Kendricks on 7/29/10. The wires that were sticking out were dead wires no longer in use. Mr. Kendricks concealed the wires in the wall, placed a netting over them, patched the hole with wall paste and repainted. The entire repair cost approximately $20.00.**

- **A meeting was held with all residents by Mr. Harris and Facility Manager, Ms. Curry, to discuss with them their religious service options. There was only one youth that chose not to attend services. The residents of Sonya love made a decision to participate with and continue to attend the church they presently attend.**

- **Of the 2 computers, one was repaired and one is in the process of being replaced. A new facility will be purchased 10/2/10 for Sonya Love Administrative Services The new facility will come with an additional 11 State-Of-Art computers already installed in the new building. They will be available for all residents every day after school and on the weekends.**

Mr. Costelelio Harris / Executive Director