COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
PROBATION DEPARTMENT

PLACEMENT PERMANENCY AND QUALITY ASSURANCE
GROUP HOME MONITORING AND INVESTIGATIONS
11701 S. ALAMEDA STREET, 2ND FLOOR
LYNWOOD, CALIFORNIA 90262
(323) 357-5535

DONALD H. BLEVINS
Chief Probation Officer

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Fifth District

October 7, 2010

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: Donald H. Blevins, Chief
Probation Department

SUBJECT: LOVING LIFE GROUP HOMES I & II CONTRACT COMPLIANCE MONITORING REVIEW

We have completed a review of Loving Life Group Homes I & II operated by You Are The Difference Foundation, Inc. The Group Home contracts with the Los Angeles County Probation Department.

Loving Life Group Homes has two (2) six-bed facilities located in Compton, CA and Los Angeles, CA. This agency has a Residential Care Level (RCL) rate of 10 and provides care for boy's ages 12-17 years who exhibit behavioral, emotional, and psychological difficulties. At the time of the monitoring review, Loving Life Group Homes I & II were providing services for twelve (12) Probation youth.

The Loving Life Group Homes I and II 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.

The Loving Life Group Homes I and II is located in the Second District.

SUMMARY

Generally, the Agency is providing the services as outlined in their Program Statement. Although there are minor deficiencies that require action, there are no egregious deficiencies that would require an intensive corrective action plan. The residents appear to be safe living in the Group Home, and all child and staff records appear to be in order.

NOTABLE FINDINGS

The following are the notable findings of our review:

Loving Life I:

- The stove at the Compton facility was in need of adjustment of the front burner and oven door.
- The tile in the front bathroom at the Compton facility was in need of caulking around the bathtub.
- The knob on the second bedroom door required tightening.
- The front bedroom of the Compton facility was in need of painting.
- There were several minor physical deficiencies cited in the Group Home that required repair or correction as described in the Facility and Environment section of the Monitoring Review Summary.

Loving Life II:

- The outside of the Los Angeles facility required water-blasting and minor painting on the front of the house and front porch.
- The rain gutters in the front section of the facility were worn and in need of replacing.
- The rear stairs in the back of the facility were loose and required tightening.
- The interior baseboards in the living room of the facility were loose and required securing and caulking.
- The molding in the dining room required painting.
- Two shrubs in the front section of the Los Angeles facility had fungus and required removal.

EXIT CONFERENCE

In attendance:

Alena Cindy Giardina, Deputy Probation Officer/Monitor
Ms. Billie Woods, Executive Director
Ms. Alice Brown, Quality Assurance Director

HIGHLIGHTS

The Exit Conference was conducted on October 5, 2010. The representatives present were in agreement with the findings of the review. The deficiencies were addressed at the time of the exit conference. The Group Home agreed to have the cited physical deficiencies in each of the facilities corrected in a timely manner. 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
Pubic Information Office
Audit Committee
Jean Chen, Community Care Licensing
Jackie White, Deputy Chief Executive Officer
Chief Deputies
Justice Deputies
Billie Woods-Bean, Executive Director, Loving Life Group Homes I & II

LOVING LIFE GROUP HOMES I & II 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.Improvement needed 2.Improvement needed 3.Full Compliance 4.Full Compliance 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	Full Compliance (All)

	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	
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	Full Compliance (All)
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 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	Full Compliance (All)

You Are the Difference Foundation Inc.
171 N. Rock River Drive, Diamond Bar, CA 91765

To: DPO Alena Cindy Giardina
Los Angeles County Probation Department

From: Billie Woods Bean
Executive Director
You Are the Difference Found. Inc.
(DBA) Loving Life Home

Date: November 04, 2010

Re: Notable Findings and Plan of Correction

NOTABLE FINDINGS

The following are the notable findings of our review: There were several minor physical deficiencies cited in the Group Home that required repair or correction as described in the Facility and Environment section of the Monitoring Review Summary.

Loving Life II:

1. The outside of the Los Angeles facility required water-blasting and minor painting on the front of the house and front porch.

   On 09/14/10 water blasting and painting repairs were made by the maintenance staff.

