COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF AUDITOR-CONTROLLER

KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION
500 WEST TEMPLE STREET, ROOM 525
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012-3873
PHONE: (213) 974-8301 FAX: (213) 626-5427

WENDY L. WATANABE
AUDITOR-CONTROLLER

ASST. AUDITOR-CONTROLLERS

ROBERT A. DAVIS
JOHN NAIMO
JAMES L. SCHNEIDERMAN
JUDI E. THOMAS

September 1, 2011

TO: Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich, Mayor
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Don Knabe

FROM: Wendy L. Watanabe
Auditor-Controller

SUBJECT: **DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES GROUP HOME MONITORING – FINAL STATUS REPORT (Board Agenda Item No. 3, April 14, 2009)**

In April 2009, the Board of Supervisors (Board) instructed the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), in conjunction with the Auditor-Controller (A-C) and the Chief Executive Officer, to transition the responsibility for program monitoring of Group Homes (GH) from the A-C to DCFS. Your Board also instructed us to provide semi-annual status reports on DCFS' program monitoring efforts.

During Fiscal Year (FY) 2009-10 and FY 2010-11, the County had contracts with 86 GH operators. Of the 86 GH operators, 42 provided services to only DCFS-placed children, 17 provided services to only Probation Department-placed (Probation) children, and 27 provided services to both DCFS and Probation placed children. After the Board's instructions, DCFS and Probation agreed that Probation would monitor GH operators who served only Probation-placed children. DCFS helped train Probation staff by allowing Probation staff to observe DCFS' GH monitoring reviews.

Results of Review

Our review indicates that DCFS and Probation are effectively monitoring the GH operators. Both departments have developed appropriate monitoring tools to evaluate the GH operators. The departments' monitoring reports identify areas where the GH operators are not complying with their County contracts, and include recommendations

to the GH operators to correct the deficiencies noted in the reviews. The reports also provide the current status of recommendations from our prior GH monitoring reports. Finally, both departments have established protocols to report the results of their monitoring reviews to the Board.

DCFS Status

As noted in our prior status reports, DCFS initially planned to monitor all 69 GH operators who had DCFS-placed children (42 GH operators with only DCFS children, plus 27 GH operators with DCFS and Probation children) at least once a year. DCFS did not achieve their goal of monitoring all 69 GH operators during FY 2009-10, because all the DCFS GH monitors were temporarily reassigned near the end of the fiscal year to review Foster Family Agencies. As a result, DCFS revised their goal to review and issue reports on all 69 GH operators by the end of FY 2010-11.

As of August 15, 2011, DCFS had completed reviews of 65 (94%) of the 69 GH operators, and issued 77 monitoring reports. The number of reports exceeds the number of operators because DCFS issued two reports for 12 operators. DCFS did not issue monitoring reports on the remaining four operators, but is currently finalizing those reports. Attachment I is a list of the 69 GH operators and the status of the monitoring reports.

In our October 2010 status report, we recommended that DCFS management develop a detailed monitoring plan that includes a staffing plan and estimated start date for each review. DCFS did develop a monitoring plan for FY 2010-2011. However, in FY 2010-11, DCFS permanently transferred seven of the 13 GH monitoring staff to the new Investigation Section to investigate allegations of child abuse and neglect. The staff redeployment delayed completion of the planned GH monitoring reviews.

Based on DCFS' monitoring efforts over the last two years and the permanent reduction in the Department's GH monitoring staff, it will be difficult for DCFS to achieve their goal of monitoring all 69 GH operators with DCFS-placed children at least once a year. In addition, we noted that some of the operators who had two reports issued did not appear to be the highest-risk risk or have significant prior findings. We recommend that DCFS develop and implement a risk-based plan to monitor all GH operators at least once every two years, and monitor high-risk GH operators with significant prior findings more frequently.

Recommendation

1. **DCFS management develop and implement a risk-based plan to monitor all GH operators at least once every two years, and monitor GH operators with significant prior findings more frequently.**

Probation Status

As noted earlier, Probation is responsible for monitoring operators who have only Probation-placed children. Probation's monitoring plan included reviewing all 17 GH operators who provided services to Probation-placed children at least once a year. In July 2010, Probation started monitoring the 17 GH operators. As of August 15, 2011, Probation had completed reviews and issued reports for 13 (76%) of the operators, and is finalizing the reports for the remaining four operators. Probation plans to issue the remaining four reports by September 1, 2011. Attachment II is a list of the 17 GH operators and the status of the monitoring reports.

Review of Report

We discussed our report with DCFS and Probation management in August 2011. Both departments agree with our report, and will continue their efforts to monitor GHs for program contract compliance.

We thank DCFS and Probation management and staff for their cooperation and assistance during our review. Please call me if you have any questions, or your staff may contact Don Chadwick at (213) 253-0301.

