

Department of Auditor-Controller Children's Group Home Ombudsman Activity Report

December 2012

Total Calls	<u>7</u>		General Statistics
		Youth Callers	Time of Youth Calls
Calls returned within one business day	<u>7</u>	Female <u>4</u>	AM <u>0</u>
Calls resolved within 30 business days	<u>7</u>	Male <u>1</u>	PM <u>5</u>
Follow-up calls	<u>18</u>	Total Youth Callers <u>5</u>	
		Total Adult Callers <u>2</u>	

CALLS RELATING TO:

Collaboration Contacts/Referrals/Information

Probation	<u>1</u>
Community Care Licensing	<u>0</u>
Placement -Education-related	<u>0</u>
DCFS	<u>2</u>
TOTAL:	<u><u>3</u></u>

Personal Rights

<u>0</u> Allowance	<u>0</u> Health/Med, Dental, Psych Care
<u>1</u> Clothing/Personal Property (<i>Ettie Lee</i>)	<u>0</u> Respect
<u>0</u> Contact	<u>0</u> School/Community/Religious Svcs
<u>0</u> Food	<u>3</u> Social/Family Contact (<i>Penny Lane and David & Margaret</i>)
<u>0</u> Living Conditions	<u>0</u> Work/Job Skills
TOTAL:	<u><u>4</u></u>

Personal

<u>0</u> Crime-related	<u>0</u> Physical Abuse/Harm
<u>0</u> Discipline	<u>0</u> Fear, Threats, Intimidation
<u>0</u> Discrimination/Isolation	<u>0</u> Relationship
<u>0</u> Emotional Issues	<u>0</u> Sexual Abuse
<u>0</u> Pregnancy/Infant Care	<u>0</u> Substance Abuse
TOTAL:	<u><u>0</u></u>

Visits/Outreach

TOTAL: 0

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Calls returned within one business day	<u>7</u>	Female	<u>5</u>
Calls resolved within 30 business days	<u>7</u>	Male	<u>2</u>
Follow-up calls	<u>26</u>		AM
		Total Youth Callers	<u>7</u>
		Total Adult Callers	<u>0</u>
			PM
			<u>6</u>

CALLS RELATING TO:

Collaboration Contacts/Referrals/Information

Group Home	<u>1</u>
Probation - Alameda County	<u>1</u>
DCFS Ombudsman Referral	<u>1</u>
TOTAL:	<u><u>3</u></u>

Personal Rights

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Personal

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TOTAL:	<u><u>1</u></u>										

Visits/Outreach

Aviva Center

TOTAL: 1

SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION MEETING
February 20, 2013
Reporting for the month of January 2013

AWOLs: There were 123 AWOLs involving 96 youth: 18 youth AWOL'ed more than once, with some AWOL'ing between 3 to 6 times.

46 remain AWOL	
28 returned to GH	1 HOP
15 are in JH	6 CCP (Camp)

Outstanding AWOL's from previous months detained in January 2013:

4 youth were arrested/detained on an outstanding Bench Warrant from previous months: Two have been placed back into group homes. 1 is in juvenile hall. 1 has AWOL'ed again.

Statistics and Findings regarding AWOLs in January

- 1) 35% of the AWOL incidents were Hispanic males with a mean age of 16.7 years. The overall average age of youth who AWOLed in January was 16.5 years. Additional stats:

20%- Hispanic females with an average age of 16.2 years.

23%- Black females with an average age of 16.2 years.

15%- Black males with an average age of 16.5 years.

2%- White males with an average age of 15.2 years.

3%- White females with an average age of 17 years.

1%- "Other" race female with an age of 17.2 years.

1%- Hawaiian male with an age of 17.3 years.

