

Report Highlights



Highlights of Legislative Auditor report on the Governmental and Private Facilities for Children – Inspections issued on January 12, 2023.

Legislative Auditor Report # LA24-06.

Background

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

As of June 30, 2022, we had identified 57 governmental and private facilities that met the requirements of NRS 218G. In addition, 105 Nevada children were placed in 14 different out-of-state facilities across 6 different states as of June 30, 2022.

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, 2021, through June 30, 2022, we received 636 complaints from 30 facilities in Nevada. Twenty-seven 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 19 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 protect the health, safety, and welfare of the children in the facilities, and whether the facilities respect 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. 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, and related policies and procedures. 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.

Governmental and Private Facilities for Children – Inspections December 2022

Summary

In 14 of 19 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 five facilities listed below we identified multiple issues that caused us to question whether the facility adequately protected the children in its care. Based on our observations, we contacted the facilities' licensing agencies and communicated our concerns.

Nevada Homes for Youth

We noted health, safety, welfare, and other issues at Nevada Homes for Youth. Health issues included: incomplete and inaccurate medication records, children self-administering medication, missing medication, contraband, child intoxication, and missing treatment plans. Safety issues included: unsecured chemicals, outdated first aid kit supplies, broken electrical outlets, a broken window, missing statutorily required personnel records, and face sheets were not readily available to staff. Welfare issues included: unsanitary living conditions, inappropriate age-related activities, and the complaint process was not posted. Other issues included: incomplete training records, incomplete and altered child records, and policies and procedures were weak. (page 4)

Never Give Up Youth Healing Center

We noted health, safety, welfare, and other issues at Never Give Up Youth Healing Center. Health issues included: incomplete and missing medication records, administration of medication without consent, and staff were unaware of children's treatment plans. Safety issues included: unsecured laundry supplies and chemicals, damaged property that posed safety hazards, missing statutorily required personnel records and training, missing documentation that an incident was reported in accordance with mandated reporting requirements or investigated internally in accordance with facility policy, and face sheets were not readily available to staff. Welfare issues included: unsanitary living conditions; beds missing pillowcases, sheets, and bed coverings; inappropriate age-related activities; and unsecured complaint boxes. Other issues included incomplete training records and policies and procedures were weak. (page 8)

3 Angels Care

We noted health, safety, welfare, and other issues at three of 3 Angels Care homes. Health issues included incomplete and missing medication records and a missed medication administration for a child. Safety issues included: unsecured tools, chemicals, and laundry supplies; an outside locking storage room being used as a place to sleep; children of opposite gender sharing a room; and lack of supervision. A welfare issue included the use of a storage room as a "quiet room." Other issues included incomplete personnel records and policies and procedures were weak. (page 12)

Advanced Foster Care Homes

We noted health, safety, welfare, and other issues at two homes licensed by the Advanced Foster Care program. Health issues included incomplete and missing medication records and incomplete and missing treatment plans. Safety issues included: unsecured tools, chemicals, and knives; fire escapes were not posted, and documentation of fire drills were missing; storage of medication was not readily available; and missing documentation to support a repeat background check for a foster parent. Welfare issues included: complaint forms not being readily available, the complaint process not being posted, no documentation that children were made aware of their right to file a complaint, and a complaint on behalf of a child was not forwarded to the Legislative Auditor. Other issues included missing and incomplete training records and policies and procedures were weak. (page 14)

Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA)

In two of eight correction and detention facilities inspected, we noted issues that prompted us to question whether the facilities adequately implemented a PREA process in accordance with federal regulations. PREA standards require the facilities to use a screening tool to assess children for sexual victimization or abusiveness. Two facilities used a screening tool which did not assess for 10 of 11 items required by screening standards. (page 17)