WLW:JLS:DC:AA

Attachments

c: William T Fujioka, Chief Executive Officer
Sachi A. Hamai, Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
Philip L. Browning, Interim Director, Department of Children and Family Services
Donald H. Blevins, Chief Probation Officer
Public Information Office
Children's Deputies
Audit Committee

Status of DCFS Group Home Monitoring Reviews
As of August 15, 2011

#	DCFS Group Home	Report Issue Date(s)
1	Aviva Center/Hamburger Home	2/28/2011
2	B and I Group Home (San Francisco Avenue)	7/10/2011
3	Bayfront Youth and Family Services	2/28/2011
4	Bourne Inc.	11/23/10 & 5/23/2011
5	Boys Town	5/26/2010 & 6/10/2011
6	Care Provider Children & Family Services	12/2/2010
7	Casa Editha Foundation/Ava Lyns	11/29/2010
8	Childhelp USA	5/26/2010
9	Children Are Our Future	7/13/2011[1]
10	Children's Homes of Southern California	5/2/2011
11	Counseling and Research/Masada Homes	9/3/2010 & 2/28/2011
12	Cunningham's Group Home	12/31/2009 & 5/12/2011
13	Dangerfield	4/27/2011
14	David And Margaret Home	8/19/2010
15	DeliLu Achievement Home	10/4/2010
16	Diakonia Inc.	Finalizing Report
17	Dream Catcher Foundation	7/14/2011
18	Dream Home Care Inc.	10/4/2010 & 5/23/2011
19	Dubnoff Center	6/30/2010 & 6/10/2011
20	Eggleston Youth Center	4/28/2011
21	Ettie Lee Home	6/30/2010
22	Fields Comprehensive Youth Services	6/10/2011
23	Five Acres	6/10/2011
24	Fleming and Barnes Dimondale Adolescent	7/10/2011
25	Florence Crittenton	5/17/2011
26	Fred Jefferson Memorial Home	9/3/2010
27	Garces Residential	2/28/2011
28	Hathaway-Sycamores	8/31/2010
29	Heritage Group Homes	Finalizing Report
30	Hillsides Home for Children	6/3/2010
31	Homes of Hope Group Home	5/26/2010
32	Human Services Network	Finalizing Report
33	Junior Blind of America	2/28/2011

[1] DCFS and Probation agreed to transfer responsibility for monitoring this contractor to Probation in FY 2010-11 and Probation is finalizing their FY 2010-11 report.

Status of DCFS Group Home Monitoring Reviews
As of August 15, 2011

34	Le Roy Haynes Center	9/3/2010
35	Lifecircles Group Home	4/27/2011
36	Little People World	2/28/2011
37	Los Angeles Youth Network	9/3/2010 & 2/28/2011
38	Luvlee's Residential Care/New Dawn	6/30/2010 & 5/6/2011
39	Macro Homes	3/1/2011
40	Mary's Shelter Dependent Program	5/26/2010
41	Maryvale	2/28/2011
42	McKinley Children's Center	5/11/2011
43	Moore's Cottage (Altadena)	3/2/2011
44	Mozell Pennington Boys Center	12/13/2010
45	Murrell's Farm Boys Home	Finalizing Report
46	New Outlook Boys Home	6/30/2010
47	O'Connor and Atkins Home	9/3/2010
48	Olive Crest Treatment Center	9/9/2010 & 4/28/2011
49	Orange County Children's Foundation	11/30/2010
50	Paragon Center	12/23/2010
51	Pennacle Foundation	2/28/2011
52	Penny Lane	7/15/2011
53	Perfect Image Youth Center	12/13/2010
54	Phoenix House LA	7/14/2011
55	Pioneer Boys Ranch	3/9/2011
56	Project Six/Health Group	1/14/2011
57	Rosemary Children's Services	7/14/2011
58	Saint Anne's Maternity Home	12/13/2010
59	San Gabriel Children's Center	4/27/2011
60	Sand Hill Group Home	12/13/2010
61	South Bay Bright Future	11/23/2010
62	Star View Adolescent Center	11/30/2010
63	T & T Home for Boys	7/14/2011
64	Teens Happy Homes	9/3/2010
65	Turmont	2/28/2011 & 4/27/2011
66	Vista Del Mar	11/24/2010
67	Vista Del Mar (CTF)	11/29/2010
68	Washington-Hancock	5/26/2010 & 5/23/2011
69	West Covina Group Home	12/31/2009 & 7/15/2011

Attachment II

Status of Probation Group Home Monitoring Reviews
As of August 15, 2011

#	Probation Group Home	Report Issue Date
1	ASHE Inc. Aiming High I , Aiming High II	3/29/2011
2	B & I Group Home (Alvarado Street)	6/9/2011
3	Boys/Girls Republic	Finalizing Report
4	Community Youth Sports & Arts Foundation	Finalizing Report
5	Future Stars	8/1/2011
6	Guiding Light Home For Boys	7/15/2011
7	House of Bethesda	8/1/2011
8	Humanistic Foundation/New Concept	6/23/2011
9	Moore's Cottage (Pomona)	8/1/2011
10	Optimist Boys Home and Ranch	7/15/2011
11	Pacific Lodge	10/27/2010
12	Positive Path Youth Development Center	Finalizing Report
13	Rancho San Antonio	7/21/2011
14	Sonya Love Guidance Center	9/22/2010
15	Touch of Life Foundation	8/1/2011
16	Trinity	Finalizing Report
17	You Are The Difference Foundation/Loving Life Home	10/7/2010