

Review Highlights



Highlights of Legislative Auditor report on the Governmental and Private Facilities for Children – Inspections issued on January 14, 2021.

Legislative Auditor Report # LA22-03.

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, 2020, we had identified 61 governmental and private facilities that met the requirements of NRS 218G: 20 governmental and 41 private facilities. In addition, 56 Nevada children were placed in 13 facilities across 9 different states as of June 30, 2020.

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, 2019, through June 30, 2020, we received 1,013 complaints from 25 facilities in Nevada. Thirty-six facilities reported that no complaints were filed during this time.

Purpose of Inspections and Surveys

Inspections and surveys were conducted pursuant to the provisions of NRS 218G.570 through 218G.595. This report includes the results of our inspections of 15 children's facilities, and surveys of 7 children's facilities. As inspections and surveys are not audits, they were not conducted in accordance with generally accepted government auditing standards, as outlined in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, or in accordance with the *Statements on Standards for Accounting and Review Services* issued by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants.

The purpose of our inspections and surveys 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 and surveys included discussions of select policies, procedures, and related issues with facility management. In addition, we reviewed youth and personnel files.

Governmental and Private Facilities for Children – Inspections December 2020

Summary

In 12 of 15 children's facilities inspected, we did not note anything that caused us to question the health, safety, welfare, or protection of the rights of the children. However, at two of the facilities, Kiddos Nevada and 3 Angels Care, we observed conditions that caused us to question whether the facilities adequately protected the health, safety, and welfare of the children in their care. Based on our observations, we contacted the facilities' licensing agency. The licensing agency initiated corrective action, resulting in management at one facility closing its home. At the remaining facility, Specialized Alternatives for Families and Youth of Nevada, Inc., we observed conditions that caused us to question the safety and welfare of the children in its care. The licensing agency initiated corrective action, after we communicated our concerns to them. (page 5)

Kiddos Nevada

We noted health, safety, and welfare issues. For example, health issues observed included incomplete medication records and required documentation was missing. Safety issues observed included unsecured laundry detergent pods in a child's bedroom. Welfare issues observed included: the children's bathroom was filthy including the sink and floors; children's bedrooms contained beds without sheets or a bedframe, and there were piles of children's clothing on the floors, behind doors, and in bins; one child's bedroom smelled of human waste; and there was a pile of children's clothing on the garage floor. (page 5)

Facility management did not meet minimum foster care standards outlined in the Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) including: reasonable housekeeping standards; clean living spaces, bedrooms, and bathrooms which are free of trash and safety hazards; beds with sheets and bedframes; maintenance of medical records; and securing of laundry products. Facility management voluntarily closed the home after considering its licensing agency's quality of care concerns and our visit. (page 7)

3 Angels Care

At one of two 3 Angels Care foster homes, we noted health, safety, and welfare issues. For example, health issues observed included unsecured medication, incomplete medication documentation, and inaccessible records. Safety issues observed included an unsecured canister of Lysol spray, air freshener, a pair of scissors in a child's bedroom, and unsecured tools outside the home. Welfare issues observed included filth and piles of clothing throughout the home, so it was difficult to decipher clean from dirty laundry. In addition, the children's bedrooms had clothing on the floor, in laundry baskets, and bins alongside trash. Also, the children's bathroom was dirty, there was no towel rack, the trash can was overflowing, and there were clothes and toilet paper behind the door. Further, the kitchen floor was sticky. (page 7)

Management did not ensure its foster parents met minimum foster care standards outlined in NAC, including: reasonable housekeeping standards and separating clean and dirty clothing; clean living spaces, bedrooms, and bathrooms which are free from trash and safety hazards; maintenance of medical records and securing of medication; and securing cleaning products, tools, and equipment. (page 9)

Specialized Alternatives for Families and Youth of Nevada, Inc.

At one of three foster homes observed, we noted safety and welfare issues. For example, safety issues observed included unsecure laundry detergent. Welfare issues observed included: the hallway between the children's bedrooms had toys and litter; the children's bathroom had clothes, a towel, and trash on the floor; and the kitchen had dishes covering the entire counter top and dirty cookware on the stove. (page 9)

Management did not ensure its foster parents met minimum foster care standards outlined in NAC, including: reasonable housekeeping standards; clean living spaces, bedrooms, and bathrooms; or securing of laundry products. (page 10)