County of Los Angeles
DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES

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November 24, 2010

To: Supervisor Gloria Molina, Chair
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Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: Patricia S. Ploehn, LCSW
Director

VISTA DEL MAR CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES PROGRAM CONTRACT COMPLIANCE MONITORING REVIEW

In accordance with your Board's April 14, 2009 motion, we are informing your Board of the results of a group home compliance review.

Vista Del Mar Child and Family Services (Vista Del Mar) is located in the 2nd Supervisorial District and provides services to Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services' (DCFS) foster youth and Probation Department youth. According to Vista Del Mar's program statement, its stated goal is "to reunite families and children as quickly as possible or, where indicated, to provide for a successful emancipation process." The agency is licensed to serve a capacity of 24 children, ages 12 through 18.

The Out-of-Home Care Management Division (OHCMD) conducted a review of Vista Del Mar in February 2010 at which time, it had one 24-bed site and 12 placed DCFS children. Six of the children were male and six were female. For the purpose of this review, six placed children were interviewed and their case files were reviewed. The other six children were discharged prior to being interviewed; therefore their files were not reviewed. For the sampled children, the overall average length of placement was eight months and the average age was 15. Five staff files were reviewed for compliance with Title 22 regulations and contract requirements.

Five children were on psychotropic medication. We reviewed their case files to assess timeliness of psychotropic medication authorizations and to confirm that medication logs documented that correct dosages were being administered as prescribed.

SCOPE OF REVIEW

The purpose of this review was to assess Vista Del Mar's compliance with the contract and State regulations. The visit included a review of Vista Del Mar's program statement, administrative internal policies and procedures, six children's case files and a random sampling of personnel files. A visit was made to the facility to assess the quality of care and supervision provided to children, and we conducted interviews with children to assess the care and services they were receiving.

A copy of this report has been sent to the Auditor-Controller (A-C) and Community Care Licensing (CCL).

SUMMARY

Vista Del Mar was providing very good quality care to DCFS placed children, and the services were provided as outlined in the agency's program statement. The interviewed children stated that they wanted to continue residing at the placement and that the staff was genuinely concerned about them.

At the time of the review, the Group Home was in full compliance with all nine sections of our Contract Compliance review.

NOTABLE FINDINGS

There were no compliance deficiencies noted during our review.

The detailed report of our findings is attached.

EXIT CONFERENCE

The following are highlights from the exit conference held July 29, 2010:

In attendance:

Amy Jaffe, Senior Vice President, Intensive Intervention Programs, Vista Del Mar; Lynn Cohen, Handler Unit Director, Vista Del Mar; Maricela Morales, Quality Assurance Manager, Vista Del Mar; Elvia Hernandez, Quality Assurance Technician, Vista Del Mar; and Scott Song, Monitor, DCFS OHCMD.

Highlights:

The Senior Vice President of Intensive Intervention Programs was proud that Vista Del Mar was in full compliance with all areas of the monitoring review. She stated that the staff members of Vista Del Mar work diligently to provide quality care and services to their placed children.

A written Corrective Action Plan was not required as no compliance deficiencies were noted during our review.

If you have any further questions, please call me or your staff may contact Armand Montiel, Board Relations Manager, at (213) 351-5530.

PSP:LP:MG:
EAH:BB:ss

Attachments

c: William T Fujioka, Chief Executive Officer
Wendy Watanabe, Auditor-Controller
Donald H. Blevins, Chief Probation Officer
Public Information Office
Audit Committee
Sybil Brand Commission
Elias Lefferman, Ph.D., President/Chief Executive Officer, Vista Del Mar
Carol Katzman, Chair, Board of Directors, Vista Del Mar
Jean Chen, Regional Manager, Community Care Licensing
Lenora Copeland, Regional Manager, Community Care Licensing

VISTA DEL MAR CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES PROGRAM
CONTRACT COMPLIANCE MONITORING REVIEW

SITE LOCATION

3200 Motor Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90034
License Number: 191600721
Rate Classification Level: 12

The following report is based on a "point in time" monitoring visit and addresses findings noted during the February 2010 monitoring review.

CONTRACTUAL COMPLIANCE

Based on our review of six children's files and five staff files, Vista Del Mar was in full compliance with all nine sections of our Contract Compliance review: Licensure/Contract Requirements; Facility and Environment; Program Services; Education and Emancipation Services; Recreation and Activities; Children's Health-Related Services, including Psychotropic Medication; Personal Rights; Clothing and Allowance; and Personnel Records.

PRIOR YEAR FOLLOW-UP FROM THE AUDITOR CONTROLLER'S REPORT

Objective

Determine the status of the recommendations reported in the A-C's prior monitoring review.

Verification

We verified that there were no recommendations from the last monitoring review report issued April 15, 2009.

Results

The A-C's prior monitoring report contained no recommendations.

Recommendation:

None

VISTA DEL MAR CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES
CONTRACT COMPLIANCE MONITORING REVIEW - SUMMARY

3200 Motor Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90034
License Number: 191600721
Rate Classification Level: 12

	Contract Compliance Monitoring Review	**Findings: February 2010**
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	**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	Full Compliance (ALL)
III	**Program Services** (8 Elements) 1. Child Population Consistent with Program Statement 2. DCFS CSW 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. Recommended Assessments/Evaluations Implemented 7. DCFS CSWs Monthly Contacts Documented 8. Comprehensive NSPs	Full Compliance (ALL)

IV	**Educational and Emancipation Services** (4 Elements) 1. Emancipation/Vocational Programs Provided 2. ILP 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 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	Full Compliance (ALL)
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 Receive 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 Clothing Allowance 2. Adequate Quantity of Clothing Inventory 3. Adequate Quality of 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	**Personnel Records (including Staff Qualifications, Staffing Ratios, Criminal Clearances and Training)** (12 Elements) 1. Education/Experience Requirement 2. Criminal Fingerprint Cards Timely Submitted 3. CACIs Timely Submitted 4. Signed Criminal Background Statement Timely 5. Employee Health Screening Timely 6. Valid Driver's License 7. Initial Training Documentation 8. Signed Copies of GH Policies and Procedures 9. CPR Training Documentation 10. First Aid Training Documentation 11. On-going Training Documentation 12. Emergency Intervention Training Documentation	Full Compliance (ALL)