

Regular Meeting 9/13/01

TO: Juvenile Welfare Board Members

FROM: James E. Mills, Executive Director 
Lisa A. Sahulka, Director, Programs & Finance 

RE: Greater Ridgecrest Neighborhood Family Center

The Independent Accountant's report for the Greater Ridgecrest Neighborhood Family Center (NFC) showed 75% of the tested reimbursements for the period of October 1, 2000 through June 15, 2001 were incomplete or inaccurate. (Fontana, Inc. tested 28% of all Greater Ridgecrest NFC reimbursement requests to the Juvenile Welfare Board.) Based on these results and the absence of programs or program staff, a contract will not be issued to the Greater Ridgecrest NFC for FY 01-02.

Staff met with the board on 8/16/01 to discuss the report and offered technical assistance to review any source documentation members would be able to locate in order to reduce the disallowances. GRA requested additional time to compile fiscal documentation. Staff expects to report to the Board in October on the status of payment for the disallowances.

Despite the agency's status, the Juvenile Welfare Board remains committed to the designated area as a partner in its redevelopment. Toward that effort, the JWB staff is assisting the Greater Ridgecrest NFC in the areas of Board and organizational development. Those activities and initiatives include the following:

- interviewing Greater Ridgecrest Board members concerning the current status and future needs of the Greater Ridgecrest NFC
- conducting focus groups and interviews with Ridgecrest community leaders concerning needed services and service delivery options
- collecting information from the County and service providers concerning the status of services and future plans for Ridgecrest
- providing technical assistance in organizational development to the GRA Board
- development of recommendations for future JWB involvement in the Ridgecrest community
- assessing viability of Greater Ridgecrest NFC as an agency

The Juvenile Welfare Board will receive quarterly progress reports on this endeavor.

Staff Resource Person: Trenia Cox