2. The rain gutters in the front section of the facility were worn and in need of replacing.

   New rain gutters were purchased and installed on 09/16/10 by the maintenance staff.

3. The rear stairs in the back of the facility were loose and required tightening.

   On 09/16/10 the stairs were completely repaired and tighten by the maintenance staff.

4. The interior baseboards in the living room of the facility were loose and required securing and caulking.

   Baseboards were secured with the proper caulking on 09/17/10 by the maintenance staff.

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5. The molding in the dining room required painting.

   The molding was repainted on 09/17/10 by the maintenance staff.

6. Two shrubs in the front section of the Los Angeles facility had fungus and required removal.

   The two shrubs were removed on 09/17/10 by the maintenance staff.

Loving Life I:

1. The stove at the Compton facility was in need of adjustment of the front burner and oven door.

   On 09/22/10 adjustments were made to the front burner and the oven door by Stove Heaven.

2. The tile in the front bathroom at the Compton facility was in need of caulking around the bathtub.

   Caulking was replaced around the bathtub on 09/23/10 by the maintenance staff.

3. The knob on the second bedroom door required tightening.

   The second bedroom knob was tightened by the maintenance staff on 09/23/10.

4. The front bedroom of the Compton facility was in need of painting.

   On 09/24/10 the maintenance staff repainted the front bedroom.

You Are the Difference Foundation Inc.
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EXIT CONFERENCE

In Attendance:

Ms. Alena Cindy Giardina, Deputy Probation Officer/Monitor
Ms. Billie Woods, Executive Director
Ms. Alice Brown, Quality Assurance Director

Highlights:

The Exit Conference was conducted on October 22, 2010. The representatives present were in agreement with the findings of the review. The deficiencies were addressed at the time of the exit conference. The Group Home agreed to have the cited physical deficiencies in each of the facilities corrected in a timely manner.

Respectively Submitted,

Billie Woods Bean, Executive Director

LOVING LIFE GROUP HOMES I AND II PROGRAM CONTRACT COMPLIANCE MONITORING REVIEW

Loving Life Group Home I
700 South Burris Avenue
Compton, CA 90021
License Number 191600185
Rate Classification Level: 10

Loving Life Group Home II
9601 S. Hobart Street
Los Angeles, CA 90047
License Number: 198204496
Rate Classification Level: 10

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 August-September 2010 monitoring review.

LICENSURE/CONTRACTUAL COMPLIANCE

Based on our review of six (6) case files and nine (9) staff files, and/or documentation from the provider, Loving Life Group Homes I & II was in full compliance with nine (9) out of the nine (9) sections of our Contract Compliance review. Licensure/Contract Requirements; Educational and Emancipation Services; Recreation Activities; Children's Health-Related Services (Including Psychotropic Medication); Personal Rights; 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 Loving Life Group Homes I & II and interviews with six (6) Probation placed children, Loving Life Group Homes I & II fully complied with all nine (9) elements in the area of Licensure/Contractual Compliance.

Recommendations:

None

PROGRAM SERVICES

Based on our review of Loving Life Group Homes I & II and interviews with six (6) Probation placed children, Loving Life Group Homes I & II fully complied with all seven (7) 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 Loving Life Group Homes I & II and interviews with six (6) Probation placed children, Loving Life Group Homes I & II fully complied with four (4) of the six (6) elements in the area of Facility and Environment.

Loving Life Group Homes I & II are located in residential communities. The exterior of the Group Homes are well maintained. The facilities and garages and surrounding areas are clean and adequately landscaped. The backyards and garages were clean and properly secured by a locked fence and in good working condition.

However, the interior of the Compton (Site I) and Los Angeles (Site II) Group Homes were in need of minor repairs. Following are the deficiencies cited:

Compton Facility (Loving Life I)

- The stove at the Compton facility was in need of adjustment of the front burner and oven door.
- The tile in the front bathroom at the Compton facility was in need of caulking around the bathtub.
- The knob on the second bedroom at the Compton facility required tightening.
- There were several minor physical deficiencies cited in the Group Home that required repair or correction as described in the Facility and Environment section of the Monitoring Review Summary.

