

Report Highlights



Highlights of Legislative Auditor report on the Governmental and Private Facilities for Children – Inspections issued on September 10, 2024.

Legislative Auditor Report # LA24-13.

Background

Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) 218G.570 through 218G.595 authorize the Legislative Auditor to conduct audits of governmental facilities for children and inspections, reviews, and surveys of governmental and private facilities for children.

As of June 30, 2023, we had identified 53 governmental and private facilities that met the requirements of NRS 218G. In addition, 101 Nevada children were placed in 18 different out-of-state facilities across 10 different states as of June 30, 2023.

NRS 218G requires facilities to forward to the Legislative Auditor copies of any complaint filed by a child under their custody or by any other person on behalf of such a child concerning the health, safety, welfare, and civil and other rights of the child. During the period from July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2023, we received 1,261 complaints from 34 facilities in Nevada. Nineteen Nevada facilities reported that no complaints were filed during this time.

Purpose

Inspections were conducted pursuant to the provisions of NRS 218G.570 through 218G.595. This report includes the results of our inspections of 29 children’s facilities. As inspections are not audits, these activities were not conducted in accordance with generally accepted government auditing standards.

The purpose of our inspections was to determine if the facilities adequately protected the health, safety, and welfare of the children in the facilities, and whether the facilities respected the civil and other rights of the children in their care.

Inspections included discussions with management, a review of personnel and child files, and observations. Child and employee interviews occurred as applicable. Discussions with facility management included the following topics: medication administration, treatment plan process, abuse or neglect reporting, face sheet creation, complaint process, employee background checks and training, Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA), and related policies and procedures as applicable. In addition, we judgmentally selected files to review which included: personnel files for evidence of employee background checks and required training; and child files for evidence of children’s acknowledgment of their right to file a complaint, medication administered, treatment plans, and face sheet information as applicable.

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Summary

In 22 of 29 children’s facilities inspected, we did not note significant issues that caused us to question the health, safety, welfare, or protection of the rights of the children. However, at the seven facilities listed below we identified multiple issues that caused us to question whether the facilities adequately protected the children in their care. Based on our observations, we contacted the facilities’ licensing agencies and/or placement agencies and communicated our concerns.

Nevada Homes for Youth

We noted health, safety, welfare, and civil and other rights issues at Nevada Homes for Youth.

- Health issues included: children self-administering medication, missing medication, incomplete and missing medication records, and untimely and missing treatment plans.
- Safety issues included: missing statutorily required personnel records, a cracked windowpane and broken glass, damage to the facility, unsecured laundry supplies, face sheets were not readily available to employees, expired fire extinguishers, and missing fire drill records.
- Welfare issues included: substance use and contraband, lack of regular programming, unmonitored electronic use, inappropriate content, and unsanitary living conditions.
- Civil and other rights issues included: child rights and the complaint process were not posted, incomplete personnel records, incomplete child records, and policies and procedures were weak. (page 4)

Aurora Center for Healing

We noted health, safety, welfare, and civil and other rights issues at Aurora Center for Healing.

- Health issues included: incomplete and missing medication records and untimely treatment plans.
- Safety issues included: items that created strangulation and self-harm risks, unsecured utility storage, missing statutorily required personnel records, missing fire extinguishers, unsecured laundry supplies, and a cracked windowpane.
- Welfare issue included: inappropriate television content.
- Civil and other rights issues included: child rights and the complaint process were not posted, personnel discipline records for holds, and policies and procedures were weak. (page 12)

Advanced Foster Care Homes

We noted health, safety, and civil and other rights issues at four Advanced Foster Care Homes.

- Health issues included: incomplete and missing medication records, a medication error and medication error notification issues, untimely and missing treatment plans, and unsecured records.
- Safety issues included: missing statutorily required personnel records; debris that posed safety risks; missing fire drill records and fire escape routes were not posted; and expired first-aid kits.
- Civil and other rights issues included: child rights were not posted, incomplete personnel records, and policies and procedures were weak. (page 14)

HELP of Southern Nevada – Shannon West Homeless Youth Center

We noted health, safety, and civil and other rights issues at HELP of Southern Nevada – Shannon West Homeless Youth Center.

- Health issues included: children self-administering medication and incomplete and missing medication records.
- Safety issues included: lack of implementation of PREA standards, missing statutorily required personnel records, missing fire drill records, and expired first-aid kits.
- Civil and other rights issues included: child rights and the complaint process were not posted, incomplete personnel records, and policies and procedures were weak. (page 17)

For Possible Action by the Legislature

This report contains three recommendations the Legislature may want to consider that would help certain facilities improve the health, safety, welfare, and protection of the rights of the children in their care. (pages 25 and 26)