Recommendation:

- For the past 6 months the average age and majority race of AWOLed youth remained about the same. Therefore, for all 6 months, Hispanic males above the age of 16 were around 40% to 50% of AWOL incidents. DPOs, Therapists, or other GH and County staff, should interview at-risk youth (mainly Hispanic males around the age of 16) to find out about certain feelings related to age, gender, or cultural stresses and consider possible solutions to decrease these feelings/stresses.
 - Inform DPOs and GH staff to be aware of the demographics that are at most risk of AWOLing. Research and identify possible methods or daily practices of assisting youth to come to a less stressful state of mind.
- 2) Continuing trend (as previous months): A correlation was detected between the time youth AWOLs and the time it takes for the GH to report the incident and whether or not the youth remains AWOLed or is detained). To illustrate:

Correlation between these factors (dashes represent passing time, whereas, more dashes represent a longer period of time):

Time Awoled-----Time Reported-----Youth is detained either in a GH or JH.

Time Awoled-----Time Reported-----
Youth is still AWOL-----

Based on statistical findings, *the sooner the GH reports the AWOL, the more likely it is that the Youth is detained within the end of the month.* For efficiency, we can call the passing period between the AWOL incident and the notification to authorities of the incident the “**Idle Phase.**” **Idle Phase or IP can be defined as duration of time passed between any two actions.** Certain actions are dependent on each other for progress or success. In this case, the two actions are the youth AWOLing and the reporting of the AWOL by the GH. Specifically, in January, the youth who were detained the same month they AWOLed, had an average Idle Phase (IP) of 1.1 days. However, the youth that are still AWOL had an IP of 1.5 days. In other words, when the GH took 1.5 days instead of 1.1 days to report the AWOL, those youth were less likely to be detained. This correlation has appeared for the past five months, as well. However, this month revealed the weakest correlation, thus far.

Recommendation:

- Continue monitoring monthly trends to verify a continuing trend.
 - Reiterate to GH staff and to legal guardians of youth the importance of reporting an AWOL as soon as the incident occurs. Specifically, all AWOLs should be reported within 24 hours in order to expedite the issuance of a bench warrant and the recovery of the youth. Statistics should be shared with GH staff to illustrate the real results of delayed reporting.
- 3) Certain GHs showed a higher percentage of youth AWOLs than other GHs. This was determined by taking the number of AWOLs for that month and comparing it to the number of beds available in the GH (population). It is important to note that some GHs had the same youth AWOL'ing several times, but these AWOLs were all counted. **For January, GHs that had a 33% or higher AWOL rate were Ashe (Aiming High II), Dimondale (Hawthorne, Lancaster), Children Are our Future (Saticoy, Terry, West Hills), Dubnoff (North Hollywood), House of Bethesda, Optimist, and Penny Lane (IV).** The highest amongst these were CAOF (Terry) with a 100% AWOL rate (6 beds with 6 AWOLs for the month) and Dimondale (Hawthorne) with a 50% AWOL rate.

Recommendation:

- Continue to track the frequency of AWOLs for each GH and see if a consistent patter remains amongst the same group homes.
- Several confounding factors have to be controlled to identify a direct correlation between GH treatment of youth and AWOLs. For example, a high AWOL rate for a GH could only mean that that particular GH gets more high risk youth.
- Investigate GHs that have an unusual high number of AWOLs compared to other GHs to see possible reasons.
- Interview youth during investigation.
- Create a plan of action based on results (directives for GH, staff training, etc).
- Monitor GH to see if trend has stopped after implementation of programs or directives.

- 4) *Unlike* the previous 5 months, there was no noteworthy trend or correlation found related to IP between bench warrant requests and bench warrant issued and effect on youth detainment (**IP- duration of time passed between two actions; see item #2 for explanation**): As in, for January, there we no effect on the how long it took to issue a bench warrant and how soon the youth was detained.

Recommendation:

- Considering previous months showed average to strong correlations, continue to track this data. Possible reasons as to why this did not reveal a correlation: there were far less bench warrant requests noted in PCMS. Therefore, there was less data to work with. Also, several AWOL's were youth who returned within some hours (therefore, the DPO would not request a bench warrant).
- 5) In all 6 months, there were **no significant findings** or relationship found between AWOLing and date of first contact with the currently assigned DPO. In December and January, first contact with *any* DPO and a relation to AWOLing was tracked. However, again, there were no patterns found related to contact with a DPO and AWOLing behavior.