Los Angeles Facility (Loving Life II)

- The outside of the Los Angeles facility required water-blasting and minor painting on the front of the house and front porch.
- The rain gutters in the front section of the Los Angeles facility were worn and in need of replacing.
- The rear stairs in the back of the Los Angeles facility were loose and required tightening.
- The interior baseboards in the living room of the Los Angeles facility were loose and required securing and caulking.
- The molding in the dining room of the Los Angeles facility required painting.

- Two shrubs in the front section of the Los Angeles facility had fungus and required removal.

The fire escape/evacuation routes were all properly posted in the noted homes. Aside from the aforementioned deficiencies cited, the common quarters were exceptionally neat and clean. There is adequate furniture and lighting, and the Group Homes provide a home-like environment.
Children's bedrooms 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.

The Group Home maintains age-appropriate and accessible recreational equipment. Each home has a TV and a DVD player. There are some books and resource materials as well as a storage space for art and school supplies in each home. Additionally, there is a computer and printer, with games, reading materials and resources that are accessible to all of the residents, as needed.

The Group Homes maintain a large, clean kitchen and dining room with a current menu properly posted. There is a sufficient supply of perishable and non perishable foods stored in two large refrigerators and two large freezers.

Recommendations:

1. Loving Life Group Homes I & II shall ensure that the aforementioned deficiencies cited will be corrected and repaired in a timely fashion in order to ensure the safety and security of all residents placed at the Group Homes.

EDUCATIONAL AND EMANCIPATION SERVICES

Based on our review of Loving Life Group Homes I & II and interviews with six (6) Probation placed children, Loving Life Group Homes I & II fully complied with all four (4) 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. In addition to the required schooling provided, the Group Homes also maintain tutors and resources that are available to all residents as part of after school tutoring and supplemental learning. 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 Loving Life Group Homes I & II and interviews with six (6) Probation placed children, Loving Life Group Homes I & II fully complied with all three (3) 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 weight room area for the residents to use. The Group Home provides several recreation options for the residents to participate in such as sporting activities like basketball and baseball team play, swimming, gardening, etc. They also provide off-grounds activities such as outings to the library, movie theatre, baseball games, Lakers and Clippers basketball 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 Loving Life Group Homes I & II and interviews with six (6) Probation placed children, Loving Life Group Homes I & II fully complied with all nine (9) elements in the area of Children's Health Related Services.

Of the six (6) child interviews, four (4) of the children have current court authorizations for psychotropic medication. Documentation based on the psychotropic medication review tool confirms that these children are routinely seen by the prescribing psychiatrist.

Children are informed about their psychotropic medication and are aware of their right to refuse medication. Medication distribution logs are properly maintained.

Recommendations:

None

PERSONAL RIGHTS

Based on our review of Loving Life Group Homes I & II and interviews with six (6) Probation placed children, Loving Life Group Homes I & II fully complied with all eleven (11) elements in the area of Personal Rights.

Children are informed about the Group Home's policies and procedures. They report that they feel safe in the Group Homes 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 dignity and respect.

Children report that they are assigned chores that are reasonable and not too demanding. They are allowed to make and receive personal telephone calls, send and receive unopened mail, have private visitors and attend religious services of their choice.

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. They also receive voluntary medical, dental and psychiatric care.

Recommendations:

None

CLOTHING AND ALLOWANCE

Based on our review of Loving Life Group Homes I & II and interviews with six (6) Probation placed children, Loving Life Group Homes fully complied with all eight (8) 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 Loving Life Group Homes I & II transport the children to clothing stores where they can purchase appropriate attire at a reasonable price. The Group Homes also conduct shopping outings every three (3) months at appropriate clothing stores.

The Group Homes provide children with the required minimum weekly allowance and the children spend their allowances as they choose. Loving Life Group Homes I & II also allow them to set up savings accounts at local banks so the children can save their allowances and upon release can withdraw their savings and spend their allowances as they choose.

The Group Home provides children with adequate personal care items. Loving Life Group Homes I & II encourage and assist the children in creating and maintaining life books/photo albums.

Recommendations:

None

PERSONNEL RECORDS

Based on our review of Loving Life Group Homes I & II and interviews with six (6) Probation placed children, Loving Life Group Homes I & II fully complied with all twelve (12) 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, CPR 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