



County of Los Angeles DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES

510 S. Vermont Avenue, Los Angeles, California 90020
(213) 351-5602




BRANDON T. NICHOLS
Director

JENNIE FERIA
Chief Deputy Director

Board of Supervisors
HILDA L. SOLIS
First District
HOLLY J. MITCHELL
Second District
LINDSEY P. HORVATH
Third District
JANICE HAHN
Fourth District
KATHRYN BARGER
Fifth District

November 5, 2024

To: Supervisor Lindsey P. Horvath, Chair
Supervisor Hilda L. Solis
Supervisor Holly J. Mitchell
Supervisor Janice Hahn
Supervisor Kathryn Barger

From: 
Brandon T. Nichols
Director

FIVE ACRES – THE BOYS’ AND GIRLS’ AID SOCIETY OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY INTENSIVE SERVICES FOSTER CARE FOSTER FAMILY AGENCY FOR CHILDREN WITH SERIOUS EMOTIONAL BEHAVIORAL NEEDS CONTRACT COMPLIANCE REVIEW

REVIEW OF REPORT

The Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) Contracts Compliance Division (CCD) conducted a virtual Contract Compliance Review of Five Acres – The Boys’ and Girls’ Aid Society of Los Angeles County Intensive Services Foster Care (ISFC) Foster Family Agency (FFA) for Children with Serious Emotional Behavioral Needs (SEBN) (the Contractor) in May 2024. The Contractor has one office located in the First Supervisorial District. The office provides services to the County of Los Angeles DCFS placed children and Non-Minor Dependents.

Key Outcomes

NUMBER OF PRIORITY FINDINGS
PRIORITY 1 1
PRIORITY 2 4
PRIORITY 3 0

“To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service”

The CCD conducted a virtual Contract Compliance Assessment review of the Contractor's compliance within the following applicable areas: General Contract Requirements; Resource Family Home (RFH) Requirements; Facility and Environment; Engagement and Teamwork; Needs and Services Plan; Safety; Permanency; Support Services; Personal Rights and Social/Emotional Well-Being; Discharge Planning; and Personnel Files.

The Contractor was in full compliance with 7 of 11 applicable areas of the CCD's Contract Compliance Review: RFH Requirements; Safety; Permanency; Support Services; Personal Rights and Social/Emotional Well-Being; Discharge Planning; and Personnel Files.

For the purpose of this review, two DCFS placed children were selected for the sample. The CCD reviewed the files of the two children and virtually interviewed the two children to assess the level of care and services they received. The two children were virtually observed to be clean and well-groomed. An additional discharged child's file was also reviewed to assess the Contractor's compliance with permanency efforts.

The CCD reviewed two RFH files and three staff files for compliance with Title 22 Regulations and County contracting requirements. The CCD also conducted telephonic interviews with staff and Resource Family Parents. To assess the quality of care and supervision provided to the placed children, the CCD also conducted virtual site visits of the Contractor's location and RFHs.

CCD noted findings in the areas of:

Priority 1

- Facility and Environment (1 Finding)
 - One RFH did not have a functioning carbon monoxide detector installed in the hallways of all sleeping areas.

Priority 2

- General Contract Requirements (1 Finding)
 - A Serious Incident Report for one child was not properly cross-reported in the I-Track system.
- Engagement & Teamwork (1 Finding)
 - Children ISFC team meetings did not occur weekly as required.

- Needs and Services Plan (2 Findings)
 - Individualized NSPs were not comprehensive, complete and in compliance with all requirements, and signatures were not received as required.

Respite care plans were not established, maintained, and documented in the NSP or case file. A respite care plan should be developed and maintained for each Approved Resource Parent.

On August 1, 2024, the Children Services Administrator teams from the DCFS' CCD and the Bureau of Clinical Resources and Services held an exit conference with the Contractor's representatives.

The Contractor's representatives agreed with the review findings and recommendations, and were receptive to implementing systemic changes to improve the Contractor's compliance with regulatory standards.

The Contractor provided the attached approved Corrective Action Plan addressing the noted findings in this compliance report.

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

BTN:CMM
RW:DF:ra

Attachments

c: Fesia Davenport, Chief Executive Officer
Oscar Valdez, Auditor-Controller
Guillermo Viera Rosa, Chief Probation Officer
Public Information Office
Audit Committee
Chanel Boutakidis, Chief Executive Officer, Five Acres – The Boys' and Girls' Aid Society of Los Angeles County
Bernice Karnsrithong, Regional Manager, Community Care Licensing Division
Monique Marshall-Turner, Regional Manager, Community Care Licensing Division
Kellee Coleman, Assistant Program Administrator, LA Region, CCLD
Celeste M. Fitchett, MSW, Bureau Chief, Fiscal and Performance Audits