



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

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TO: Supervisor Don Knabe, Chairman
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

FROM: J. Tyler McCauley 
Auditor-Controller

SUBJECT: **GROUP HOME PROGRAM MONITORING REPORT – T AND T GROUP HOME**

We have completed a review of T and T Group Home. T and T contracts with the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and the Probation Department (Probation). T and T is a six-bed facility, which provides care for boys ages 13-17 years who exhibit behavioral, social, and emotional difficulties. At the time of the monitoring visit, T and T was providing services for six Los Angeles County DCFS children. T and T is located in the Second Supervisorial District.

The purpose of the review was to verify that T and T was providing the services outlined in its Program Statement. Additionally, the review covered basic child safety and licensing issues, an evaluation of T and T's Program Statement, internal policies and procedures, child case records, facility inspections, and interviews with two children placed with T and T at the time of the review. Interviews with the residents were designed to obtain their perspectives on the program services provided, and to ensure adherence to the Foster Youth Bill of Rights.

Summary of Findings

Overall, T and T was providing the services outlined in its Program Statement. However, T and T needs to make some minor repairs to its facility; include each resident and their authorized representative in the development and updating of the Needs and Services Plan; and provide residents with the opportunity to maintain a photo album/life book.

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"

Attached is a detailed report of the review findings.

Review of Report

We discussed our report with the Agency's management. The Agency's management is required to provide a corrective action plan within 15 business days from the receipt of this report. We thank the management and staff for their cooperation during our reviews.

If you have any questions, please contact me, or have your staff contact DeWitt Roberts at (626) 293-1101.

JTM:BG:CC

c: David E. Janssen, Chief Administrative Officer
David Sanders, Ph.D., Director, DCFS
Richard Shumsky, Chief Probation Officer
Darlene Theragood, Executive Director, Group Home
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Public Information Office
Audit Committee

T and T Group Home
19504 Tillman Avenue
Carson, CA 90746
(818) 592-2960
License No.: 191600833
Rate Classification Level: 10

I. Facility and Environment

(Facility Based - No Sample)

Method of assessment – Observation and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

T and T Group Home is a large home located on a quiet residential street. The exterior of this home was well maintained, nicely landscaped, and blended in with the other homes on the block.

The interior of the home was generally neat and clean, and the décor gave a sense of a home-like atmosphere. The common rooms were nicely decorated and adequately maintained. The bedrooms were comfortable and personalized by each resident with posters, pictures, and knick-knacks. However, there were a few areas in need of improvement.

In bedroom number one, the mirrored closet sliding door was broken and had a large crack presenting a safety hazard. In addition, the bottom dresser drawer was broken and the base of the wall next to the closet had small holes covered with masking tape. In bedroom number three, the mattresses were not properly fitted on the bed frames and the box springs were broken and/or sagging, torn, and worn.

There was some age-appropriate play equipment in the home including table games, a TV, VCR, weights, punching bag, and a portable outdoor basketball hoop. There was also a computer with a variety of programs, books, and resource material.

T and T had a sufficient supply of frozen food, meat, canned goods, bakery items, and fresh fruit. The food was accessible, appropriately dated, and properly stored.

Recommendations

1. **T and T management:**
 - a. **Repair/replace the cracked sliding closet door in bedroom number one.**

- b. Repair the broken dresser drawer in bedroom number one.**
- c. Repair the base of the wall in bedroom number one.**
- d. Properly place mattresses on the bed frames in bedroom number three.**
- e. Replace the box springs in bedroom number three.**

II. Program Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

Both residents met T and T’s population criteria as outlined in their program statement and received complete initial diagnostic assessments after being admitted into the program.

The Needs and Service Plans (NSP) were realistic, measurable, and time specific. One resident participated in the development and updating of his NSP, the other resident did not. In addition, the residents’ authorized representatives did not participate in developing and updating the residents’ NSPs.

One resident’s Quarterly Report was current, comprehensive, timely, and focused on the goals of the NSP. The other resident had not been in the facility long enough to require a Quarterly Report.

Both residents received individual and group therapy.

Recommendation

- 2. T and T management include each resident and their authorized representative in the development and updating of the Needs and Services Plan.**

III. Educational and Emancipation Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

One resident was enrolled in public school and did not require an Individualized Education Plan. The facility was in the process of enrolling the other resident in school and had documented their efforts. In addition, Agency staff was being assisted by a child advocate from the Carson school district to ensure prompt enrollment. Both residents' records contained semester report cards and/or progress reports from their previous schools. The residents reported that they were provided with a sufficient amount of educational stimulation away from school on a daily basis and that staff was supportive of their academic progress.

Development of daily living skills was part of T and T's program. The residents were involved in the planning and preparation phase of meals, hygiene care was discussed as needed, and employment preparation encouraged.

Residents were offered the opportunity to participate in emancipation and vocational programs. The residents received a weekly allowance and were able to spend their allowances as they wanted. The residents did not work.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

IV. Recreation and Activities

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

T and T provided residents with sufficient opportunity to participate in both on-ground and off-ground recreational activities. T and T utilized local community organizations for recreation and program resources. Both residents reported that they had free time and were able to participate in self-selected activities. Transportation was provided to and from activities. The residents expressed satisfaction with the variety and quantity of activities and both residents reported that they had the opportunity to participate in the planning of some activities.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

V. Psychotropic Medication

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents

There were six residents placed in T and T at the time of the review. A review of case files was not conducted as none of the residents were being prescribed psychotropic medications.

Comments:

According to T and T management, none of the residents received psychotropic medications. The Agency appropriately documented this information in the medication log.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

VI. Personal Rights

Method of assessment – Resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

Both residents expressed satisfaction with the facility and stated that the atmosphere was generally respectful. The residents participated in an initial orientation and T and T's policies and procedures were posted in the facility. The residents reported that the discipline policies were fair and consistently enforced by staff.

The residents reported that they felt safe in the home and that there was no interference with daily living functions. Both residents reported satisfaction with the taste of the food and with their ability to participate in menu development. They also reported that staff supervised them appropriately and expressed satisfaction with the quality of their interactions with staff. Both residents felt there was at least one staff member they could easily talk to and trust.

Both residents stated that they had daily assigned chores to complete and did not feel the chores were too demanding.

The residents were able to have visitors, make and receive personal telephone calls, and contact their social workers, attorneys, and family members as needed. Both residents had religious freedom, felt their health care needs were met, and stated that staff respected their cultural lifestyles by allowing residents to celebrate different holidays.

Both residents were aware of their right to refuse medication.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

VII. Clothing and Allowance

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

T and T provided appropriate clothing, items of necessity, and allowances to the residents. T and T supplied its residents with the required monthly clothing allowance in the amount of fifty dollars and the residents were given the opportunity to select their own clothes. Clothing provided to the residents was of good quality and sufficient quantity.

The residents received at least the required minimum weekly allowance and had an opportunity to increase their allowance based on the Agency's behavioral system.

T and T provided residents with adequate personal care items and sufficient, secure space to store their personal items.

The residents had not been provided with the opportunity to maintain a photo album/life book.

Recommendation

- 3. T and T's management provide each resident with the opportunity to maintain a photo album/life book.**