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County of Los Angeles DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES

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October 11, 2023

To: Supervisor Janice Hahn, Chair
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From: 
Brandon T. Nichols
Director

FRED JEFFERSON MEMORIAL HOME FOR BOYS SHORT-TERM RESIDENTIAL THERAPEUTIC PROGRAM CONTRACT COMPLIANCE REVIEW

REVIEW OF REPORT

The Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) Contracts Administration Division (CAD) conducted a virtual Contract Compliance Review of Fred Jefferson Memorial Home for Boys Short-Term Residential Therapeutic Program (STRTP) (the Contractor) in July 2022. The Contractor has two licensed sites located in the Second Supervisorial District. These sites provide services to the County of Los Angeles DCFS placed children, Probation foster youth and Non-Minor Dependents.

Key Outcomes

NUMBER OF PRIORITY FINDINGS
PRIORITY 1 2
PRIORITY 2 37
PRIORITY 3 0

CAD conducted a virtual Contract Compliance Assessment review of the Contractor's compliance within the following applicable areas: General Contract Requirements; Facility and Environment; Engagement and Teamwork; Needs and Services Plans; Permanency and Transition Services; Education and Independent Living Program Services; Health and Medical Needs; Personal Rights and Social/Emotional Well-Being; and Personal Needs/Survival and Economic Well-Being; and Personnel Files.

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"

The Contractor was in full compliance with 3 of 10 applicable areas of CAD's Contract Compliance Review: Facility and Environment; Personal Rights and Social/Emotional Well-Being; Personal Needs/Survival and Economic Well-Being.

For the purpose of this review, four DCFS placed children were selected for the sample. CAD reviewed the files of the four selected children and virtually interviewed three of the children to assess the level of care and services they received; one child was absent without leave during the review and was not interviewed. The three children were virtually observed to be clean and well-groomed. An additional three discharged children files were also reviewed to assess the Contractor's compliance with permanency efforts.

CAD reviewed three staff files for compliance with Title 22 Regulations and County contracting requirements. CAD also conducted telephonic interviews with staff. To assess the quality of care and supervision provided to the placed children, CAD also conducted virtual site visits of the Contractor's STRTP locations.

CAD noted findings in the areas of:

Priority 1

- Personnel Files (2 findings)
 - Two employees did not receive current emergency intervention training.

Priority 2

- General Contract (2 findings)
 - Special Incident Reports for two children were not submitted timely and not properly cross-reported in the i-Track system.
- Engagement and Team Work (9 findings)
 - The Child and Family Team (CFT) members/participants for three children were not identified and documented in the Needs and Services Plans (NSPs)
 - The STRTP did not document efforts to collaborate and participate in the CFT meetings or obtain copies of the CFT notes for the three children; and
 - Three children NSPs were not in alignment with services identified in the CFT notes.

- NSPs (11 findings)
 - One child's NSP was not developed timely;
 - Four children NSPs were not comprehensive, or accurate, and were missing the age and developmentally appropriate children signatures;
 - Two NSPs were missing the STRTP staff signatures and did not include individualized runaway plans to address these two children needs; and
 - Four NSPs were missing the Children's Social Worker/Deputy Probation Officer signatures.

- Permanency and Transition Services (6 findings)
 - Children transition support services were not identified in the NSP for four children; and
 - Aftercare support services and linkages were not provided to two children upon discharge.

- Education and Independent Living Plan Services (4 findings)
 - Four children were not enrolled in school immediately, efforts to maintain the children at their school of origin were not documented and their report cards were not maintained.

- Health and Medical Needs (1 finding)
 - One child's required follow up medical and dental examinations were not conducted timely.

- Personnel Files (4 findings)
 - One employee did not have current Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation and First Aid, and Initial Emergency Intervention (Pro-Act Training) certificates, nor documentation of the initial 24 hours training on file;
 - One employee did not receive the initial Child Abuse Identification and Reporting, Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer or Questioning or Developmentally Disabled Children trainings; and
 - Two employees did not receive the annual on-going 40 hours training, the ongoing child abuse identification and reporting, nor the reproductive and sexual health training.

On November 3, 2022, the Children Services Administrator teams from DCFS' CAD and the Out-of-Home Care Management Division held an exit conference with the Contractor representatives. While the Contractor representatives agreed with the review findings and recommendations, the STRTP ceased operations on November 17, 2022, and did not submit any Corrective Action Plan. DCFS terminated the STRTP contract effective December 4, 2022.

If you have any questions, your staff may contact me or Aldo Marin, Board Relations Manager, at (213) 371-6052.

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BTN:KDR
LTI:nw

Attachments

c: Fesia Davenport, Chief Executive Officer
Oscar Valdez, Auditor-Controller
Guillermo Viera Rosa, Interim Chief Probation Officer
Public Information Office
Audit Committee
Dr. Cecilia Jefferson-Freeman, Chief Executive Officer, Fred Jefferson Memorial Home
for Boys
Kellee Coleman, Regional Manager, Community Care Licensing Division
Monique Marshall-Turner, Regional Manager, Community Care Licensing Division
Celeste M. Fitchett, Bureau Chief Fiscal and Performance Audits