



**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
DEPARTMENT OF AUDITOR-CONTROLLER**

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September 13, 2012

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

FROM: Wendy L. Watanabe  
Auditor-Controller

SUBJECT: **DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES — FOSTER  
FAMILY AGENCY PROGRAM MONITORING – SECOND STATUS  
REPORT APRIL 1, 2011 THROUGH JULY 31, 2012**

In March 2011, the responsibility for program monitoring of the County's Foster Family Agency (FFA) contractors was transferred from the Auditor-Controller (A-C) to the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS or Department). As part of the transfer, the Audit Committee instructed the A-C to report on DCFS' monitoring of the FFA contractors. This is our second report on DCFS' FFA monitoring.

**Results of Review**

From April 2011 to July 2012, DCFS exceeded their goal of monitoring each of the 50 FFA contractors at least once every two years. Since April 2011, the Department has issued, or is in the process of issuing, monitoring reports for all 50 FFAs. Attached is a list of the FFA contractors, and the status of DCFS' monitoring review reports as of July 31, 2012.

The Department also developed appropriate procedures and tools to effectively monitor the FFAs. The procedures and tools cover the same key program requirements that the A-C reviewed, including reviewing children's Needs and Services Plans and psychotropic medication requirements; verifying the timeliness of children's medical and dental examinations; and ensuring that the FFAs obtain required criminal and child abuse clearances for their staff and foster parents. DCFS' monitoring procedures and

tools also include facility site inspections, child interviews, and procedures for following up on prior issues and recommendations.

DCFS uses a standardized format to report the results of their reviews to your Board. The report format includes key information, such as identifying areas where the FFAs are not complying with their County contracts, and recommendations to the FFAs to correct the deficiencies noted in DCFS' reviews. In addition, DCFS posts their FFA monitoring reports on the Department's website at [http://lacdcfs.org/aboutus/FFA\\_CompMon.html](http://lacdcfs.org/aboutus/FFA_CompMon.html).

### **Review of Report**

We discussed our report with DCFS in July 2012. DCFS agrees with our report, and will continue their program monitoring efforts by completing and issuing reports on the remaining FFAs. DCFS began completing second monitoring reviews of the FFAs in July 2012. We recommend that DCFS complete the second monitoring reviews of the FFAs with significant issues first, and revise their monitoring plan to audit FFAs with significant issues more frequently than once every two years.

We thank DCFS management 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:JS

Attachment

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

**Status of DCFS' Foster Family Agency Monitoring Reviews<sup>1</sup>  
As of July 31, 2012**

<b>#</b>	<b>Foster Family Agency</b>	<b>Monitoring Review Status</b>
1	Alpha Treatment Centers	Report Issued 1/17/12
2	Aspira Foster and Family Services	Report Issued 2/29/12
3	Serenity Infant Care Homes, Inc.	Report Issued 3/15/12
4	Holy Family Services	Report Issued 3/16/12
5	Latino Family Institute, Inc.	Report Issued 3/16/12
6	Inner Circle	Report Issued 3/29/12
7	Penny Lane	Report Issued 4/3/12
8	Westside Children's Center	Report Issued 4/3/12
9	Five Acres	Report Issued 4/3/12
10	Concept 7, Inc.	Report Issued 4/10/12
11	Eggleston Family Services	Report Issued 4/25/12
12	Hathaway-Sycamores	Report Issued 4/26/12
13	Wings of Refuge	Report Issued 4/26/12
14	Families Uniting Families	Report Issued 5/1/12
15	Child Help USA	Report Issued 5/11/12
16	Ettie Lee Homes, Inc.	Report Issued 5/14/12
17	Children's Bureau of So. California	Report Issued 5/15/12
18	Alliance Human Services	Report Issued 5/21/12
19	Beta Foster Care	Report Issued 5/30/12
20	Masada Homes	Report Issued 6/13/12
21	Optimist Boys Home & Ranch	Report Issued 6/13/12
22	Southern California	Report Issued 6/22/12
23	David & Margaret	Report Issued 6/27/12
24	McKinley Children's Center	Report Issued 6/27/12
25	Families for Children	Report Issued 7/13/12
26	Walden Environment	Report Issued 7/17/12
27	Kinship Center	Report Issued 7/19/12
28	Koinonia Foster Homes, Inc.	Report Issued 7/19/12
29	Bienvenidos	Report Issued 7/24/12
30	Aviva Center	Finalizing Report
31	Children's Institute International	Finalizing Report

<sup>1</sup> Three FFAs identified in our last status report no longer contract with the County, leaving 50 FFAs for DCFS to monitor.

#	Foster Family Agency	Monitoring Review Status
32	Children's Way	Finalizing Report
33	Dangerfield Institute of Urban Problems	Finalizing Report
34	Florence Crittenton Services	Finalizing Report
35	Foster Family Network	Finalizing Report
36	Fred Jefferson Memorial	Finalizing Report
37	Futuro Infantil Hispano	Finalizing Report
38	Guardians of Love	Finalizing Report
39	Hannah's House	Finalizing Report
40	Homes of Hope	Finalizing Report
41	Institute for Black Parenting	Finalizing Report
42	Niños Latinos Unidos	Finalizing Report
43	Nuevo Amanecer Latino	Finalizing Report
44	Olive Crest	Finalizing Report
45	Rosemary Children's Services	Finalizing Report
46	Secure Transitions	Finalizing Report
47	South Bay Bright Future	Finalizing Report
48	Teens Happy Home	Finalizing Report
49	The Village Family Services	Finalizing Report
50	Trinity Youth Services	Finalizing Report