Recommendation:

- We will discontinue tracking this data. Instead, future reports will concentrate on finding a relationship between AWOLs and a lack of contact with DPO in the first seven days of placement. .
- 6) Patterns regarding suitable placement dates and AWOL dates were also noted. Here is the data for January:

January:

15% AWOLed within 7 days of SP
21% AWOLed between 8 to 30 days of SP
64% AWOLed after a month of SP

- 7) **Final Remarks on AWOLs:** This month, all 'insignificant' AWOLs were also incorporated into the data (i.e. youth AWOL'ing for an hour). Therefore, the findings/correlations may have slightly shifted in different patterns compared to previous months. However, certain trends relating to race, age, and sex continued to mirror the previous months' data. DPO and number of AWOLs per DPO were also tracked, but not included in this report. There are other trends that could be revealed, such as correlation between Gang affiliation and AWOLing or incidents.

iTrack (SIRs)-

There were no child deaths or suicide attempts reported for the month of January in iTrack. The largest category for SIRs continued to be "other", providing no description of the type of incident the youth was involved in.

Recommendation:

- Instruct all iTrack users to NOT select the category "other," unless incident undeniably does not belong under any specific category. Another

option is to remove the category "other," and instead add additional specific categories (once it is determined why users are selecting "other"). Probation is currently discussing improvement ideas regarding iTrack with ISD software managers.

GROUP HOME MONITORING AND INVESTIGATIONS:

Current:

Ettie Lee- All sites placed on a **DNU**, effective 2-15-13, removal of youth

Child Abuse, we had 2 referrals, for the month of January 2013, 1 is **Unfounded** and 1 is still **Pending** investigation results.

Loving Life- Allegation was **Unfounded**. Youth alleged that a male staff physically assaulted him while driving in the facility van.

Trinity El Monte- Allegation is still **Pending** a finding. A rumor was going around that a youth and staff were engaged in sexual relationship.

Group Home Investigations:

We had 9 Group Home investigations during the month of January 2013, 6 were **Substantiated** and 3 are **Unfounded**.

Ettie Lee (all sites)- Several of the multiple allegations were **Substantiated**. A current Ettie Lee staff submitted an anonymous letter to Lisa Campbell-Motton with multiple allegations from personal rights violations, failure to report an AWOL and staff not following medication protocols that resulted in 19 Adderall pills missing.

Ettie Lee (Robertson Memorial) - Allegation was **Substantiated**. Group Home staff dropped off youth at parent's home for a weekend pass twice, without DPO approval (passes were suspended by the DPO for drug use on the previous passes). Youth was dropped off and left with a person that was not his parent or guardian and as a result the youth came home at 2:00 AM intoxicated.

As a result of these substantiated allegations, Probation placed a Do Not Use (DNU) status on Ettie Lee (all sites). On Friday, February 15, 2013, all Los Angeles County Probation Youth were removed and replaced at other group homes.

ROP- Allegation was **Substantiated**. Youth was detained and sent to a Juvenile Hall facility in Nevada . . . Group Home failed to notify Probation.

Vista Del Mar- Allegation was **Unfounded**. Group Home failed to properly report a substance abuse incident.

Dubnoff (Clayborne site) - Allegation was **Substantiated**. Received an i-track report stating that the staff were conducting hourly head checks, making them out of compliance. As a result a youth went AWOL.

Dubnoff- Allegation was **Substantiated**. While reviewing an I-track report regarding a physical altercation between two youth, it was discovered that the Group Home had locks on the youths doors, although not locked in the staff has to unlock from the outside to get in, delaying the response time to intervene.

Crittenton OC- Allegation was **Unfounded**. Youth was able to break into the cafeteria on three separate occasions on the same day.

Positive Path- Allegation was Unfounded. Youth's father made several complaints against the Group Home, stating that the youth did not get enough clothes shopping trips, or was taken to the DMV for his CA ID card and that the youth did not get his allowance in the month of January.

Dubnoff (Clayborne site)- Allegation was Substantiated. Youth were not given their prescription medications, as stated in an i-track, the youth "accidentally" did not get their medication.

Monitoring:

We still have **3** more to post for the previous year and are well into the new year of monitoring.

Permanency:

We are in various stages of preparation for **two (2) potential adoptions** and **five (5) potential legal guardianships** sometime this year to the beginning of next year.